

Chair's Notes April 2024

Affordable Housing

Gavin Jones, of Hastoe Housing Association, is keeping us informed about the eight homes being built next to St. Peter's Close. He reports that work has now been completed to protect the trees and hedge cutting has begun in order to create an entrance to the site. However, these works had to be paused for a short while due to concerns that dormice might still be hibernating within the root balls of the hedges. Works on the main site are expected to resume in early April.

You can find further details, including artist's impressions of what the new homes will look like, at www.hastoe.com/curdridge.

Progress with the Planning Vision for the Parish

You can learn about the responses to last year's consultation at <https://ourvillage2050.com/>

The workshops and survey gave us a mass of information about local views. 55 people attended the workshops, and we also had 54 responses to the survey. A summary is being mailed to all villagers, with an invitation to future events around the parish. A majority (72%) of respondents had lived in the village for eleven years or more. As the project progresses, and in future research, we will try to encourage more input from younger villagers – only 10% of contributors were under 46 last year.

Many of the findings are similar to those collected in 2001 and 2011 – 90% think the existing speed limits in the village are not appropriate, and most felt unsafe when walking (69%) or cycling (73%) in the village. Only 16% thought we have enough pavements, with the lack on Botley Road mentioned in particular.

The Reading Rooms are seen as an important community asset by 62%. This makes it important for more of us to use the facility – room rental has to cover the normal running costs of the charity, and it is unused for too much of the time. Please think of Reading Rooms when you plan an event.

Half the respondents didn't want to see new homes in the village, with 69% believing that fewer than 50 are needed. Where homes are built, there was some support for affordable and smaller housing, bespoke properties, retirement homes, self-build homes, small developments, low-density housing, infill houses and multi-generational homes. The idea of car-free homes was unpopular.

Although people want to see diversification of the rural economy, 86% think industrial activities would be detrimental to the villages, particularly if they involve HGVs. 78% would welcome a shop, though many worried that it might not be sustainable.

A lot to think about! So please come to the upcoming consultation sessions, which will get us further along the road to a Neighbourhood Plan. If we didn't see you on 25 March, I hope you will make it on the morning of Saturday 13th April. Jonathan Carkeet (Cllr.carkeet.cpc@gmail.com) will be delighted to get volunteers to work on preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor Vacancy

The Council has four good candidates for the one place to be filled following the departure of Lynne Newton. We heard from three of them in March, and will be making a final selection after seeing the fourth at our April meeting.

Council Meetings

All parishioners are very welcome at our meetings, which are held in the Reading Rooms at 7pm. You can check the agenda on <https://curdridge-pc.gov.uk/agendas/> 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

Poplars Farm, Curdridge Lane, Curdridge SO32 2BH

Change of use of land to equestrian, erection of 11 looseboxes, ancillary structures and associated parking area. Case Officer: Cameron Taylor. Case No: 24/00017/FUL. **PERMITTED.**

Land At Sherecroft Farm, Botley Hill, Botley

Erection of hoarding to front of development site, mesh banners, advertising boards and signs and flag poles, with bollard lighting (amended proposal, amended drawings). Case Officer: Marge Ballinger. Case No: 23/02646/AVC. **PERMITTED.**

Coledown House, Vicarage Lane, Curdridge SO32 2DP

Proposed single storey rear extensions (following demolition of greenhouse and external WC/stores), proposed front canopy porch. Case Officer: Marge Ballinger. Case No: 23/02800/HOU. **PERMITTED.**

Harfields Farm House, Botley Road, Curdridge SO32 2DU

Two no. double car ports (RETROSPECTIVE) Case No: 24/00067/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 March and August). Only when necessary, there may 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:

18 April, 16 May (AGM and Parish Assembly), 27 June 2024 (fourth Thursday)
in the Reading Rooms.

If urgent business arises, an extra meeting might possibly be required on 4 April
and perhaps on the first Thursday of later months

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. We make available a period at the start of each meeting for public comments. In addition, the chairman can invite members of the public to speak on specific items of business where this is appropriate.