

# MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

December 2016

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*William Helen*

The Parish Council (PC) hope that you find this free copy of the Dever informative and a useful update on the Council's activities and support across the Parish. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, City Councillors and Hampshire County Councillor for their support and efforts to maintain an active and living community, safe for us to live in.

### **Footpath from Rook Lane to the school**

By the time you receive this newsletter you should see work progressing on the final stage of construction of the footpath at the rear of the school which has been funded from 'Safer Routes to School' monies earmarked for the Parish. The path is for the use of staff, parents and children at the beginning and end of the school day and we would encourage all those accessing the school to park at the Lord Rank Playing Field and make use of the paths. Once a new head teacher is appointed at the school we will explore having a 'walking bus' from this location once more.

### **Parking, Micheldever Station**

Parking at Micheldever Station and support of parishioners who use the train station to commute to work is very important to us all. We would like to trial the provision of a mini-bus service to link with key commuter trains and the PC is investigating the cost of a free bus service for a trial period which would operate for three hours in the morning

and again in the evening, linking all areas of the Parish with the station. If you would like to make use of this facility please e-mail the Clerk with your contact details and the times of the trains which you generally use. (micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk)

This concern is equally important for Micheldever Station residents who are daily plagued with excessive numbers of cars parked outside their homes.

### **Noticeboards**

New PC noticeboards have been installed in Woodmancote, by the shop in Micheldever and at Mill Place in Micheldever Station and we hope that they provide information relevant to

the community, from the PC. They are not to be used for business advertising and any such material will be removed. Please respect their use.

### **Play area, Micheldever Station**

With the development of the Warren Centre and new families moving into Micheldever Station, we have seen increased demands on the play area. The equipment has been repaired recently and we hope that it will continue to be well used by the children.

### **Tree Planting, Micheldever Station**

Following the recent pollarding of the trees along Andover Road, we were advised that the remaining life expectancy of the trees was about ten years. This has encouraged us to plant a replacement line of trees along the edge of the playing field in preparation

for the removal of the old trees when this becomes necessary. We hope that the new trees will flourish and become our legacy for the future.

### **New Gate to Warren Field**

The old gate finally collapsed at the fete this year and the PC have installed a new one.

### **Police & Suspicious Vehicles**

We would ask that you report any suspicious vehicles seen loitering or parked in non-typical areas. Please call 101 to report the vehicle details and registration number. 101 should also be used to report fly tipping, road blockages by Railtrack and any other criminal and anti-social behaviour. Policing is now reactive rather than pro-active and the volume of reports received will directly determine the level of response to incidents.

### **Hedges & Overhanging Trees**

Now is the time to look at any parts of your property boundary which meet the road edge. All growth of hedges and trees should be cut back behind the road edge, allowing room for growth next season. Growth should be clear to a height of sixteen feet. If this was enforced fully throughout the Parish major tree and hedge work would be required, so please do your utmost to comply with this requirement. The PC can provide guidance and advice if you need clarity.

### **East Stratton Village Hall & Open Space**

The hedge boundary to the east of the hall and open space has grown to a level that is creating a poor boundary mainly of brambles and dying thorn bushes. The PC and hall committee are investigating management of this boundary to create a safer and more acceptable boundary with local residents.

### **Footpath, Winchester Road, Micheldever**

The PC have graded and surfaced the footpath where it exits onto Winchester Road (from behind Hawthorn Close) as it had become unsafe.

### **Dog Fouling & Waste Bins**

This issue has been raised many times before but the problem persists and is particularly dangerous where children play and take part in sports activities. Following a request from the PC a new waste bin has been installed at the junction of the footpath from Barron Close with Rook Lane. The new bin can take ordinary rubbish and dog waste. Please clear up after your dogs and keep the playing field safe for our children. If you witness a dog owner not clearing up after their pet please call 01962 848350 during office hours or e-mail [health@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:health@winchester.gov.uk). Further detail is available on the village website.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Fireworks, Thatched Roofs & Animals**

With fireworks no longer confined to the 5th November but used at celebrations throughout the year please be conscious of any neighbouring thatched properties, take sensible precautions and warn the occupants if you intend to use fireworks. If a thatched roof does ignite the results are rapid and devastating. Similarly, please show consideration for dogs, horses and other animals which may become distressed by the noise of fireworks and warn neighbours in advance if you are planning an event.

*Cllr Olly Bramley, Parish Services*

\*\*\*\*\*

## PLANNING

There has been a slight increase in the number of planning applications with a number of people deciding to extend their properties rather than to move. This has a beneficial effect on the quality of the housing stock within our area. We are happy to provide help and guidance at the pre-application stage if required. The following points, included in the 'Village Design Statement', may be of help when planning to alter, extend or convert a property.

1. Use materials and components that match or enhance the existing building.
2. Aim to conform to existing proportions of window to wall, and the design of the roof, especially where they impact on the existing 'street scene'.
3. Reflect the character of adjacent frontages where properties form part of a group.
4. Ensure existing walls, boundary hedges and trees are retained where possible, or replaced.
5. Conserve existing open areas and views from the property.
6. Do not increase on street parking.

In addition, a crucial part of the process is to discuss any plans with neighbours and other interested parties to avoid difficulties. There have been a number of minor planning applications to make alterations to listed houses and cottages. The PC recognises the need to bring such properties up to a standard for modern living where necessary, whilst protecting and retaining the historic nature of the original building and its setting. Planning applications for changes to listed properties are dealt with by specialist planning officers who should be offering practical advice and support at the pre-application stage. This is most important if delays and unnecessary expense for applicants is to be avoided.

One of the more rewarding and positive aspects of the work the Planning Committee is involved in is the advice and guidance we are asked to provide by parishioners at the pre-application stage. If we are unable to help we are generally able to point people in the right direction.

### **'Gypsy & Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document' – Consultation response**

A review, by Winchester City Council, of the provision of sites for gypsies and travelling show people is currently underway.

The PC were assured that when planning permission was granted, despite their opposition, for a site for travelling show people at Carousel Park, its use and the planning conditions attached would be strictly monitored and enforced to prevent any breach of these conditions. This has not been the case, creating unacceptable problems for local residents. Running alongside this current consultation the 'Planning Inspector' is in the process of making a ruling on the illegal use of Carousel Park by people who are not genuine travelling show people. A positive ruling to enforce the original planning decision and conditions attached would ensure that Carousel Park was protected and used solely for the benefit of travelling show people and not any other groups. Any attempt to change the designation of the site would renege on the original planning agreement and would be viewed as an act of betrayal for this community to be vigorously opposed.

*Cllr John Botham, Chair of Planning*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **Rural Community Ownership**

Councillors Cobb and Toms attended a Rural Community Ownership event run by The Plunkett Foundation. This was a very useful introduction to how communities such as ours can set up community businesses to allow residents to invest in services which are important to our community but which are neither supplied by local Government nor viable for private sector businesses. Such investment as well as being of immeasurable importance for the resiliance of our rural community can also attract tax relief for investors.

### **Localism**

Councillors Helen and Toms attended a briefing given by Hampshire County Council on Localism and the way forward for Hampshire. It is clear that rural communities are bearing the brunt of recent cuts in local government funding. It is up to us, as a community, to take responsibility for what we wish our society to look like and to use our precept to invest in services which are of benefit to us all.

The Parish Council would love to hear from anyone, particularly those with business or legal experience, who are interested in the idea of community funded services.

*Cllr Katy Toms, Chair of Finance Committee*

\*\*\*\*\*