

Reed Parish Council

Chair's Report September 2nd 2020

Since the Parish Council Meeting of July 1st and the Extraordinary meeting of 13th August there is the following to report:

1. The playground has been successfully re-opened with appropriate signage. It has been much used and safely used it seems.
 2. Re. clearance of central drainage ditch: a walking of the ditch being arranged and a working party to clear an access for a vehicle which Mr Sedgewick Rough has said he will commission.
 3. Wisbridge Reservoir: a Zoom liaison meeting was held on July 20th attended by the Clerk, Councillor d'Alaya and myself and councillors from Barkway. The latest communications from EA were discussed and Drone footage of the site was shared. I had already written a follow up prompt to Mr Sweetlove at EA regarding the continuing failure of the owner's agents to convey water extraction plans, awaited by EA since February. Agreed that Councillor Magill of Barkway would write a technical response to the EA on water extraction. This she did and shared on 11th August. Councillor Morris has also shared correspondence with Mr Sweetlove and with Ms Blunt at NHDC about the reservoir works.
 4. Following the extraordinary meeting of 13th August, I have written to a representative of the Turney Trust at Teeslaw to enquire about the intentions of Trustees in regard to the Turney Trust land off Blacksmith's Lane in Reed (site RD01 in the emergent Local Plan). Clarification was sought in the light of the current Rand Bros PIP application for land off Jackson's Lane, one which is 'hostile' to the emergent Local Plan. Confirmed that Trustees are grateful for the inclusion of site RD01 in the SP2 settlement boundary. They intend to commission a planning consultant to take forward a mixed development on the site. I also wrote to the Chair of the Herts branch of CPRE to thank him for the CPRE submission objecting, in terms in line with the PC's submission, to the PIP application for land off Jackson's Lane
 5. Following notification by Settle Homes of their intention to make an application for another private detached house in Reed, this time next to 3 Hobbs Hayes, I wrote to Mark Houghton, Investment manager, objection in principle to the proposal. I repeated the PC's comments on the same action in regard to land next to 4 Hobbs Hayes in 2018-19. The objection is to Settle's continuing disregard for actual housing need in Reed and to the use of our village as a cash cow to fund Settle's projects elsewhere.
 6. The government has published a draft white paper on national planning policy which has implications for Reed and rural communities throughout Hertfordshire and nationally. HAPTC has forwarded details of the paper and the consultation process which runs to October.
- That completes the Chair's report for this period.