

Introduction

21st May 2018

Welcome to the
Henbury Parish Council Annual Public Meeting

I would like to introduce :-

Councilors :- Janet Bailey Valerie Dyson Richard Slater
Sir Francis Graham-Smith Simon Browne Mike Wood

Clerk and RFO :- Anne Common
Ward Councilor :- Lesley Smetham

The purpose of this meeting is to make public

The workings of the Parish Council over the previous year

Also to explain any actions, activities, developments and
any projects that may have been raised or are “on going”

The meeting will follow an agenda but it is more focused
on an open dialogue and welcomes the participation of
those present

A Council Meeting will follow and all are welcome

The first order of business is to elect a Chairman and
Vice chairman

Chairman's Report

This report will follow a similar agenda format to our council meetings

The council is un-changed though we recruited a new clerk /RFO when Catherine moved out of the area

We held nine meetings with an 89% attendance by councilors and 100% attendance from our Ward Councilor

When ever possible the PCSO officer attends and gives a report on the current situation and any areas of concern

Road Safety

The speed limit changes along Andertons Lane are still being ignored by vehicles and cyclists

The new speed limits on the A537 appear to have made a slight improvement but several accidents have occurred

Funding for a Speed Indicator Device has been agreed with the Area Highways Group but implementation did not happen (administration error – siting)

This has now been addressed and is a priority
The site chosen is the west - bound carriageway before the “Blind Summit sign”

We have serious concerns about the junction of Rough Heyes Lane and the A537 as a consequence of the housing development and the limited improvement of access at the junction

We presented our objections and those of residents and the Henbury Society at the Northern Planning Committee

The committee decided to approve the application without asking for the improvements that could have been made

Local Plan

This is the most serious area of concern to the council and there are three councilors specifically focused on the planning applications that have followed the adoption of the revised local plan

The Parish Council recognized the objections to the development of the sites in the Parish and the adjoining development that would be served by a round about on the A537

Contacts and working relationships with Henbury Society and Save Macclesfield Green Belt have produced excellent reasoned arguments and submissions to the proposals

There have been numerous meetings and correspondence with senior planning and highways officers

Following our review of the applications it became clear that the developers had used the same consultants "How Planning" who in turn produced specific professional reports (Highways, Flooding, Air Quality, Utilities and Demographics

None of which could be verified or measured against already available data

CEC was prepared to accept the surveys without question

It was decided that we should commission independent consultants to measure traffic flows and air quality

The traffic report produced by our consultants was dramatically different than the one produced for the developers

CEC was already under review because of poor recording and lack of Air Quality Data at various sites and references to planning already agreed with missing and in-accurate data

Our request that the applications:-

17/4277m Frederick Robinson

17/4034m Jones Redrow

18/0294m Jones Redrow

Should be dealt with at the same Strategic Planning committee was not deemed possible for reasons that could not be explained

Two applications for out-line planning consent were scheduled for March 28th and April 4th

We prepared strong representations for both meetings

Only to find that both applications were withdrawn 45 minutes before the meeting was due to start

The grounds for withdrawal referred to “officers unable to answer questions” from councilors

No details as to the reasons why or when the applications will be heard or even if they will be considered together

This is a very dis-concerting situation and in our opinion confirms the view that CEC is prepared to grant planning permission for housing development without giving sufficient consideration to the lack of infrastructure

Though every developer proposal is subject to a S106 contribution which is agreed but not realistic

The Parish Council is committed to opposing the developments until a thorough and detailed infrastructure proposal is prepared and open to public consultation

This view is supported by David Rutley your member of parliament

Footpaths

The condition and maintenance of the footpaths is always discussed and we make strong representations to the PROW team

It seems that the main issue is lack of budget / funding within CEC

We will always strive to keep them clear and fit for use

Precept

The precept for 2018/19 has been agreed at £12000
Per council tax bill £48.94 band F Property compared with
the previous year of £29.28 (67.1% change) though less
than £1 per week

For many years the council had a large surplus and was
able to operate using reserves and latterly only any
increase was in line with any percentage CEC increase

Our reserves were used to employ consultants to oppose
the planning applications

With the reduction in the level of service from CEC we
also used reserves to increase the level of maintenance
and repairs

We also want to give continuing support to the Millenium
Green and amenities such as the Church Hall

Using the Transparency Funding to support the web- site
and provide “broadband” connection to the Church Hall

Finance

Will be in the financial report that follows

Planning Applications

There have been a number of applications mainly concerned with property improvements

The development of Rough Heyes Farm was dealt with by the Northern Planning Committee at our request

I attended and asked that our objections to the access and junction with A537 been considered and made safer

The committee chose not to accept the view that local knowledge is valuable and they lost sight of the reasons in their desire to have more house building in Henbury

There has been dialogue between highways and the developer but any changes will be minimal and an opportunity to create a safe junction has been lost

Millennium Green

The council has always believed that the Green is a major benefit to the village

It continues to mature and delivers an amenity to the area

We agreed to help with the bracken control along the verge along Church Lane

The council will continue to contribute financially

Village Housekeeping

Grass cutting by a local contractor will continue

The bus shelters will need maintenance in the autumn

Services provided by CEC are under review and subject to cuts or only provided after being requested

Direct contact and action with officers is not allowed

If we wish to maintain the appearance and quality of the village

We will need to spend more

Environmental Project

Simon Browne has again found areas and land-owners to continue to the project

He has also found volunteers to help with the project

Simon has also up-dated the Environmental report

Web Site

Our financial support for the web-site will continue

We think it is a great benefit to the Parish and contributes to the sharing of activities and lifestyle

The administration and management is done on a voluntary basis and we would like to express our appreciation

Conclusion

I would like to thank Anne Common for taking the position of Clerk / RFO and bringing her administrative skills and to improving the quality of our operation

The support of your Local Councillor Lesley Smetham is much appreciated

I would like to thank your councilors for their commitment and contribution to making Henbury a vibrant place to live

Your Parish Council aims to be pro-active in maintaining and where possible improving the village lifestyle