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Hilperton Update

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Clr. Ernie Clark.

Your Independent
Wiltshire councillor.

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Paxcroft Mead tree works

The Wiltshire Council project, whilst well intended, seems to have been little short of a disaster. I am still trying to get issues resolved (such as the filling-in of ruts, removal of waste etc.). I get the impression that it is going to be a long process. If you have any comments/complaints please email trees@wiltshire.gov.uk with a copy to me.

Planning matters

The government requires Local Planning Authorities (Wiltshire Council in our case) to be able to demonstrate a five year supply of land for housing development. If it cannot, certain parts of the

National Planning Policy Framework kick-in and over ride the local plan (the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2026).

Currently, WC cannot meet this criteria and, basically, this is why north and west Wiltshire is seeing an avalanche of speculative applications in 'non allocated' areas such as the Hilperton Gap, Ashton Road, and The Grange.

The spatial planners are being pushed to urgently agree the 2016 supply figures, which will hopefully remedy the situation.

Until then, every planning application, and any subsequent appeal, will be fraught with uncertainty.

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Dear Resident,

'Interesting times' since my last newsletter

The saying that 'A week is a long time in politics' has certainly been proved correct recently.

There have been unexpected planning applications on land which should have been development-free for at least another ten years, the Community Governance Review, and the commencement of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Add the planning application for a skatepark on Paxcroft Mead and you have the

recipe for many of the emails and phone calls which I have received.

On page three of this newsletter there is quite a lengthy piece about the NDP. You might think of this as just another excuse for a consultation which is then ignored! This is not the case. A NDP is a very powerful planning tool which has real influence. However, it is dependent on residents responding to the various questionnaires which you will receive over the next year or so.

Ernie.

RUH 'Hopper' service survives (for now) under a new guise

The WC 'consultation' exercise (remember the green bin 'consultation' farce?) was much as expected with the Tories at County Hall deciding to 'Chop the Hopper'.

However, A&G Minibuses of Warminster is running a three month trial service from 13th June.

They can be contacted on 01985 212213 and will run a two bus service. Arrivals at the RUH will be at 08.00, 10.00, 12.00 and 14.00. Return journeys will depart at 13.00, 14.30, 16.30 and 17.30.

Fares from this area are £15 return, £10.00 one way with concessionary fares of £12/£8. Infants will pay 10%.

Only YOU will determine whether or not this new initiative will succeed and continue.

Prices have had to increase due to the fact that no subsidy is being paid by WC but the only way to ensure that A&G make this a permanent service is for people to USE IT.

St. Stephen's Place

The new Odeon cinema has definitely settled into its place in the town with plenty of restaurants and bars to make the area feel quite cosmopolitan.

Just a reminder that, if you are planning to visit the complex please remember that you can use the car park at County Hall after 6.00 pm during the week or any time over the weekend for FREE!

Traffic survey

The extension of Leapgate through to West Ashton Road has been open for a while now with a predicted increase to traffic volume along the Hilperton Relief Road.

There now seems no reason for WC not to carry out a thorough survey of traffic patterns through the village and along Hilperton Drive, Leapgate and the HRR (Elizabeth Way).

We were promised such a survey timed for about a year after the HRR opened and I will be pressing WC highways to stick to this timetable.

Hilperton Neighbourhood Development Plan

Unlike many government ideas, Neighbourhood Development Plans have real power and can influence 'what goes where' together with land use. When 'adopted' they have full weight in planning terms and have as much influence as the Core Strategy.

The public meeting held last November saw over one hundred residents make their way to the village hall for what was a very successful evening. From these, a Steering Group was formed in January and the process is moving forward at a good pace.

Although the parish council agreed to fund the process, an external source of funding has been found which will a) reduce the cost to Hilperton council tax payers and b) enable a professional planning consultant to be hired. This should bring the time frame for completion down to only two years, compared to the originally predicted five or six years.

The first questionnaire has now been distributed to all houses in the parish. The next steps are for Wiltshire Council to agree the Area Application (which specifies the exact physical area to be included) and then for questionnaires to be distributed for a Housing Need Survey. The responses for this will need to be sent to Wiltshire Council using the post-paid envelopes provided and the result will help form the housing policy of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.



More volunteers to assist, both with distribution and in general, will ease the load on those already involved. If YOU could spare some time, please get in touch with me or contact the team via www.hilpertonparishcouncil.org.uk and clicking on 'Neighbourhood Plan'.

Ernie Clark, your local councillor.
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or to register for my e-newsletter,
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www.ernieclark.org.uk