

PORTBURY PARISH COUNCIL



Portbury Parish Council Meeting 3rd September 2019

Chairman's Report

Crime and Disorder -for item 6

After many months of relatively quiet we had a theft incident at no.1 Mill Lane. A motorcycle was stolen, despite being heavily chained. An angle grinder was used to break it free in the early hours of the morning of the 11th of August. Clearly a planned theft. The police were informed but we have no update on the incident.

Planning – for item 7

- (a) Bristol Port Company – future plans for Shipway Farm – no update as yet but Nigel Ashton has been asked for his support as and when necessary. I have been researching published papers on the subject of economic growth versus sustainability. I will shortly be in a position to write a case against economic growth as a default business position.
- (b) Elm Tree Park – the new owner of the site has begun to add 2 further units to the site, in areas that are claimed to be covered by the existing planning consent. The NSC Housing Officer, who is responsible for regulating the site, has been in touch and will visit to check that all is in order. She has also made contact with the residents' committee and the new owner. We await further feedback and developments beyond the 2 units.
- (c) Affordable Housing – I contacted the developer who had offered to carry out a housing needs survey on our behalf in order to establish an understanding of the process. It is apparent that any assessment is done for the Parish Council and usually commissioned by the Parish Council. Thus, we would have full control of the process.

The process involves a very detailed look at demographic trends using census data, and also issuing a questionnaire to residents to establish any actual demand from current households. Given that we have already asked residents about affordable housing, it does not seem worth while to send out a further questionnaire. Given also that we have no sites that are active in the NSC registration system, it would be premature anyway to carry out any research at this time.

The company who had contacted us specialise in small scale affordable developments, 5 or 6 houses say. They ensure that the occupation of them is either retained for residents who are truly local, or they hand over the scheme to a housing association. It is worthwhile keeping the details of this company on record in the event that any development occurs so that we may then consider whether the type of houses available through them suit our needs.

Community Emergency Shelter Scheme – item 9(e)

We have been approached to see if we have suitable premises that might be used in an emergency situation, when people cannot occupy their own homes. The Village Hall and the Church have been asked if they would consider being registered under this system. Both have responded positively and will discuss with their own committees.

Pavement Survey – item 9(f)

Cllr Cooke and I have completed a visual survey of pavements in the main village. A report has been compiled, [copy here](#), which has already been sent to NSC Highways Dept and Nigel Ashton, for internal support. Copies will also be sent to Alex Hearn and relevant councillors with responsibility for Asset Management and Budgets.

In brief, we have about 2500mtrs of tarmac pavement in the village. Much of it is over 40 years old and degrading slowly. We have requested that 5% of pavements be resurfaced urgently due to being worn out, and thereafter a programme of repair to be instituted. Given the amount of pavement in the village, and the wear in driveway approaches, it is important to begin tackling the rest within 5 years. Even then it may take up to 30 years to get all pavements to an acceptable condition for the next 50 years.

Cllrs may wish to consider making an offer of part financial support for the work, in order to improve chances of getting priority in the budget system.

MAP 1st September 2019