

Chair's Notes

December 2019

Housing News

Development of North Whiteley continues apace, and Bovis presented their detailed plans for the next phase of "Whiteley Meadows" to the November meeting. This comprises 457 new homes, including affordable housing, across five parcels, and is in line with the outline permission obtained some years ago. We were pleased to note that there will be bat-boxes and other provision for wildlife included in the construction, and that the need to support charging of electric vehicles is understood.

This whole site was intended to be taken over (from Curdridge) by Whiteley Town Council, who have committed to maintain green infrastructure and leisure facilities. So it was a shock when Winchester suggested creating a new parish, leaving Whiteley with the costs but not the tax revenue. It appears that this was an oversight caused by turnover in City Council staff. Now that the documentation supporting the original plan has been found, we hope that this development will become administratively, as well as physically, part of Whiteley. We did not have the opportunity to raise this at the meeting of the North Whiteley Forum planned for 18 November, as the meeting was postponed because of the upcoming election (though it's not clear why a non-political meeting fell foul of the Election *purdah* rules).

The Council received another presentation, from Highwood Planning Consultants, about plans for development around the Botley bypass at Sherecroft Farm. The formal application is to be made shortly, and will include 122 houses (predominantly 2 and 3 bedroom houses), including some suitable for elderly accommodation as suggested by Council. The new access to the estate is going to be beside the walled gardens next to Botley Mill and there will also be a footpath leading from Botley Mill to this development and on onwards to the station. There will be some commercial B1/C units on the east side of the bypass, plus a new car park to serve the station.

Parish Quay

Many years ago, while boating on the Hamble, I travelled up the creek that leads to Curbridge, and disembarked for a drink at the *Horse and Jockey*. The Parish owns the jetty there, and is responsible for its upkeep. However, the land it stands on is below high water, so it is controlled by the Hamble River authority. And the land you walk over to get to it is owned by Fuller's Brewery. This means that the Council's insurance is only partial, leaving us with a potential liability that could severely impact the finances of the parish.

The Council is only allowed to spend money on projects that benefit a significant number of parishioners, but few of us use the Parish quay, because it is so difficult to park nearby. So we decided to offer it for £1 to the Harbour Authority and to the brewery. Both declined, so we now have little choice but to demolish the jetty to make the site safe. Canoes will still be able to land there, but without the jetty, people in larger boats won't be able to land without getting their feet wet.

The Council decided not to take action until we had consulted villagers, but at present, there doesn't seem to be any choice but to remove the jetty.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions and Appeal Notifications:

Hambleside Botley Road Curbridge SO30 2HB

Construction of a two storey dwelling with 5 bedrooms and new access. Case Officer: Nicola Clayton. Case No: 19/01565/OUT. **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN.**

Appeal Decision

North Barn, Oakwood, Curdridge Lane, Curdridge, Southampton SO32 2BH

Appeal Ref: APP/L1765/W/19/3232139 – **DISMISSED.**

Appeal Notification

The Barn, Harmsworth Farm, Botley Road, Curbridge, Southampton SO30 2HB

Case reference 18/00053/REF to be decided at Public Inquiry.

FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR CURDRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL:

Council has resolved to make all meetings Full Council Meetings. The first meeting in each month will be 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 will be primarily for Council business, finance business and urgent Planning business as required. The next Full Council Meetings are on:

Weds 4 December (***revised date***) & 19 December 2019 and 9 & 23 January 2020.

Council Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the Reading Rooms. Meeting Agendas, including finalised meeting date, time and venue for meetings are made available on the Parish Council website www.curdridge-pc.gov.uk (where meeting cancellation notices will also be displayed).