

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER December 2017

revealed however that there was little/no appetite among respondents for either of these options. In the light of these findings and faced with a total cost of more than £10,000 to run a 12 week trial, the Parish Council concluded that it would not be in the best interests of the Parish to spend the Precept in such a manner and so the project has been closed down.

New developments.

In September 2017, Hampshire County Council approved a proposal by the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to remove funding from all subsidised Bus Services within Hampshire, despite noting the very high negative impact this would have on rural areas. Although the detail of this proposal has not yet been confirmed, it seems highly likely that the subsidised Bus Service which currently operates in Micheldever Parish will be one of those services from which funding will be removed.

Given this recent development, it seems probable that in the future there may well be an increased need for a Community Transport option within the Parish to provide independence to some of our most vulnerable Parishioners. As funding options for such a service become increasingly difficult to source, it may be considered that the best option for the Parish, if such a service were to be provided, would be to set-up a Community Interest Company to administer such a scheme.

The Parish Council is made up of volunteers and we do not have the capacity amongst our members to deliver such a project. We would however be happy to support, both financially and otherwise, a group of Parishioners who could come up with a viable proposal and the commitment and drive to see it through.

If anyone is interested in such a project or would like more information, please either come to one of our monthly meetings or contact the Clerk directly on micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk.

Cllr Katy Toms, Chair of Finance

WCC Gypsy & Traveller Plan Consultation

The Chairman and Cllr Botham attended a consultation event at Winchester City Council. WCC need to find additional gypsy and traveller

places but no new sites have been found. The focus is therefore now being placed on temporary sites being made permanent, permanent sites being safeguarded and the potential being considered for adding plots to existing sites.

The Parish Council, in a full and clear response to the consultation, has made the point that Carousel Park should be solely for the use of travelling show people with no intensification and that the original planning conditions must be enforced.

Train Timetables

South Western Railway, who took over the local rail franchise from South West Trains in the summer, are running a consultation on a new timetable from December 2019 – the consultation can be found viewed online at www.southwesternrailway.com/contact-and-help/timetable-consultation and ends on 22nd December.

The timetable aims to maximise capacity into London and means significant changes across the route. Most trains calling at Micheldever will continue to operate to / from Portsmouth and Morning departures to Basingstoke & London would be at 0530 / 0559 / 0615 / 0651 / 0721 / 0751 / 0832 then continuing at xx30 minutes past each hour all day – journey times are largely unaffected and this would potentially offer better connections at Basingstoke to Reading each hour.

Trains to Winchester would be at 0530 / 0640 / 0651 / 0710 then at xx10 past each hour, having departed London at xx03 past the previous hour meaning a slightly longer journey time than currently and Basingstoke at xx00 on the hour as now. Evening departures from Waterloo for Micheldever would be at 1616 / 1646 / 1714 / 1753 / 1814 / 1844 / 1916 / 2003 then once again at xx03 past each hour [xx00 on the hour from Basingstoke] and at 2333 – this is less trains than at present but journey times are similar.

The last train from Winchester to Micheldever would be at 2347 and from Basingstoke at 0029 – in both cases there is a later train that could call but doesn't and if considered useful for evenings out this may be something that could be suggested as part of the consultation.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

William Helen

The Parish Council 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.

Barron Close, Phase 2

With over 25 locals requesting housing within the parish the second phase of development of Barron Close is well overdue.

Winchester Housing Trust has been under staffed for a period of time and this project was one of the items suffering from this, however, now back to full complement in the office it has risen to the top of the agenda again. Following the initial consultation 2 years ago and looking at the present housing needs within the parish initial plans have been shown to the Parish Council for their comments. The present proposal is for a further 9 properties of mixed occupancy 2 flats and 7 houses (2 and 3 bedroom). The entrance will be from the original planned route from Dever Close where the present road leads to the fence line of the proposed plot. The Trust is now discussing with planners and preparing final plans for submission when everybody will have an opportunity to air their thoughts. The PC has highlighted the need to ensure adequate provision is made for sewage treatment and to ensure that the system is large enough and its life expectancy longer than that at other developments. Car parking is also seen as a major concern and consideration is also being given to improve this throughout Barron Close.

Bench at The Crease

The condition of the bench has led to the Parish

Council deciding that it should be replaced. Quotes are currently being sought for an oak replacement which follows the current design.

Pavilion at the Lord Rank Playing Field – Have Your Say

Some emergency repairs have been carried out at the pavilion this Autumn but the Parish Council are aware that its general condition remains poor and that it is not currently very well used. Before undertaking any further work the Parish Council would be interested in the views of residents on how they think the pavilion might be used in the future as this would guide us in any work we undertake but do note that under the terms of purchase any use is limited to recreational activities.

Please contact the Clerk with any comments or ideas you have about this community facility micheldeverpc@hotmail.co.uk

Hedges and 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 vertically. 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.

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 ehealth@winchester.gov.uk. Further detail is available on the village website.

Parking in Micheldever Station

With the implementation, for safety reasons, of parking restrictions in Micheldever Station the PC is still actively following up a number of actions which may provide additional parking facilities for commuters. The new train operators and Network Rail are being lobbied to address this and the Parish Council has been following up on a meeting with Steve Brine (MP) last December to get to grips with this for both Micheldever Station and Compton two villages which have this issue daily. Any proposals or offers of a solution to this other than parking on Micheldever Community Centre and playing fields would be appreciated.

Road Signs

Over the years HCC has had adequate funds to go above and beyond their call of duty and clear many areas of foliage, including hedges obscuring signs. With increased pressure on funds this cannot continue and any signs obscured with foliage are the responsibility of the owner or manager of such a hedge and need to be trimmed back to allow clear vision for road users. Again, your vigilance in this would be appreciated.

Cow Down Avenue

The Parish Council was actively involved with the Estate and school as well as WCC in the planting of the trees on both sides of the road entering the village as a millennium project. The PC has discussed the upkeep and maintenance with the agent and will hopefully see a maintenance plan and culling strategy to allow development of an avenue of specimens to be proud of in the future.

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 decrease recently in the number of planning applications received, which may reflect a degree of uncertainty in future developments. As mentioned previously 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. Not increase on-street parking.

Planning Enforcement

When a planning application is permitted conditions are frequently attached as part of the whole process. It is the responsibility of the 'Enforcement Team' at Winchester to ensure

that these are adhered to. This is a vital part of the planning system to protect all parties and the Parish Council is keen to see any conditions enforced. We have recently been consulted by an independent planning consultant appointed by WCC to look at the planning service and to seek our views and experience of enforcement and how it is working at a local level. We believe that this type of initiative is to be commended – we all benefit from the support and input of a critical friend on occasions!

Cllr John Botham, Chair of Planning

Other Council Matters

Rights of Way Volunteers Group

The Parish Council are very grateful to James Alpe and Lynsey Sweeney for setting up and organising the Rights of Way Volunteers Group. They are path wardens and both are HCC trained.

This group works together with support from the parish council to help keep our Rights of Way clear. There are no hard and fast rules - when there is work that needs doing all members of the group are contacted with details of when and where the group will be working. If you have any spare time then just turn up and they will be very pleased to see you. Information regarding the group can be found on micheldevervillage.org.uk then follow the link to 'groups'. If you are interested in joining this friendly group please contact James james.alpe@gmail.com or Lynsey lynseyboother@gmail.com or Olly orb@bramleys.org

Update on Minibus Proposal

During discussions surrounding the imminent introduction of a TRO in Micheldever Station, earlier this year, the Chairman of the Parish Council stated that the PC would investigate the possibility of providing a Commuter Mini-bus service to mitigate the effects of the TRO on those Parishioners who commute to/from the station. The suggestion was that a trial for this service would be paid for out of the Precept with

a view to subsequently running such a service as a commercial offering or a community project depending on take-up and viability.

A survey was set-up in February of this year which gathered a total of 38 responses. The survey gathered information about the most frequent trains caught to and from the station, the amount people were willing to pay for such a service and the amount of inconvenience (walking distance/ journey time) they were willing to consider. The results highlighted several logistic issues with running such a service. The main issues were:

- The inability of a single bus being able to meet all the most likely commuter trains.
- The fact that few respondents were willing to spend more than 10 minutes on a bus, which is not enough time to complete a circuit of the Parish.
- The fact that few respondents were willing to pay more than the current cost of parking at the station for a return trip.

The Parish Council then approached several local companies to investigate the options of running a trial service. The only company which responded positively was Mervyn's Coaches. Their proposed service did not meet all the identified commuter trains, had a round trip time of 26 minutes and would cost £170.00 a day to run. This would mean that a total of 34 commuters would need to complete a return trip every day at a cost of £5 (more than the current cost of parking) in order for the project to break even. The proposal from Mervyn's Coaches was shared with commuters within the Parish from whom there was a very negative response. No-one who responded to the proposal was prepared to use such a service. It was therefore concluded that the project would not be commercially viable.

Further questions in the survey related to the appetite for commuters to either run their own community Mini-bus scheme supported by the Parish Council and/or to help fund such a scheme by the setting-up of a Community Interest Company (CIC). These options would have meant that the Mini-bus could have been available for the use of the rest of the community outside of the times of the commuting service. The survey