

Chair's Notes

September 2018

Affordable Housing

The Council has received a revised layout for eight affordable homes north of St Peter's Close that addresses our concerns with earlier designs. The new layout has a much shorter frontage opposite the church, and will have access from Botley Road rather than St Peter's Close, providing Hampshire Highways department agrees. The whole project depends on Winchester permitting this as a "Rural exception site", as has been done in other villages.

News from Recent Meetings

District Councillor Roger Bentote was disappointed by Ofcom's inaction in his bid to improve broadband speed on Outlands Lane and Calcot. He got help from our MP, George Hollingbery, but the response given through the House of Commons Library gives little hope of breaking Warwicknet's monopoly on connections to the fibre-enabled cabinets that serve these areas. Whiteley is in the same unfortunate position.

Eastleigh Council asked our views on a change to the conditions applied for the development joining Boorley Green to Hedge End, to enable construction of a sewage treatment plant. We raised an issue over the potential for increased flooding at Ford Lake, and received plans that should address the concern.

The current speed limit reminder (SLR) sign is old and gives little information, so it was decided to leave it in place on Wangfield Lane, where the chairman can make the frequent battery-changes needed. A new, improved SLR will be bought for the other sites, and the Parish Council Manager is getting quotations to ensure best value.

Despite the best efforts of Kevan Bundell, it is proving very hard to dissuade Hampshire from installing tall street-lights between North Whiteley and King's Corner. However, the lamps chosen will reduce the scatter away from the road, minimizing light pollution and disruption to wild-life. There are also plans to turn off street lamps in the early hours of the morning.

Unlike other approaches to the village, there is no graphic sign on Wangfield Lane. It was agreed to spend up to £56 to add a sign to the village gate.

The Curdridge minibus broke down during a recent trip, forcing our bell-ringers to return by mini-cab. The Council has arranged its repair, but needs to think hard about how much more expenditure is justified. The main use now is for the Lunch Club, and although none of the passengers lives in Curdridge, their participation supports the club for others who do live here.

We also have to arrange repair at the Pond. This was subject to criminal damage at the end of July. Lynne Newton roped off the dangerous area, but we need to fix the fencing for public safety.

One improvement that didn't cost anything was the removal of a fence from the cemetery, which was done by a working party of councillors. The fence had been erected so that a hedge could grow – now the hedge is doing well and the fence just made it harder to maintain the hedge, as well as taking up space that might one day be needed for graves.

Other Planning Matters

I responded to the consultation on Eastleigh Borough Council's draft Local Plan, objecting to Policy B01, which brings the Boorley Green development closer to Curdridge. The response also asked them to extend the countryside gap that separates Botley from Boorley Green to the boundary with Winchester. This would match the protection already provided in Winchester's Local Plan, where Curdridge and Durley are covered by the Market Towns and Villages policy that severely limits development.

Winchester's Local Plan is due for revision shortly, and Curdridge PC has submitted some points to be considered by WCC during the drafting of this update.

Planning Decisions

Beechcroft Vicarage Lane Curdridge SO32 2DP - Lean-to extension to existing garage to provide kit wash-down and storage area. Case Officer: Nicola Clayton. Case No: 18/01439/FUL. *PERMITTED.*

Future meeting dates for Curdridge Parish Council

Planning, Highway & Licensing Committee Meetings (if there is sufficient business):

2 August, 4 October, 1 November 2018

Full Council Meetings:

16 August, 13 September, 18 October 2018

Council Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the Reading Rooms.

Contact details for the Council are published in this magazine. Approved Minutes are available on the Parish Council website.