

Annual Meeting of Mursley Parish Council - 8 April 2013

Good evening, nice to see you all here, I intend to give a brief overview of items that involved the council over this last year followed, as usual, by an opportunity for you to ask questions on these or any other topic.

If I start with the good news, the completion of the Affordable Housing development at Taylors Corner which was officially opened last month. The idea of affordable homes in the village was first proposed about 14 years ago by the council and it was nice that John Williamson, the then Chairman, officially opened the development. The quality of the development is excellent and I believe it will be an asset for the village.

Equally the Sports Association should be congratulated on their perseverance in managing to obtain funding for the new pavilion and the subsequent development of the pavilion itself.

Two thoughts come to mind which could be deemed unsatisfactory news: the poor state of the roads in and around Mursley and the way AVDC planners regularly disregarded the input of the Parish council and residents and in particular over Plot 3 Manor Close.

Concerted efforts by the council and residents managed to increase the priority of Whaddon Road and in February some repair was undertaken. It has been confirmed that in summer there will be full width resurfacing from Chase Farm to just beyond the railway bridge. And, if finance is available, the rest of the road will be in the capital maintenance programme for repair in the following year. However can I still urge people to either report pot holes or write to our County Councillor on stretches of road that require attention.

On that aspect it is worth mentioning that BCC elections take place in May with 3 nominated candidates and you may wish to direct a question to one of the prospective councillors for our ward, Janet Blake, who is in attendance.

The consultation over the 50mph section of the Whaddon Road closed with 110 people submitting their view; Transport for Buckinghamshire are now deliberating. As yet we have no indication of what their thoughts are other than the suggestion of making it a 40mph zone is unlikely.

The PC was incensed by the way developer of plot 3 Manor Close flouted planning conditions and has effectively built a property which is larger and outside the deemed village envelope by more than ½ metre. Both were reasons used by AVDC planners to refuse the original planning application for the house. Despite such decisions it is essential

with the easing of planning constraints that the council continues to engage fully with the planning process and both the council and residents comment on proposals.

Moving on to slightly less contentious areas, of the speed of traffic through the village, the possibility of the wind farm and council finance:

There is slow progress in obtaining the Movable Vehicle Activated Sign to monitor traffic speed. We have proposed two locations which are being checked for acceptability by Transport for Buckinghamshire. If they are acceptable and there are no objections by residents local to the sites then we hope the sign would be available by the summer. As stated in the Pump article, the sign will provide us with traffic information as well as hopefully a positive effect on speed.

It was heartening to see the interested response by villagers at the open meeting over the planning application for the meteorological masts in January. The Development Control Committee decision was to defer decision until the MOD responded over whether or not the 80m mast would pose a safety hazard. I notice that the masts have been approved, however the Dorcas Lane wind turbine application has been refused. We will be active in watching similar applications and decisions here and in neighbouring villages.

Our finance continues to be in good order especially with the receipt of the repayment of the loan to the Jubilee Committee and you may have noticed that there is no change in the precept this year. We propose to have a new light outside the playing field opposite the crossing to Taylors Field but are asking for a contribution from a devolved BCC budget first. We have earmarked funds to purchase an additional salt bin for the bottom of The Beechams if a suitable location can be found.

As I mentioned in my notes in the December edition of the Pump the council now has its own website, which provides a list of the main council policy documents and copies of minutes back to January 2007. The planning page provides a list of any planning applications due for consideration and there is a direct link to the AVDC planning website. There is also a link to the Transport for Buckinghamshire website for reporting road problems. The website can be accessed through Mursley.net.

Finally let me conclude by thanking all the councillors for their efforts over the last year and special thanks must go to Ian for the numerous additional unpaid hours he spends on council business on top of the nominal 2 hours per week.

Gerry Gallagher