

Chair's Notes

August 2023

A Planning Vision for the Future

With Curdridge and Curbridge both surrounded by large housing developments, your council is working to preserve the rural nature of the parish. Part of that has been achieved by getting the boundary with Whiteley moved – Curdridge council can now focus on our rural area, while Whiteley Town council looks after the town.

Our next task is to influence Winchester City Council (WCC) as it develops its strategic plan for 2023-39. We have engaged Steve Tilbury, a respected Planning consultant, to help us develop a summary of the planning policies that are applicable to the village. You can see this on the Council website at www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Policy_Documents.aspx (near the bottom of the page).

We have invited Steve to lead a two-hour training session, in which he will explain how the planning summary relates to the village. Parishioners with an interest in Planning will be able to join councillors at this meeting. I hope to include an invitation in the September magazine.

The Council will also consult with parishioners from across Curdridge and Curbridge to help establish a future vision for the village and ensure that the Council's focus is right. The consultation will include a series of workshops at the Reading Rooms where parishioners can say what they would like for the village. This will be a very important opportunity for everyone with an interest in the village to have their say. We will be issuing more details of this shortly.

Our aspiration is to establish a working group of residents who will update the old Village Design Statement to describe the character of the parish. If there is enough enthusiasm, we could even go on to create a Neighbourhood Plan, which would have material influence on how WCC determines planning applications. The goal is not to stop building, but to ensure that what is built respects the nature of our villages and secures the long-term future of our village life.

Village Fête

I've just returned from an enjoyable afternoon at the Curdridge Fête and Craft Fayre. The weather was unkind to us, and would have caused a financial disaster if there had been a traditional Curdridge Show, with its very high upfront costs. Having a smaller event meant that most things could be moved indoors, and attendance was good. The wind was less fierce than forecast, and the rain held off all afternoon, so the barbecue and picnic areas were well used.

Caravan Encampment

In late June, 200 caravans turned up on a piece of private land on Lockhams Road. They were with the Light and Life Church group, and had the landowner's consent to be there. Even so, it caused concern in the village. Our Parish Clerk arranged an informal meeting of Parish and District Councillors to work out what to do, after which they worked closely with the pastor of the group to minimize the impact on Curdridge. Our clerk kept villagers informed on the Council home page. The group moved out on the Saturday, as promised, having taken care to tidy up the site.

Council Meetings

The only meeting planned for August is on Thursday 3rd. The next full meeting is not until 21 September, so there might be a need for a meeting on 7 September if there is urgent Planning business to consider. All parishioners are very welcome at our meetings, which are held in the Reading Rooms at 7pm. You can check the agenda on www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Agendas.aspx to find what is to be discussed; there may be planning or other items that matter to you.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions and Appeals Notified by Winchester

Yew Trees, Harmsworth Farm, Botley Road, Curbridge SO30 2HB

New Entrance Gates to Harmsworth Drive. Ref. No: 23/00968/FUL. *PERMITTED.*

Brackenfield, (Frogmill Track) Wangfield Lane, Curridge SO32 2DA

Two Replacement Dwellings and Garages (Revision of 22/01487/FUL). Ref. No: 23/00768/FUL. *PERMITTED.*

Blythewood, Lake Road, Curridge SO32 2HH

Conversion of an Existing Workshop to an Annexe. Ref. No: 23/00651/FUL *PERMITTED*

Capers End, The Plantation, Curridge SO32 2DT

Proposed Detached Garage, Proposed Infill Extension, Proposed Garage Conversion, Proposed Roof Alterations (including raising ridge level) to provide roof accommodation. Ref. No: 23/01190/HOU. *PERMITTED.*

Hérons Wood, Lockhams Road, Curridge SO32 2BD

Application to extend existing garage to the front of property at Herons Wood. Ref. No: 23/00945/HOU. *PERMITTED.*

FUTURE MEETING DATES

FOR CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

We hold a Full Council Meeting at 7pm on the third Thursday of each month (except in August). When necessary, there will be a Planning meeting on the first Thursday, at which other urgent Council business can be conducted if required.

The next Full Council Meetings are on:

3 August (Summer recess: 17 August), 21 September, 19 October 2023
in the Reading Rooms.

An extra meeting might be required on 7 September

Meeting agendas, including finalised date, time and venue for meetings are made available on the Parish Council website www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk which will also report meeting cancellations when necessary.