

Reed Parish Council

Chair's Report 4th November 2020

1. Reed School Section 106 Meeting

On Oct 6th I represented the Parish Council in an online meeting, kindly organised by Councillor Hill, between the school Head and Governors and Officers of the county council. The Officers explained the circumstances, including some initial errors, which made the school's library project ineligible for funds arising from the universal undertaking (section 106) associated with the Kilns. The meeting was informative. There was agreement by the officers to pursue the possibility that the school might be entitled (given before and after school provision it already makes) to some money allocated in the Universal Undertaking under the heading of child care.

2. Planning Matters

- Councillor D' Ayala has circulated the webinar materials from the training she engaged in.
- We have also received copies of the Barkway Local Plan for consideration. This is a comprehensive and impressive document. Initial thoughts of Councillor D' Ayala and myself in our planning overview role, was that it looked formidably beyond the scope and resources of Reed PC. However, it remains necessary to assess the proposed role of Local Plans in the Govt. Planning White Paper when that role is further clarified.
- Regarding the Planning White Paper, liaising with Councillor D' Ayala, a response to the Paper consultation was prepared. It was submitted on behalf of Reed Parish Council, after circulation of the draft to councillors.
- After consultation and using the scheme of delegation, a response to the Settle planning application for land adjacent to 3 Hobbs Hayes was submitted by the deadline date of 8th October.

3. Community Action

- Organised by Councillor D' Alaya, members of the council have planted 50kg of daffodil bulbs around the village to welcome the spring. The bulbs were purchased using Push Energy money.
- It is to be noted that the Reed Covid support WhatsApp and Facebook groups continue to be used regularly by the community and are obviously a valued resource, especially with the autumn/winter recurrence of the intensity of the virus.

4. On 31st October, following recent heavy rain, Councillor Lawrence and I met with Mr Sedgwick Ruff and 'walked the ditch' across the meadows. We confirmed there was a flow, conducting water across from Hobbs Hayes to High Street and that the ditch was not the cause of the floodwater on Hobbs Hayes (present on the day of our inspection). Mr Sedgewick Ruff nevertheless

volunteered to have clearance work done on the ditch to improve the flow. We also established that flood water on Hobbs Hayes was running unimpeded into the drain outside Saddlers Mead into that ditch system. Indeed that was the only functioning drain on Hobbs Hayes. All the others had overflowed and had been in that flooded state for several days.

It follows that Highways need urgently to clear all the blocked gullies on Hobbs Hayes before the further autumn and winter rains. Otherwise, like last year, we will experience complete flooding across the whole road on Hobbs Hayes, which is both a bus route and a main pedestrian route to Reed School. These flooded drains have been marked with red paint, presumably by Ringway for at least three months past with no action. Action is now urgent for both the convenience and safety of the public.

That completes the Chair's report for this period.