

Reed Parish Council

Chair's Report March 3rd 2021

- 1. Rand Appeal

On January 21st I represented the Parish Council at the appeal hearing against the refusal by the Planning Authority of the Rand Bros. PIP application to build seven houses on land off Jackson's Lane. In mid February the Inspector delivered his decision, dismissing the appeal. Credit due to the Planning Authority for its effective defence of the Planning Committee's refusal of the original application. Thanks also for the support of our County and District Councillors in opposing the application and the appeal.

- Wisbridge Reservoir

Following up discussion in the January PC meeting I wrote to the Environment Agency making the case for a proactive and definitive decision by them about extraction of water for the "reservoir" between Bush Wood and Rokey Wood. I received a prompt reply from Steven Lumb, EA Area Director. The relevant Agenda item refers. Amongst other things in his letter, he recommended referral of the matter to North Herts. as the Authority which granted a Certificate of Lawfulness in 2019. Accordingly, I have written to North Herts. on behalf of Reed and Barkway Parish Councils asking them to revoke the Certificate of Lawfulness and setting out the case for doing so. I also wrote to Sir Oliver Heald MP to inform him of our latest contact with EA and heard from him that he received a similar letter from Mr Lumb. Sir Oliver has asked to be kept updated on referral to the Planning Authority and any further developments over the reservoir and is copied in on the referral to North Herts.

- Highways Liaison

On 15th February I attended, by Zoom, a Highways Liaison meeting for the North Herts. area of the County. There was an informative presentation on flood management strategy in Hertfordshire. Unfortunately the linked presentation on Highways drainage was postponed because of illness. There was also a presentation on the County speed management policy, which was broad in scope. It led to much detailed discussion by members attending of 20mph speed limits and traffic management in villages. Copies of materials presented are circulated.

- In January we received from the District a batch of notices about Covid safety. These have been put up round the village, reinforcing other channels of Covid communication, like the WhatsApp and Facebook page, which continue to be used for general community communication.

That completes the Chair's report for this period.

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