

Hilperton Update

from

Clr. Ernie Clark.

Your **Independent**
Wiltshire councillor.

Autumn/Winter 2020



Covid

With the various restrictions in place, I have thought long and hard as to whether I should actually produce this newsletter. I hope that nobody who gets a copy through their letterbox is offended.

The situation seems to change from week to week and so it could be that between me writing this, and getting it delivered, the whole country could be back into a total lockdown.

The Group Leaders at County Hall have regular 'virtual' meetings and what we are told certainly doesn't fill me with optimism. It is expected that there will be other 'spikes' with little sign of an inoculation in the near future.

Quite what the future holds for Wiltshire Council financially is hard to say. The council has incurred massive, unexpected costs but only some of this has been reimbursed by the government to date.

Postal voting

As I write this it is still planned to hold the May 2021 elections for both Wiltshire Council and Hilperton Parish Council.

Assuming that these elections go ahead, may I suggest that anyone who doesn't currently have a postal vote thinks very seriously about getting one. If you wish, you can register only for the May elections.

If you have a postal vote you will not be caught by any restrictions relating to how many people can be in a polling station at one time and, if you are in an 'at risk' category, it will mean you can post your vote on a time and day that suits you. (You have about two weeks to do so.)

Wiltshire Council can provide more information or please contact me and I will pass your enquiry on.

Many residents of Hilperton already vote this way and I would ask you to carefully consider whether you wish to join them!

Recycling centre

'To book or not to book'. That seems to be the question!

I'm sure that I'm not the only person to have not been able to book a slot to visit the centre on Canal Road until days or even a week later.

The current system has done away with the traffic situation when arriving, and leaving, the centre but it would seem that capacity can be increased judging by the number of vehicles currently allowed in.

If capacity was to be increased by 10% would those new spaces be best used by holding them back for 'last minute' release - or should they simply be added to the current system?

There are several ways to approach this but I would be very interested to hear what you think about it.

Of course, there is no guarantee that the cabinet member at County Hall will agree to any change!!

Housing in the Gap

Once Wiltshire Council had 'allocated' the land west of Elizabeth Way for housing it was inevitable that planning applications would come forward.

There are now (or soon will be) applications from both Persimmon and Barratt Homes to accompany the 2016 HGT Ilp application.

However, none of these companies has bothered to comply with the simple WC requirement that 'development will take place in accordance with a masterplan approved by the Council as part of the planning application process'. Effectively this is to keep the number of houses down to approx. 355.

In addition the requirements of the Hilperton Neighbourhood Development Plan seem not to have been met either.

In order to attempt to correct these 'errors', I have called-in the applications so that the planning committee can look at them.

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