
**REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
ON TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2015
MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE**

Chairman: *Cllr Jane White
Councillors: Cllr Harry Davies
*Cllr Barbara Dickens
*Cllr Tony Edwards (ex officio)
Cllr Rodney Kipps
*Cllr Alison Preedy
*Cllr David Raw
*Cllr Steve Watkins (ex officio)
*Cllr Jackie Worrall

*Denotes members present

Officers Attending: * Ms M Putman

There were no members of the public present.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. COMMUNITY PLAN

Cllr Jane White advised the Committee that 496 paper copies of the questionnaire had been returned, added to the 482 online replies, taking the total returned questionnaires to 978. This represented approximately 22% of the households in Chorleywood and was considered to be a good response rate (according to our consultant 10% is not unusual). Croxley Green achieved a 28% respond rate.

The data from the paper copies has been manually uploaded by members of the Steering Committee after Christmas. The full data was now with our consultant and we await the results. We propose to publish the results in full to the Parish alongside the latest edition of Chorleywood Matters (advance copies will be circulated to Parish Councillors as they become available), with a full report with analysis and comment to follow later in the year.

Cllr Jane White advised that in the past few days it had come to her attention – purely by chance – that the central Government grant-funding scheme (via Locality) providing funds for this project has been wound up, not even halfway through the promised funding for this Community Plan. This was unfortunate and had two consequences: firstly, increased design and printing costs for the questionnaire had led to an over spend on the first tranche of funding of approximately £2,100. This had been borne by the Parish in the presumed safe knowledge of further funding from Locality (three tranches of funding were originally available under the scheme; we had applied and received the first trench with a reasonable expectation of two additional tranches to follow). Secondly, the Community Plan now has no budget to move the project beyond the present state. We are advised that there is a new initiative to support Community-led projects but this will not be available until April “at the earliest”, and even then there is no guarantee of funds being made available for our project.

As we have come so far, it would seem a pity to stall the project until April to await the opportunity to apply for further funding. At the very least the Community will be expecting to learn the results of the questionnaire. Accordingly, Cllr Jane White advised the Committee that the Parish will be asked for a loan to cover the outstanding £2,100 overspend, and a further loan of funds of £1,800 to enable the Community Plan to progress until such a time that grant-funding become available. It must be considered, though, that there is a risk that no funding will be available (especially given the political instability due to the General election in May), and that the Parish will have to bear the costs.

In the meantime, the Finance Officer and several members of the Committee had been asked to research additional sources of funding.

The Committee
RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council

That an amount of £2,100 be extended to the Community Plan project, to cover the unexpected additional printing costs of the questionnaire, in the expectation that this will be repaid if, and when, grant-funding becomes available.

To ask for the sum of £1,800 made available as a fall back provision to the Community Plan project.

As advised, the Community Plan project expects, but cannot guarantee, a central Government grant to cover costs of the next phase of the project, the distribution of the results of the Community questionnaire.

The project has gained considerable public momentum, and the project Steering Committee strongly feels the results of the questionnaire must be made public sooner rather than later to engender a feeling of transparency and open communication.

The requested amount has been calculated using third party estimates.

RECOMMENDATION:

2. Speed Restriction in Dog Kennel Lane.

Cllr Jane White advised the Committee that further correspondence had been received regarding the proposed speed limit. A formal consultation, starting sometime in the next 2 months will be put forward for further comments.

Cllr Barbara Dickens stated that the best solution would be to:

Leave existing Green track sign opposite the allotments

Put up a sign in same place as above sign stating single track with passing places.

At Berry Lane end sign stating – single track road with no passing places.

At end of Dog Kennel Lane and Chorleywood Road signage saying Not suitable for H.G.V's.

No speed signs along Common

The Committee
RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council.

That members of the Planning Committee were not in favour of the proposed speed limit in Dog Kennel Lane for the reasons outlined above.

This was proposed by Cllr Jane White, seconded by Cllr Tony Edwards and unanimously approved.

PART 1 MINUTES

14/ 130 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were two apologies for absence received:- Cllr Harry Davies, Cllr Rodney Kipps

14/131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received:-

14/132 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the 6th January 2015 be approved as a true and correct record.

14/133 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Barbara Dickens asked if any further details had been received on the speed restrictions in Dog Kennel Lane.

She was advised that there was further information available and this would be taken under transport.

Cllr Jackie Worrall advised the Committee that residents of Rendlesham Way had employed a Chartered Town Planner to write/compose further letters to Three Rivers District Council regarding works at Clovers Court, Chorleywood.

Cllr Jane White explained to the Committee that at the recent Development Control meeting at Three Rivers House one of the District Councillors was concerned that Chorleywood Parish Council Planning Committee had not called in a particular application. Cllr Jane White advised that we had not seen the application in question, and was concerned that it stated in the Development Control Agenda that Chorleywood Parish Council “had no objections” giving the impression we had given the application our favourable consideration. Upon investigation it was determined that TRDC’s system, in the absence of any comment, negative or otherwise, defaults to a “had no objection” response. The Committee expressed displeasure at the impression this gives but acknowledged there was little they could do about it. Further investigation will take place to establish why this application was not looked at.

14/134 LETTERS OF OBJECTION/EXPLANATION

There was one letter of objection received before publication of the agenda.

Letter received after the agenda had been publicized.

15/0025/FUL - 3 Lawford Avenue.

14/2522/FUL - Land rear of Clovers Court

14/135 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the attached comments be submitted to TRDC (Appendix 1).

14/136 PLANNING APPEALS

There were no planning appeals this month.

14/137 APPLICATIONS FOR WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT ON TREES

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the tree applications.

14/138 PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECISIONS RECEIVED

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the planning decisions received for the period ending 26th January, 2015

14/139 URGENT ITEMS

The Committee noted the letter from the Girl Guiding Association and the Committee had no objection to the application for demolition of the hut.

14/140 COMMUNITY PLAN

See Recommendation 1

14/141 LICENCE APPLICATION

None to repo

14/142 TRANSPORT

PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT - Dog Kennel Lane

See Recommendation 2

FLOOD ALLEVIATION MEETING - Monday 2nd February at the War Memorial Hall.

On Monday 2nd February a meeting by Herts County Council and Cllr Chris Hayward was held in the War Memorial Hall for residents of Chorleywood to attend regarding the flooding in Green Street.

The meeting was well attended by Parishioners, where they were able to ask questions.

Cllr Jackie Worrall advised the Committee that Herts County Council were not aware of the Flood alleviation scheme that took place in 1997 between Highways and Chorleywood Parish Council. The Parish Council has been asked to provide Herts County Council with the plans.

Herts County Council have requested that the Gold Course on Green Street put in a tank to stop the water coming onto Green Street, which they were not happy to oblige with, consequently the potential for flooding will continue and even as far down at Homefield Road.

Cllr Watkins stated that on the AA website it said that Chorleywood was prone to flooding.

County Council stated that road lifting and drilling were too expensive to carry out.

Thames Water were asked to provide a tank to allow a pipe to be fed from the flood site to the tank to alleviate the flooding. Thames water was not happy to assist with this issue.

Cllr David Raw asked if there was flooding in Green Street prior to the golf course being built 13 years ago.

Cllr Jackie Worrall stated that there was no flooding prior to the golf course. And that Thames water must not be allowed to walk away from this situation.

Cllr Edwards advised that Green Street is the 15th most flooded road in the Country. Unfortunately if the situation continues it could end up with a fatality.

The gully's filled up with silt and sometimes are not cleaned for up to 18 months.

SAVE OUR HERTFORDSHIRE BUSES.

Notification has been received regarding saving the bus service within Chorleywood.

A new petition is available for people to sign - www.save-our-buses.org.uk/petition The previous petitions were only used to enable it to make a decision – that decision being to hold another consultation. You need to sign the new petition or your views won't count this time.

Respond to the consultation – you have until 10 April, 2015 - www.save-our-buses.org.uk/how-to-respond.

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14/143 CLOSURE

The meeting having started at 8.00pm and finished at 10.05pm

These minutes have been read and agreed by the Chairman.

SignedAgreed via E-mail.....Date10.02.15.....

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Signed Date