

Chair's Notes

May 2019

Annual Parish Meeting – 23 May 2019

Elections to Winchester Council mean that we are not allowed ask district councillors to address a meeting in the run-up to those elections, so we have scheduled the Annual Parish Meeting for Thursday 23 May, in the Main Hall at the Reading Room at 8pm.

The aim is to keep the formal part of the meeting short, to give more time for villagers to eat, drink and ask questions. I've asked our county and district councillors to report back in five minutes, and I'll do the same on behalf of the Parish Council.

Please come along and meet your neighbours and councillors, and exchange views on what's happening in the village.

Boorley Green

My concerns expressed last month about the expansion of Boorley Green towards Curdridge have grown. Eastleigh now has a detailed application for the plot nearest Curdridge on the south of Maddoxford Lane, which had 50 houses approved at the outline stage. The new application doubles the size of the area to be developed, taking it even closer to the Curdridge boundary. It also more than doubles the number of houses to be built, so your council has opposed the application, and has asked Eastleigh to make its decision in committee, rather than delegating to a planner.

Highways and related matters

I attended an interesting meeting run by Hampshire *Economy, Transport and Environment Department*, which covered Highways, waste and recycling. Apparently, we (and East Hants) are the only districts where garden waste is collected, but this is to be extended to the whole county.

Hampshire's approach to road maintenance is now more long-term, involving actions (such as surface dressing) that will reduce deterioration in future. We were shown one of the very new "Dragon patchers" that the contractor is using to repair potholes with minimal disruption to traffic. There were also demonstrations of computer systems that keep track of what's going on. For example, if you put "Curdridge" into <https://roadworks.org/> you can find out about local roadworks and other potential hold-ups.

Deposit/Return Consultation

The Government is consulting on a proposal for deposits on bottles and cans – it seemed a good idea initially, but the devil is in the detail. You can respond until 13 May at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environment/introducing-a-deposit-return-scheme/>

Worryingly, the scheme is intended only to improve recycling (not re-use like the bottle deposits in my childhood), and will involve setting up an expensive bureaucracy to administer it. Cost estimates over the first ten years range from £2.7Bn to £7.2Bn depending on whether the scheme is limited to containers of under 750ml. Claimed benefits range from £3.0Bn to £9.4Bn, 91% of which comes from a "reduction in disamenity of litter" Given the history of cost overruns on Government projects, the potential payback looks suspect.

Eric Bodger

Planning Decisions

Poplars Farm Curdridge Lane Curdridge SO32 2BH - Retrospective planning application for the retention of a barn in mixed agricultural and B8 storage use. Case Officer: Rose Lister. Case No: 19/00267/FUL.

Future meeting dates for Curdridge Parish Council

Planning, Highway & Licensing Committee Meetings (if there is sufficient business):
2 May 2019, 6 June 2019, 4 July 2019, 8 August 2019 (combined with Full Council)

Full Council Meetings:

16 May 2019 (Annual General Meeting – Council Business Meeting), 23 May 2019 at 8pm in the Main Hall (Annual Assembly – Meeting for Parishioners), 27 June 2019, 18 July 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.