

Chair's Notes March 2021

Meetings

As the Reading Rooms will be used for the local elections on May 6th, the Council will continue to work online up to and including the meeting on that date. You can attend our meetings on Zoom without needing to leave home, by following the link included in the agenda. This will be posted on the PC website in www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk/Council_Meetings_Minutes.aspx

District Plan Consultation

Winchester is seeking public participation in its update of the local plan, in a consultation that runs until April 12th. The new plan will cover the vision for parts of the district outside the South Downs National Park until 2038, and you can participate at www.localplan.winchester.gov.uk The city's key objective is to achieve carbon neutrality with sustainable development, taking into account the environment, economy and social infrastructure.

Although the Government seems to have pulled back from the flawed affordability metric that would have imposed a huge increase in Winchester's housing targets, these are still quite high, reflecting the desirable nature of our district. The consultation seeks feedback on whether to continue the current approach of distributing development to a sustainable hierarchy of settlements. Other options include: a focus on Winchester itself and other larger or more sustainable settlements; one or more completely new strategic allocations (new settlements); and dispersing development around the district largely in proportion to the size of existing settlements.

Pond

The water supply to the pond has been condemned by Southern Water, so we have arranged for it to be replaced by one that conforms to the latest safety standards. Although low water level is far from being an issue at present, we need to be ready for possible drought over the summer.

Parish Quay

This continues to be a problem for the Council, as the jetty is in poor condition, and could pose a danger if a plank is missing and the jetty is underwater. With the help of the landlord of the *Horse and Jockey* and the Harbourmaster, defects are fixed quickly, but visitors are advised not to use the jetty at high tide. The Council has offered to transfer the quay to the Harbour authority (which controls the land where it stands) or to the brewery (who owns the bank), and will have to remove the jetty if neither will accept our offer.

Shedfield Landfill

The application to Hampshire County Council for Five Oaks Farm has been updated, but still does not explain how it is possible to "infill" the space occupied by 230K tonnes of sand with 435K tonnes of inert waste. The consultation closes on March 15th, and you can review the application at planning.hants.gov.uk/ApplicationDetails.aspx?RecNo=21282

Affordable Housing

The working group met again in February, to review progress. We were joined by the architect and the Winchester City Council planner, who was helpful in explaining such things as a calculator for determining the impact of nitrates from the development. The initial ecological survey had not found any protected species that might be displaced, but an update is required in April-May. Developments now need to show a **10% gain** in biodiversity, which we hope to achieve with measures including bat-boxes and swift-bricks on the site. The utilities survey did not find any issues, and we are now exploring the possibility of getting the electricity cables moved

underground. The landscape impact assessment will begin with a review of the plans shown at the Reading Room event in 2019, and will be refined if the initial results cause a change in design. The assessor has already visited the site, and we look forward to feedback at our April meeting.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions and Appeals Notified by Winchester

This has been another quiet month, with no planning decisions except consent to trim a protected tree at High Bank, SO30 2DL, and agreement to adding a 1 metre acoustic fence beside Holmesland Lane to the consent for the Botley bypass.

Poplars Farm, Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BH

Appeal 21/00001/REF lodged against refusal of retrospective application 20/00700/FUL for change of use of land to equestrian, erection of 11 looseboxes with ancillary structures and associated parking area. No decision yet, or date for a hearing.

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL:

Council generally holds two Full Council Meetings each month, on Thursdays at 7pm. The first meeting in each month is primarily for Planning business and urgent Council business as required (this meeting may be cancelled if there is not enough planning business). The second meeting in each month is primarily for Council business, finance business and urgent Planning business as required. The next Full Council Meetings are on:

March 4 and 18, April 1 and 15, May 6 (Zoom Online Meetings)
(the meeting format will be reviewed in April)

The Annual Parish Assembly (informal meeting for parishioners with refreshments) has been deferred and will be rescheduled when the need for social distancing ends. Our hope was to hold it on May 20th, but that is looking decidedly unlikely now we are in a third wave of the pandemic

Meeting Agendas, including finalised date, time and venue (or link) for meetings are made available on the Parish Council website www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk and will include joining instructions when the meeting is online. The website will also report meeting cancellations when necessary.