

## Chair's Notes August 2019

### Carol Cross

It was with great sadness that we heard of Carol's death on July 7th. Carol Cross served on the Parish Council from Summer 2015 until Spring 2017, when she became ill. She was also an active member of the Speedwatch Team for 3 years.

Carol took an active interest in the footpaths in the Village, and was keen to see the Botley to Bishop's Waltham Trail materialize so that local horse owners, like herself, could have a safe route to ride.

Our sympathies go to Carol's husband Matt, daughter Jade, and granddaughter Faith.

### Speedwatch News

Curdrige Community Speedwatch has again been recognized, this time as Police Support Volunteer of the Year for the South East Region 2019. The photo shows Assistant Chief Constable Scott Chilton with former councillors Kim Bull and Christine Weaver, councillor Lynne Newton, and City councillor Roger Bentote.

Commented [EB1]: RegAward 001-2.jpg attached

### Planning Enforcement

I recently took part in a focus group to guide Winchester City Planning department in revising its Enforcement processes. Although district councils are not legally obliged to have enforcement team, Winchester does have one, and is recruiting officers to bring it to full strength.

Anyone can report a breach of Planning control, and the report will be treated in confidence unless the complainant becomes a witness in a Court case. Where the breach is causing serious and irreversible damage, an enforcement officer will visit within a working day of notification. Other breaches get investigated on a longer timeframe, to make best use of the team. Where it appears that what has been done might have been allowed if properly applied for, the person responsible for the breach will be told to submit a new planning application.

### Missing Post Box

Royal Mail has again rejected our appeal against the removal of the post box at the Botley Road end of Curdrige Lane. Their response indicated that they did not properly consider the alternative site near the Pond. They cited the lack of parking and a pavement there as a reason to reject it, despite the good visibility and very low traffic levels there. They drew attention to the fact that their obligation to provide boxes within half a mile of 98% of addresses is on a national basis. This means that rural areas can be ignored, as the obligation is easy to meet in cities and towns. Among those ignored are the villagers who complained to [customer.service@royalmail.com](mailto:customer.service@royalmail.com)

### Affordable Housing

I visited a small development of affordable homes in Wonston, constructed for HARAH, the organization developing proposals for Curdrige. It was very encouraging to see a close of houses to a higher standard than many private estates. For example, parking is provided in a way that will allow residents to charge electric cars, something that will become essential in the lifetime of houses being built now.

Eric Bodger

### **Planning Decisions**

Bridge House Botley Road Curbridge SO30 2HB - Replacement dwelling together with associated access and landscaping. Case Officer: Lisa Booth. Case No: 19/00360/FUL. **PERMITTED.**

Poplars Farm Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BH - Change of use of buildings to B2 (General Industrial) (retrospective). Case Officer: Rose Lister. Case No: 19/00540/FUL. **PERMITTED.**

### **Future meeting dates for Curdridge Parish Council**

Planning, Highway & Licensing Committee Meetings (if there is sufficient business):  
8 August 2019, 5 September 2019, 3 October 2019, 7 November 2019.

#### Full Council Meetings:

8 August 2019, 19 September 2019, 17 October 2019, 21 November 2019.

Council Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the Reading Rooms. Meeting Agendas (including finalised date, time and venue for meetings) are made available on the Parish Council website.