

## Parish maintenance

Wiltshire Council, forever being short of funds, has, you have probably noticed, reduced its budget for street sweeping, litter clearance, weed removal etc. etc.

We do get a visit from the WC Parish Steward for two days, ten times a year. His work is scheduled via the parish council and he does a very good job.

However, the Parish Steward could do more if he was allocated sufficient time in which to carry out the work.

I would like to hear from residents whether they think that the parish council should 'hire in' more time for village maintenance type work and, if so, where the greatest need is and for what type of work.

I have no idea whether the parish council would be willing to take such a course of action but, without knowing what you think, we will never find out!

## How to contact me

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## Village Green application

The application for Church Field in the Gap (the field by Hilperton Cemetery) is still plodding its way through the system. It is a very slow process!

As I have mentioned many times previously, it is still possible to register village green applications for the other fields on the Hilperton side of Elizabeth Way.

Following my Summer 2017 newsletter a couple of people came forward to offer their time but it really needs a few more.

If you live in the Hilperton Marsh area and want to give the Gap maximum protection please contact me.

**YOUR FIELDS NEED YOU!!**

Communicating with and working for you all year round.

# Hilperton Update

Summer/Autumn 2018



Printed and delivered at NO COST to the tax payer



## Cllr. Ernie Clark.

Your **Independent**  
Wiltshire councillor.

**Experience Competence Energy Action Results**

*Dear Resident,*

### Keeping in touch with you

I intend to continue with my Hilperton Update newsletters. However, I also send out a monthly e-newsletter which has more 'topical' news. It also allows me to contact residents regarding important local issues. If you wish to be added to the mailing list (your details will not be passed to anyone else and will be held in line with the new legislation) **please register via [www.ernieclark.org.uk](http://www.ernieclark.org.uk)**

### Speeding

This is still THE most contentious issue that I am contacted about. The police now have a small team of Special Constables who target certain areas and issue fixed penalty tickets/fines or even a court summons for serious offenders. Hilperton is one of the areas they visit.

In addition the Community Speed Watch team does its best too. If you are concerned about speeding and would like to join the CSW team, please contact me.

*Ernie.*

## Draft Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

The Wiltshire Council draft Development Plan Document was approved at a meeting of Wiltshire Council a month or two back.

The next step is that it will be submitted to the Secretary of State who will appoint an Inspector to examine the document in public. It is expected that this will commence later this year or in early 2019.

A proposal to remove the various areas of land between Trowbridge and the surrounding villages from the HSAP was moved and seconded. After an interesting debate the proposal was lost, but twenty WC councillors voted 'for' the motion which was a surprisingly high number. Some of the Conservatives even had the nerve to seemingly disobey their whip on the topic.

I mentioned in my Summer 2017 newsletter that Wiltshire Council was suggesting that all the land on the Trowbridge side of Elizabeth Way should be allocated for housing (policy H 2.3) and admitted that possible effects on protected species, nearby heritage assets, protection of mature and semi-mature hedgerows and trees, 'dark corri-

dors' for foraging bats, and surface water drainage would all need mitigation (paragraphs 5.58 to 5.66).

Measures to address these issues would reduce dwelling capacity to approximately only 205 dwellings on over 16 hectares of land. I stated that this showed the stupidity of the idea if only that number of houses could be built on that quantity of greenfield land. This low density indicated the desperation of the spatial planners at County Hall to build on all the green spaces between the town and the surrounding villages.

Many, many people responded to the consultation making similar comments with well thought out reasons to back-up their arguments. Two developers did too but suggesting that more houses should be allocated. The result? Wiltshire Council, rather than seeing the folly of their idea and dropping the policy, increased the proposed number of houses to 355!

No wonder people laugh at the suggestion of meaningful 'consultation' by WC.

When the date for the Examination is announced I will publicise it as widely as I possibly can and hope that many residents find time to air their opinion to the Inspector.

## Hilperton Neighbourhood Plan

The plan completed its Regulation 16 consultation some while ago.

An independent Planning Inspector was appointed, after approval by Hilperton Parish Council, and she has now made her comments on the draft plan submitted to her.

There are various bits-and-bobs which she wants to see tweaked slightly or re-worded and these have been looked at by the steering group and the employed consultant. None seemed unreasonable and so the draft document is now being 'corrected' by Wiltshire Council.

When this has been done, the Decision Statement can be signed-off (hopefully this will have happened between me writing this (early August) and you reading it!

Wiltshire Council has 56 days from the date of issuing the Decision Statement to holding the referendum. The referendum is therefore likely to be in early October.

When the date is announced I will

post it on my web site etc. and you may well get a flyer from the steering group to alert you to how and when the referendum will take place.

For the plan to be 'made' it needs a simple majority of those voting, i.e. 50% +1 person; but hopefully it will get a far bigger margin of support.

Not all the policies are as robust as either myself or many members of the steering group would have liked. However, the publication of the WC HSAP last year threw a major spanner into the works.

The HNDP consultant, funded by the parish council with the assistance of a government grant, was adamant that going against the draft HSAP proposals would see the draft plan rejected by its Examiner and we would be back to square one with no protection for any of the Gap nor for land in the Marsh Road area.

I hope that the referendum will support the HNDP as, without it, Hilperton will be 'fair game' for building anywhere and everywhere; both inside the development boundary and beyond it too.

**Ernie Clark, your local councillor.**  
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