

Chair's Report November 2021

A few things only to report for the period since the September Parish Council Meeting.

1. As an action mandated at the September meeting I wrote to Simon Ellis, Head of Planning at NHDC, following responses the PC had received from the Affinity Water on the matter of water supply in Reed. He replied very fully informing us that Water (and the other utilities) are **not** in fact statutory consultees when a planning application is made. It is apparently a duty on the applicant to liaise with the utility company concerned to ensure the viability of supply for a development. The implication under current planning law is that once planning consent has been granted a development would be stalled as unsaleable if no viable arrangement for supply of utilities could be made.
2. I was contacted by a parishioner about land which has been put up for sale as 2.5 acres of "scrubland" off the A10 and opposite the turning to Reed End and Therfield. The parishioner was one of several Reed residents who received an unsolicited notification from the auctioneers about the forthcoming sale. The parishioner wanted to confirm to me that the land did not belong to the Turney Trust, unlike the adjacent RD1 site. Also to express concern that the sale could result in a disposal of the land which might lead to it being used by Travellers. Whilst no such potential use is suggested in the auctioneer's sales particulars, I said that I would pass on the information and concern to be noted by other councillors.
3. On Saturday 23rd October there was an impressive turn out of villagers who undertook lopping and clearance work along the eastern edge of the Green and by the playground. The cuttings were shifted to the vicinity of the forthcoming village bonfire. Thanks to all who offered time and labour in this community endeavour. And to Councillor d'Ayala for coordination and to Martin Holiday for organising the team.
4. A week later, on Sunday 31st October I used the online fault procedure to report to County the fall of a small tree and bushes at the junction of Jackson's Lane and Hobbs Hayes, which was blocking half of the highway. An hour later I received a reply that, on investigation, this was deemed a fault to be dealt with by the District council and not Highways. In the circumstances further procrastination and delay was avoided by action being taken by villagers to clear the road.

That completes the Chair's report for this period.