



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

No. 85

JPF DEVELOPMENT



Work on the Parish's new youth leisure facilities commenced on October 29th when contractors DT Leisure started on site by establishing a protective strip on the main JPF path to allow access for their large plant items and deliveries etc. These pictures show progress up to going to press. The tarmac base for the MUGA has been laid and the metal supports for the fencing installed and the concrete skate board ramps have been constructed.

The beginnings of the BMX track were marked out with the first stages of the construction.

The final layout will include a path running alongside the new facilities,

linking them to the current children's play area, as well as a shelter.

By the time you are reading this newsletter, work should have been completed on the three structures and the shelter installed. It is hoped to lay the tarmac footpath in the New Year.

The official opening is scheduled for 25th March 2015 although the facilities will, of course, be available for use before then.

Remember, please wear a helmet and protective gear when using these facilities. Stay Safe!

Cllr Andy Cooper

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr John Blount

The Neighbourhood Plan is coming to a school near you. After an intensive period of work the Neighbourhood Plan Committee is close to producing a full version of the Plan to go out to full consultation.

This Plan, once adopted, will be part of the statutory Development Plan for the area and will be used to determine what development takes place and where it takes place. The Plan covers the period up to 2031 so it's very important that young families have a say in their future. We are grateful to our local schools for giving us the chance to discuss the Plan at their Christmas events. By getting your comments we can make sure that the Neighbourhood Plan will deliver the homes, shops and facilities that are required in the villages and settlements across the Parish. Your views on what you want to keep are also important.

If you couldn't attend one of the school sessions you can still look at the draft Plan on our web site www.colwich.info and comment by emailing n.plan@colwich.staffslc.gov.uk

DO YOU WORK FROM HOME?

If you run a business from home we would very much like to hear from you so that we can make sure that the facilities and business opportunities put forward in the Neighbourhood Plan meet your needs.

MILL LANE/ MAIN ROAD JUNCTION

Cllr Adam Billingsley

There appears to be some confusion as to who has the 'right of way' at the junction of Main Road and Mill Lane in Great Haywood (by the Spar shop). This junction is a mini-roundabout and as such you give way to those vehicles approaching from the right. If in the event there are vehicles at all the approaches, then priority is given to those vehicles that are on Mill Lane. The entrance to the Spar shop car park is not a public highway and, therefore, should not be taken into consideration. I hope this is of some help to those who were unsure.

Merry Christmas to you all

It has been something of a traumatic year, particularly from the relentless attacks by developers with their applications for unnecessary housing developments. As you know, from my previous reports, we, at the Parish Council, have continued to oppose the majority of the applications. We have engaged the services of solicitors and a planning barrister to assist us in confronting the landowners and developers of these unwanted applications.



We recently gained one small victory when Stafford Borough's Planning Committee refused planning permission for development on the Moore Family Trust land, which included Shenley Cottage. However, we shall have to wait for the outcome of the inevitable appeal challenge, which I am sure, will follow.

Cllr. Beatty claimed, in a recent seminar, that her Planning Committee members were "rigorously trained". These claims are seriously undermined by comments from members such as "one planning application has already been approved so we can't refuse this one" and "sewage problems are not planning issues... everyone has flooding problems..." Let us hope that next year the public can benefit from the removal of these Councillors from the planning committee

Amongst those referred to above, we should include the dynamic duo, Cllr Beatty and her Head of Planning, Mr Ted Manders. Local parish councils have been implored by Mr Manders to write to Mr Eric Pickles to amend the National Planning Policy Framework in order to safeguard Stafford's Local Plan from predatory developers, as witnessed by his plea below:

Message from Ted Manders re suggested NPPF amendment - colwich.staffsbc.gov.uk ... Page 1 of 1

Message from Ted Manders re suggested NPPF amendment
 Mon 02/11/2014 14:18
 From: Michelle Smith
 To: Bealeston, Berkshire, Bradley, Brockton, Chisbeay, Church Eaton, Colwich, Creweell, Dovey, Eccleshall, Viner, All 131

Dear Parish Council Clerk,
 At the Parish Forum held by the Borough Council in September, our Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, Cllr Frances Beatty, discussed with those present the issue we are all facing of speculative housing applications that seek to sideline the neighbourhood plan process and localism. The Borough Council, as local planning authority, is being challenged at almost every appeal on the basis that it can't demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land. To many, it seems bizarre in the least that, having adopted its local plan and associated development strategy, there is no obvious protection for local communities against the current flood of housing applications. How can a local planning authority be expected to demonstrate a 5 year supply of housing land on day one following adoption of its local plan? The NPPF as currently phrased is in danger of devaluing the local plan process by allowing the development industry to develop however many houses it wishes, where it wishes, and when it wishes, with no recourse to community views and localism.

Cllr Beatty had discussed the matter with the barrister acting on behalf of the Borough Council in an appeal inquiry. The barrister offered the following suggested amendment to paragraph 47 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

"Councils that invest resources preparing local plans under the National Planning Policy Framework should not be required unreasonably to revisit the questions of whether it reflects the objectively assessed need for housing or whether there exists a five year supply of deliverable land for housing. Therefore, for a period of 12 months following the adoption of a local plan it will generally be unreasonable for an appellant to challenge its housing requirement or the existence of a 5 year supply of deliverable sites."

Cllr Beatty suggested that parish councils may wish to consider lobbying their MP, the Secretary of State, and the Local Government Association to amend the NPPF in order to create some breathing space for neighbourhood plans to be developed. I leave this to your council to decide whether it wishes to take the matter forward in this respect.

Yours sincerely,
 Ted Manders
 Head of Planning and Regeneration

The theme was continued with Cllr. Beatty's interview in the Staffordshire Newsletter...

7
 NEWS
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Bid to protect Local Plan from challenges

By Kirsty James

THOUGH LOCAL PLANS ARE APPROVED BY LOCAL COUNCILS, they are often challenged by developers and others who do not want to see the plan implemented. A new amendment to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) aims to protect local plans from such challenges.

Councillor Beatty was part of the group that drafted the amendment. She said: "It is important that local plans are not undermined by speculative housing applications. The NPPF should ensure that once a local plan is adopted, it is not challenged for a period of 12 months. This will give local planning authorities the breathing space they need to develop their plans and ensure that they are not undermined by speculative housing applications."

The amendment also states that local planning authorities should not be required to revisit the questions of whether it reflects the objectively assessed need for housing or whether there exists a five year supply of deliverable land for housing. This will generally be unreasonable for an appellant to challenge its housing requirement or the existence of a 5 year supply of deliverable sites.

Cllr Beatty suggested that parish councils may wish to consider lobbying their MP, the Secretary of State, and the Local Government Association to amend the NPPF in order to create some breathing space for neighbourhood plans to be developed. I leave this to your council to decide whether it wishes to take the matter forward in this respect.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Planning Office at Stafford is urgently seeking to complete its report on the INGLEWOOD application for houses off Little Tixall Lane. Please send in your objection letters before January 5th. See the Planning website for our objection letter. It may be that Council Leader Heenan, who is involved with Inglewood, has given the Planning Officers the "hurry up" instruction, fearing our near completed Neighbourhood Plan may scupper one of his lucrative development schemes.

Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has been backing Neighbourhood Plans. He rejected proposals for 350 homes in Devizes and also 77 homes in Malmesbury on the basis of the evidence in draft neighbourhood plans. In both cases Mr. Pickles said that he gave 'substantial weight to the conflict of the proposal with the terms of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan'. He added that he gave 'significant weight to the opportunity which the neighbourhood plan process gives local people to ensure they get the right type of development for their community'.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will probably be presented to Stafford Borough in January 2015. We shall need your support for it to succeed.

The display of solidarity between the developers and planning officers was disappointing and certainly gave cause for concern. It was also apparent that Cllr. Millichap was the only councillor who had absorbed the details of the application. Despite the planning officer's unmitigated interrogation, in an attempt to persuade him to remove his opposition, Cllr. Millichap managed to persuade seven of his colleagues to support his position.

Dear Mr Manders

I have received the e mail below which I find incredulous and say at the outset that the information you provide is anomalous and misleading and in my mind smacks of political intervention by a cabinet member of the planning department who should say the least not be led by political matters.

To put things right I am writing to say that it is not developers who are making speculative applications to sideline Neighbourhood Plans because had you addressed Neighbourhood planning 3years ago as you should have done then you would have been able easily to defend applications within any area of the borough

You chose not to help the villages and pursue Neighbourhood Plans so you caused your own problems because had you done so your new local plan would have embraced new Neighbourhood plans well before you came to adopt your local plan

You have blatantly let down villages wishing to complete Neighbourhood Plans and you are now clutching at straws by issuing this e mail

If you were certain you had got your plan correct then why did you not back yourselves and refuse the recent applications in the villages which you could have done and then helped the villages get their Neighbourhood Plans adopted but instead you did not want any Neighbourhood plans so continued to prevaricate and procrastinate to delay them

As yet you don't yet have even one Neighbourhood Plan that has been put to an examiner even though Stafford are supposed to have a Neighbourhood Champion Mrs Francis Beatty the very person who is now proposing we write to our MPs. ITS UNBELIEVABLE

Councillor Beatty has had 3years breathing space to push forward Neighbourhood Plans so she needs to address what she needs to do now to help

You should look to yourselves for the reasons why you have failed so many people over our Neighbourhood Plans but I suspect as usual nothing will happen

Our response is possibly a little more considered but covers points already raised with Stafford Borough.

Dear Mr Manders,
 Colwich Parish Council considered your email (below) at its Full Council meeting of 6th November 2014. I have been asked to respond.

The Council feels that the matter raised at the Parish Forum was around support to the Parishes, from the Borough Council, for the development of Neighbourhood Plans and how to protect Villages from speculative developers. At that meeting it was made clear that Parish Councils should submit their Residential Development Boundaries ahead of the Neighbourhood Plan as this would provide a degree of protection from speculative development. This suggestion had also been made by the Borough Council's Neighbourhood Plan Officers at Colwich's Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting on 11th September. These two instances explain why Colwich forwarded a proposed RDB map last week. It is conflicting advice like this, that wastes Parish Council time, which puts back our efforts to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council does not agree with your request to lobby DCLG for a change to the NPPF. The Parish Council believes it would be better served by the Borough Council providing details of the housing allocations expected to the individual Key Service Villages. The Parish Council has made this request on numerous occasions. Moreover, the Parish Forum meeting in February agreed to establish a group of KSV representatives to start this very process. At present the Borough Council has only set a global figure for the KSV allocation arguing that Localism means it is for the KSVs to decide where these dwellings should be located. However, in order to fully justify the RDB set, the KSV needs to know how many dwellings it can expect to take out of this global figure. In this respect the Parish Council would agree with the Developers as per the article on page 7 of last week's Staffordshire Newsletter. The comment by Cllr Beatty that "...the Localism Act encourages parish councils to develop a neighbourhood plan, rather than the borough council dictating where houses should be" shows an acute misunderstanding of two separate items. YES it is for parish councils (working with local residents) to decide where the houses should be within their villages. HOWEVER, the parish council (working with local residents) can only do this once it knows how many houses it has to allocate. Every Neighbourhood Plan which I have looked at starts from the position of a known number of dwellings being allocated to the parish. The continued refusal by the Borough Council to allocate numbers within the global figure, following proper consultation with the KSVs, is, in the opinion of Colwich Parish Council, the biggest threat to Neighbourhood Plans and to Localism within the Borough.

Whilst commenting on development proposals it seems one person has lost the plot! The Council was treated to a rare visit from Mr Rolfe Pearce at its Full Council meeting on 6th November. Mr. Pearce then spent an hour with the Clerk, the following week, when he preferred the Parish Council to support housing developments across the green-fields which currently separate the two villages and would obviously result in the coalescence of Great Haywood with Little Haywood. Like you, I have no idea where Mr Pearce has been for the last 6 years.



Mr Rolfe Pearce with his supporters

We are still fighting the latest applications around Little Tixall Lane and will continue to so do.

Discussions are currently underway which could deliver a new medical centre for the Parish. More details in our Spring Edition.

Many of you will already know that work has begun at the Jubilee Playing Field on the installation of a BMX track, Skate-park and M.U.G.A. The work is well underway and may well be completed by Christmas. I'm sure the younger members of our community will enjoy the facilities once they are completed.

There are a number of new projects in the pipeline which will benefit the whole community which together with the JPF development amount to a substantial sum. Despite the considerable costs of these projects I am confident that, for the fifth year running, we shall reduce our Council Tax charge, to individual households, for 2015/2016. This is quite an achievement in these times of restraint.

My thanks to Dave Robbie, who, commendably undertook the responsibility for organising the WW1 commemoration event last August. He and his team provided the community with an insight into the suffering experienced by the troops and the way of life of most families at that time. Many of you attended Memorial Hall to view the presentation and it was enjoyed by all generations.



Following the Remembrance Ceremony on 11th November, at St Michael's Church, I, with other attendees, was invited to visit Colwich School to view the work the pupils had produced to Commemorate the beginning of World War 1. and their family associations with those involved in the war. I sincerely congratulate both the staff and pupils for the demonstration of their knowledge of these events and for the attention the pupils gave to the visitors that day. One further observation, I should like to thank the parents for assisting their sons and daughters with the preparation of their work and for supplying the background material. The politeness of the children was very reassuring and reflects well on the parents. Well done all.



I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year and ask you not to drink and drive.

Cllr. Paul Gilbert

TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Clive Dewsnap, Twinning Association

On 25th October, 28 members and friends of the Association travelled to Rimbach, returning on 1st November. The programme for the visit, arranged by the Rimbach Partnerschaft, provided in insight into the working life and cultural aspects in Rimbach and surrounding areas, both present and in the past. On the final evening of the visit there was the usual Farewell Dinner with all visitors and hosts and other friends in Rimbach attending including the Burgermeister of Rimbach, Herr Holger Schmitt.

In Rimbach there is a small area which had been named the HAYWOODPLATZ some years ago. Following a recent refurbishment, the Association decided to provide a new HAYWOODPLATZ sign to the Rimbach Partnerschaft at the farewell dinner. The sign was presented to the Burgermeister and the Chairman of the Rimbach Partnerschaft.

The Association will be organising events during 2015 to raise funds ahead of the Rimbach Partnerschaft return visit to Colwich and the Haywoods in October 2015.



SMALL GRANTS AWARDS

It was a joyous occasion on the 24th July, when the Parish Council presented small grants cheques to the following organisations:

Applicant	Grant agreed
St Stephen's Church	£250
Colwich Parish Great War Commemoration Committee	£500
Colwich Allotments Association	£150
Great Haywood Wednesday Club	£300
Colwich and Haywoods Voluntary Transport Scheme	£250

NB: The Best Kept Village Committee was awarded a grant of £150 at a later stage.

Cllr Sylvia Gibson

HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM

GOLD AWARD for Colwich and Little Haywood.

The Best Kept Village friends were awarded a Gold in the Large Village R.H.S 2014 Competition and we want to keep up the good work.

Great Haywood was awarded a **SILVER-GILT**. Next year: Gold.

If you would like to become involved, to help make and keep our villages looking wonderful, then come along to our AGM on Tuesday 20th January, 2015 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office.

Anne Clendon, Secretary, Haywoods BKV Committees. Tel 808214.

Cllr Anne Clendon

Flower & Vegetable Competition

This year's Haywood's Flower and Vegetable Show was held on Sunday 14th September. It was a great event with lots more items entered than last year and some new people taking part. The children's 'Spud in a Bucket' competition had more entries than usual too.

The winner of The Earl of Lichfield Cup for the most points awarded over-all was Pat Broome, with the Gentleman runner-up being Dean Cottam, receiving The Peter Hardy Perpetual Challenge Cup. The Lady runner-up was Hannah Clendon who received The Alan Fuller Perpetual Challenge Cup. Trophies were also awarded to the winners of each section of the Show, and we would like to congratulate all the winners of the Sections and individual Classes for all their time and hard work. Indeed we extend our thanks and praise for everyone who entered something, as it all adds up to make a wonderful display of productivity in our Village Hall!



Our Village Show is so much more than Flowers and Vegetables! In case you haven't been we also have Fruit, Preserves, Cakes, Bread, Floral Art, Crafts, Art and Photography, Wine and a vibrant Children's Section! It is also a wonderful slice of traditional English village life. If there is anything else you would like to see on the schedule please do let us know. You are very welcome to come along to our meetings. If you are interested in joining the team please contact Peta on 883747.

Mrs Yvette Lycett

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Skip: 17th January, 14th February & 14th March 2015.

Bag Collection: 7th January 2015

Christmas Tree collection at the JPF: 5th to 12th January 2015.

IT'S A SCAM...

Please remember, your bank or the police will NEVER ask you for your PIN or bank card – don't give them to anybody!



Chairman:

Cllr. Paul Gilbert

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