

## REPORT OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2019

Friday 17th May 2019 Cliddesden Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm

**Present** Parish Councillors Alan Tyler (Chair), Simon Barker, Hazel Metz, Alison Mosson; Clerk Susan Turner; Guests PC Reid, Ward Cllr Mark Ruffell, c 20 members of public.

**Apologies** from Mark Gifford, County Cllr Anna McNair Scott, Angie Fewster.

### 1 **INFORMAL SESSION FROM 7PM**

Wine, soft drinks and snacks provided.

Jolly Farmer All-comers were invited to sign a document in support of nominating the Jolly Farmer as an Asset of Community Value. Alison Mosson has further pages for others who wish to sign. A notice will also be posted on the Parish Council website, please email the Clerk for your name to be included.

Sample draft Design Guide pages Everyone was invited to view the four A2 sample Design Guide pages on display and provide comments / feedback if they wished.

### **MEETING OPENED 7.30PM**

2 **WELCOME** Chairman Alan Tyler welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of the 2018 Assembly were agreed and signed.

### 3 **PC REID**

#### i. **High Sheriff's Award**

The Chairman congratulated PC Reid on his High Sheriff's Award (for which he was nominated by Candovers Parish Council). It wouldn't be possible, the Chairman said, to provide a better service to the Community than that given by PC Reid.

<http://www.hiwcf.com/high-sheriff-2018-9-community-awards/>

PC Reid received his award from Mark Thistlethwayte, High Sheriff of Hampshire on Wednesday 20th March at a Reception in The Great Hall, Winchester.

#### ii. **Policing report 2018-19** – See Appendix I.

- PC Reid particularly commented on the excellent help given by farmers over the course of the year in clearing trees fallen over the Highways.
- The Police speed camera van is deployed in Cliddesden as often as possible
- PC Reid particularly requests that everyone as much as possible keep an eye on the Jolly Farmer while it is closed.
- A question from the public regarding the newly built house on Woods Lane from which 'so they say' furniture had been stolen. PC Reid will investigate.

### 4. **WARD COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

Ward Cllr Mark Ruffell thanked the 73% of voters, he said, who had re-elected him. This would be his 17th year as Ward Councillor for Upton Grey and the Candovers, next year with the implementation of the boundary changes, all borough councillor seats will be put forward for re-election.

- #### i. **M3 J6 MSA** Decision making, Cllr Ruffell said, seems to have fallen into the doldrums regarding the MSA, with the applicant's methodology for dealing with the roundabout junction being considered and reconsidered by Highways England. It is still thought it will be refused, refusal needed to be on strong grounds.

For signature .....

**ii. Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and Natural Environment**

Cllr Ruffell continues as Cabinet member for Planning & Infrastructure, and now also for the Natural Environment. (Cllr Hayley Eachus is Cabinet Member for Environment (environmental health, air quality etc and Enforcement.) The Green Infrastructure Strategy has recently been revised, promoting wildlife corridors and biodiversity. Mark said he had learnt much from Paul Beavers, he wishes to be a 'Green champion'; so many species are at risk and we have a responsibility to enhance their environments and learn to co-exist.

**iii. Policing**

We have a dedicated front line beat officer. We must make sure we fight to keep him, but also to be able to replace him, work towards how this can be achieved and if necessary how can we afford it. There are core failures of Hants Constabulary in combating crime. At any one time there will be eight / 10 / 12 active gangs in Basingstoke and the police are only dealing with one or two. The Police are so under-resourced and middle management do not push activity out to the front line.

**iv. Council tax**

in BDBC has gone up an average of £5, compared to other shire authorities, this is the lowest in the country.

**v. Housing figures**

The good news is that last year Cliddesden embarked on a Neighbourhood Plan. This is fantastic and brings the community together. Important to continue and maintain momentum. Cllr Ruffell understands, he said from recent Parish Council meeting, that the NP team has found BDBC Planning Policy Officers to be excellent in their support.

However the Local Plan five-year review process has by Cabinet decision formally begun. It is due May 2021 and likely to take 18 months to two years. A call for sites is imminent, but unlike the 2017 call for sites, this time will be actively considering sites which can delivered within a particular time frame. The SHELAA should be concluded by the Autumn.

The current housing delivery figure is 850 dwellings per annum. The new Government methodology for calculating housing need will – by some means or other – increase this figure likely to 974, which will increase the pressure of maintaining a deliverable five-year land supply – and the difficulties associated with market saturation. Re Manydown, delivering such a quantity of new houses all at once doesn't work, it takes time for communities to establish and develop.

BDBC will likely know in Spring where they are with the figure and if more sites are needed. If housing allocations increase these will need to be addressed in the NP. It will be good timing to equate the delivery of the NP alongside the Review. Bad news, Cllr Ruffell commented would likely be delivered after the elections. A timetable is appended to the Full Council minutes but these will likely be minimum.

Mark said if anyone has any queries to please contact him.

*Cllr Ruffell and PC Reid left the meeting with the thanks of the Assembly*

**5. BRIEF REVIEW OF PAST YEAR**

**i. Planning**

The Chairman noted Cllr Ruffell's consistent encouragement regarding the importance of producing a Neighbourhood Plan and that was the main topic for the evening. The Neighbourhood Plan team are doing a brilliant job, a presentation will follow.

For signature .....

The Southlea Meadow appeal was dismissed due to the efforts of all involved and we learned a lot in the process.

The Appeal for the fifth house at Langdale in Woods Lane is ongoing. The Parish Council has consistently opposed the scale of this development. BDBC decision was that the four houses currently under construction comply with Planning policy.

**ii. General / Community**

The Parish Council has paid for necessary maintenance work to the pond trees, the Lengthsman cleared the silt traps twice (but these are insufficient to prevent silt washing into the pond which needs clearing imminently). The Spring Village Tidy Up was most successful with thanks to Alison Mosson and all who helped. Thanks also to all those who cut back their hedges from the roadside before the start of nesting season. One or two problem hedges remain and we can look to address these in the Autumn. The Parish hosted the Will Hayes 'Return to Buggleskelly' event; the memorial bench presented by the Society is sited at the Village Hall. The Parish Council contributed to the Village Hall CCTV; the paperwork has been signed with HCC for the speed indicator devices.

**iii. Parish Council**

Lynda Plenty resigned as Councillor prior to the election because of increasing work commitments. The Chairman thanked Lynda for her contribution to the Parish.

**6. THE COMING YEAR**

**i. Parish Council**

We have a 'new' Parish Council – all Councillors were elected (albeit uncontested) in the recent Local Elections on 2nd May. The Chairman requested more public attendance at Parish Council meetings.

**ii. Jolly Farmer**

The Parish Council shares the widespread concern expressed within and beyond the Parish regarding the unexpected closure of the Jolly Farmer which is now advertised to Let on Punch Taverns' website. The Parish Council intends to nominate the Jolly Farmer as an Asset of Community Value (as 1. above).

**iii. Pond and drainage**

The pond is very close to being silted up and will need to be cleared or partially cleared in the near future. The Parish Council is discussing how best to achieve this. The first step is to have the water tested, the level of pollutants from road run-off will determine the relative cost of disposing of the silt. The cost in any event is likely to exceed the Parish Council's means and grant funding will need to be sought.

The outflow from the Pond has problems and needs to be monitored. All riparian owners have the responsibility to maintain flow freely through their land and so avoiding problems for those upstream.

**iv. Traffic speed**

We know speedwatch was effective and continue to receive anecdotal reports confirming this. However it requires a lot of commitment on behalf of the Volunteers, we will be able to review the impact of the Speed Indicator Device and also collect speed data. Evidence of speeding will support Andy's requests for the police speed camera van which has to cover a wide area and is required to prioritise.

For signature .....

**v. Highways issues**

Simon Barker added a note of caution re expectations of the various measure to combat speed. Their focus is to deter drivers exceeding the speed limit but can't help to deter those going too fast for the road conditions. It would take a rally driver, Simon noted to achieve 30mph down Woods Lane.

Re flytipping and potholes, the most effective way to deal with these is to report them on the relevant websites. The system is set up for individuals to report and the more who do so the better – the process is very simple to follow.

For Flytipping it is Basingstoke and Deane – <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/>

For pot holes it is the County Council (Hantsweb) <https://www.hants.gov.uk/>

A comment was received from the public who reported flytipping in Woods Lane on the Basingstoke & Deane website and the next day it had been removed – a wonderful service! [However please note the Borough will generally not remove material from flytipping on private land.]

It was also commented that a particular recent problem is dumping asbestos. If asbestos is reported, BDBC are usually out within hours.

**7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Update from Brian Karley.

see website for presentation slides

<https://cliddesdennp.wixsite.com/cliddesdennp/presentation>

From first beginnings this time place last year, the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) team has a draft *Vision, Aims & Objectives*, the start of a *Position Statement, Design Guides* in progress and a Questionnaire ready to dispatch.

Consultation and feedback is integral to every stage of the process and this is a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011. It is so important for the Plan's success to consider the views of every person in the Parish.

Alison's NP Facebook page now has 78 members, the next target is 100! With Mark Susans' help we have an NP website, plus there are updates in the *News/letter*. Please take a look, and in particular look out for the Questionnaire which is to be delivered on 10th June.

Initial NP work drew on the Village Design Statement; this was confirmed, developed and modified from feedback received from the Open Day attended by 85 people. The Questionnaire will now go out to every household and business in the Village with the intention that everyone of every age should please submit their own response.

Freepost envelopes are included for paper responses; there is also the facility to respond online via Survey Monkey. To respond – however you wish to do so – is the most important! That said, we would request if possible you please submit online as online response can be automatically collated by the software, data from paper copies has to be input manually!

It's important to appreciate that the Neighbourhood Plan is primarily about land use. It is a 'Neighbourhood Development Plan' and deals with things of a planning nature. Other issues outside the planning sphere can be included as Parish 'aspirations' to be addressed but cannot be included within Planning Policy.

Following Cllr Ruffell's comments on potentially expanding housing figures, Brian noted that the figure in Policy SS5 of the Local Plan is currently 10 or more dwellings in developments of five or more. Planning permission for small developments of up to

For signature .....

four are covered by different housing policies and do not count towards the SS5 allocation. This is because BDBC Planning Policy wishes smaller settlements (those with a settlement boundary) to expand by an allocated 'sustainable' amount.

The 'Vision', Aims and Objective are about how the Community plans what is right for the Parish and the type of place they wish Cliddesden to be by 2029 (the end of the Local Plan term).

Brian read out the draft 'Vision' plus a paragraph from the 2004 Village Design Statement which is immediately transferable to the present...

*'Sympathetic development should... provide accommodation that will enhance the existing diversified social structure. This means building housing ranging from low-cost, through smaller quality homes for the retired and young professionals to family homes of varying sizes. Development in the immediate future should restore this balance which has been lost over the last 10 to 15 years by larger homes becoming predominant.'*

**8. OPEN SESSION**

The Chairman commented that the housing figure may rise to 15 or 20 but this could be manageable if it was the type of housing the Village wanted.

Questions / comments from the floor

Neighbourhood Plan

- i. *So the Neighbourhood Plan will be allocating a site for the required new housing? – sometime between now and 2029 – which would fulfil the housing requirement?*

Brian Karley said the Neighbourhood Planning process allows for site selection, but this is not a requirement. Site selection is not being considered at present. The focus on this stage is on what type of housing is wanted.

- ii. *Blocks of five or more houses will be have considerable impact wherever they are.*

New developments are supposed to bring with them means to enhance their environment. The strength of the NP process is in enabling the Community to specify how this is achieved – and what type, size, design, materials and character for all development, be it new boundaries, extensions or new builds.

Jolly Farmer

- iii. *So many Village pubs are developed for housing, it's hard not to be concerned at that possibility. A community buy-out would safeguard the future of the pub as a community hub for the Village.*

Indications have been that Punch is not interested in selling, or at least not at a reasonable price. The pub is advertised to Let, of course much is then in the hands of the tenant. The Parish Council would in principle support a Community buy-out should such a venture be proposed. At the moment the PC is taking the practical step available of nominating the pub as a Asset of Community Value - which if successful – and along with its Grade II Listed status – will give another level of protection.

*With no further questions the Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to all for attending.*

For signature ..... Date.....