

## **COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES TO MEETING ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2023**

### **PLANNING**

The first working party meeting was held on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The meeting concentrated on preparing the Council's Statement of Case as a Rule 6 party for the Vistry appeal against SADC's refusal to grant permission for 150 houses between Tollgate Road and the Colne. The Inquiry by the Planning Inspectorate will be held in September.

Members of the group have researched a number of aspects and prepared draft material for review and inclusion in the statement drafted by Mike Rawlins. The statement has now been completed and submitted. SADC's statement of case and the Statement of Common Ground to be agreed between SADC and Vistry is awaited. There will be a case management meeting involving the inspector, his secretariat, and representatives of all parties involved on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The group will now provide inputs to the drafting of the evidence documents to be submitted to the Inspector.

The council's response to the additional information submitted in relation to the Bellway proposal for 155 houses between the Cock and the Rickyard/Fairview is in the final stages of preparation and will be submitted ahead of the 8<sup>th</sup> August deadline.

Work will commence shortly on the Council's response to the St. Albans draft Local Plan. The deadline for this response is 25<sup>th</sup> September. SADC are holding a public consultation event in the Colney Heath village hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2-8pm.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The first meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June. Nick presented the proposal on the logo and branding of the newsletter, and the format and indicative content of the newsletter. Group members were in agreement with the proposals and the Kite (unlike the Kingfisher) as a unifying symbol across the settlements across the parish. The clear signposting of the colour coding of the newsletter relating to the subject matter was noted.

The proposals are to be discussed at the next Council meeting along with the mode of distribution. Following the Council's decision, the group aims to have the final draft of the first issue of the newsletter available for review at the Council meeting in September with printing and distribution by the end of that month.

### **CHARLES MORRIS HALL**

Craig and John met with representatives of Charles Morris Hall charity on 21<sup>st</sup> July. The issues raised in correspondence in 2022 were discussed. We noted that some of these issues were complex and would involve expenditure that is not in the Council's budget for the current year. We proposed that consideration of such matters is deferred to the next financial year 24/25.

The terms of a lease on the land occupied by the Hall were discussed and these are proposed for Council decision to enable the charity to prepare their plans for investment.

This approach was considered helpful and constructive by the representative of the charity.

The charity has an action to clarify their governance intentions and this will be discussed at our next meeting with them.

### **ROESTOCK PARK HUT**

A meeting to review the works packages necessary for the refurbishment has been deferred due to leave arrangements and will be held as soon as possible.

### **COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS LIASON**

Steve is planning a group meeting in August to prepare for a community conference where it is intended that members of community organizations and businesses will be invited. It is proposed that

- a. the Council will present our Vision, initial objectives and Plan of Action, for comment and
- b. attendees will be asked to express their ideas and needs. A questionnaire will be used to enhance this survey of opinions, including plans by community groups that may need grant funding. This will inform our budget for 24/25.

The proposed arrangements for the conference will be submitted for decision at the Council's September meeting with the intention to hold the conference in October.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Hilary and Nick have reviewed the areas around the Common. The river Colne is in a poor state with vegetation blocking the flow of water along a great length of it. The vegetation along its banks is so out of control that it is very difficult to get near enough to even look to see if there is any water in parts of it. Contact has been made with Tim Hill at HMWT and a check is being made with Ricky Tyler when the vegetation on the Common back to the river's edge was last cut as then the river bank and river could be seen.

On the Warren the first ghost pond appears devoid of water, although vegetation had started to grow. However, the second pond shows signs of water and pond vegetation.

Fly-grazing on the Warren is a concern, fencing the boundary between Fursefield and the gypsy traveller's site to prevent the fly-grazing was discussed at a previous Parish Council Meeting and should be considered by Council again.

The Frederick's Wood Wayleave / Deed of Easement has been reviewed.