

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

July 2018

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

William Helen

This copy of the Dever is provided free of charge to all residents by the Parish Council. The annual Parish Assembly was held on Wednesday 18th April at the Northbrook Hall and my report covers many of the matters discussed at the meeting.

Around the Parish:

Micheldever Station

Mini Bus Proposal : The possibility of introducing a mini bus service for commuters was considered by the Council to alleviate the parking issues in Micheldever Station. Despite publicity undertaken through the newsletter and social media there was no interest in the scheme and no volunteers came forward to consider alternative schemes. The introduction of the Traffic Regulation Orders has led to cars parking on the verge further along Andover Road. Talks are taking place between South Western Railways, Network Rail, the Sutton Scotney Estate, Steve Brine MP, Winchester City Council and the Parish Council to try to find alternative parking.

Pavement Extension from Micheldever Tyres to the Railway Bridge: This was not completed during the 2014 works and the Parish Council are continuing to seek support

and financing for this to take place.

Warren Field Play Area: Minor repairs have been undertaken to meet safety requirements but a new play area is being planned and will be a significant investment by the Parish Council. Any public input with ideas for equipment etc would be very welcome.

East Stratton & Woodmancott

Open Space: The trees and adjoining hedge have been reduced in size to prevent the area being taken over and to maintain the space available.

Exception Sites: Potential exception sites for a small number of low cost units are being sought in East Stratton.

Micheldever

Allotments: Extensive clearance work has been undertaken and trees and rubbish removed from plots. Some plots have now been split and those on the waiting list have now been allocated plots.

War Memorial Benches: The benches were in a very poor condition and have now been replaced. Neil Soutar has volunteered to carry

out a monthly inspection of the War Memorial and to carry out minor maintenance free of charge. The Parish Council are very grateful for his generous offer.

Bench at The Crease: A replacement oak bench has been commissioned and will bear an inscription in memory of Dr Peter Lee. Work will commence in July.

20mph Trial: The trial area was larger than the Parish Council would have wished to see. Traffic speeds have been assessed again since its introduction and it has been found that the average speed of traffic within the trial area has actually risen slightly from 24.8mph to 25.25mph. The County Council has reviewed the implementation of this and other 20mph zones and it seems likely that they will decide, based on their paper which can be viewed at <http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/documents/s19304/Report.pdf> that the results are inconclusive and that no further work will therefore be done in this area.

This is disappointing for the Parish Council as it is still felt that a much smaller 20mph zone centred around the school would have been effective and improved the safety of children and residents.

Village Shop: Construction of the shop has not progressed significantly since last year. The Parish Council was disappointed that the planning condition preventing the building of the house until the shop was built was dropped.

The Parish Council would be interested in hearing the opinion of residents on whether they would support the Council providing

financial support to assist the establishment of a shop in the Parish.

Lord Rank Pavilion: Small repairs have been undertaken as required but the general condition is poor. The pavilion has only a limited amount of use at present and public feedback and ideas are sought on how it could be developed and used in the future.

General Matters

Affordable Housing: Staff shortages at Winchester Housing Trust led to delays with the plans for the second stage of Barron Close and Leanne Smith, the Chief Executive, has now left. A replacement has been appointed and the project is now being taken forward in conjunction with Winchester City Council.

Carousel Park: A multi-agency meeting was attended by representatives from the Parish Council, City Council, Police, Fire Service and other parties to discuss the issues created by the site and affecting residents.

In Conclusion

The Council noted the sadness of the Parish at the loss this year of Graham Pursey and Dr Peter Lee. Graham created and maintained the village website and historical archive and Peter assisted the Parish Council by performing the monthly playground inspection in Micheldever. Both gentlemen made a major contribution to the community over many years and will be sadly missed.

Thanks are due to Ben Riley for taking over the maintenance of the website, the Rights

of Way volunteer group, the Upper Dever Benefice and church wardens, Hampshire County Councillor Jackie Porter and the three Winchester City Councillors, the Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Julie Pinnock, Head of Development Management, Winchester City Council

Julie explained the importance of the Local Plan and supplementary planning documents, such as the Micheldever Village Design Statement. She noted that the Micheldever document, created in 2002, would now carry less weight due to its age and recommended updating the document to align it with the current (2017) Local Plan. An outline was provided of the planning process and the involvement of Parish Councils, how decisions are arrived at and how planning policy is likely to change in the future. The Local Enforcement Plan was also explained together with the issues to be considered when taking enforcement action. Residents were then invited to ask questions about planning and enforcement and the Chairman thanked Julie for her attendance at the meeting and her presentation.

Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council following the election in May. Any resident who is interested in helping to serve the community by sitting on the Council can attend a meeting or contact Jocelyn, the Clerk, who can provide more details of what the role entails.

Village Design Statement

Julie Pinnock’s comments on the age of the Micheldever Village Design Statement have prompted the councillors to complete a review of the document which had previously been started but not finished. It is likely that the review will be completed before the December Newsletter and residents will be notified once the updated version is ready and invited to view it on the website and provide comments and feedback.

Website

The Parish Council now has its own dedicated website **www.micheldeverparish.org.uk** The agenda for meetings are posted here together with the minutes of past meetings, contact details for the Council and councillors and legal notices, including those relating to the annual accounts and GDPR which we are increasingly obliged to display on a website. You will note from the Contact Sheet enclosed that the Parish Councillors now have dedicated email addresses for council business. Please use these addresses if you need to contact a councillor directly as they have been implemented to improve the security of your personal data..

Roadside Advertising

Hampshire County Council Highways Department are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of unauthorised advertisement boards being erected on the highway verges. Charity events can be advertised in this way but the notices should be no larger than A4 size, the charity number must be shown

and the sign must not obscure any other legitimate signs. Notices should not be erected earlier than two weeks before the event and should be taken down promptly on the day after the event.

Cllr Olly Bramley (Highways)

Dog Fouling

Despite this problem being mentioned on many previous occasions it remains an ongoing issue on the recreation areas in the Parish. An irresponsible minority of dog owners, in failing to clear up after their dogs, are endangering the health and well-being of our children. Additional bins have been provided and notices displayed but unless the situation improves it may be necessary to consider restricting access to the playing fields.

Hedges Along Roadsides

We are again in the active growing season for hedges and trees and it is really noticeable where residents did not cut back hedges and overhanging branches sufficiently earlier in the year, with foliage now overhanging into roads and pathways. Can we please request that hedges and trees are trimmed back before we have to draw your attention to these or report them to HCC for their attention which will result in residents receiving a bill for the work completed.

Parish Lengthsman

The Parish Lengthsman scheme is funded by HCC and each parish in the scheme has

the use of the Lengthsman for a day every twelve weeks. As much of the funding is from the Countryside Department he is often used for additional footpath clearance work but you may also see him cleaning road signs or digging grips around the Parish. For safety reasons he cannot work close to major roads but, wherever possible, he will carry out the tasks set for him by the Parish Council. Councillor Olly Bramley is the contact for the Lengthsman and can be contacted if you are aware of a task in the Parish which you think might be appropriate for him to complete on his next visit. Olive.bramley@micheldeverparish.org.uk

Reporting Potholes & Other Issues

Potholes can be reported on-line to Hampshire County Council at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

It is also possible to report other highways issues, such as obscured road signs, via the HCC website and residents are encouraged to do so as the response is, to an extent, reflective of the number of reports received about an issue. On minor roads in particular, HCC may be unaware of issues for a considerable amount of time if they are not reported by the public.