

# Birlingham Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2014

at Birlingham Village Hall

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## **Councillors:**

Councillor Morris  
Councillor Aston  
Councillor Comins  
Councillor Conder  
Councillor Hill  
Councillor New  
Councillor Yates

## **Present:**

County Councillor Adrian Hardman  
PACT representative  
Mr Horrocks

## **Apologies for absence:**

District Councillor Ron Davies  
Footpath Warden, Bruce Hayward  
Tree Warden, Karl Grimston

## **Welcome**

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

- a) Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
- b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

(Note: Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items)

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held 17 September 2014, a copy of which had been circulated to all Councillors, were a true record. However, there was an amendment made to Appendix 1 paragraph 2 and then the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

Note: Correction to the July minutes. Item 5 b) iii of the District Councillor's report should read Waitrose not Sainsbury's. When the Evesham fire station site in Merstow Green is vacated it will be redeveloped by Waitrose.

### **3. Democratic Opening**

Appendix 1

### **4. Progress Reports**

- a) Footpaths
  - i) Footpath 506 (path near the village green) – strimmed.
  - ii) Footpath 518 (Asham Lane) – fallen tree removed by village 'work party'. It was believed the lane had been 'topped' by Michael Porter. The Warden was grateful for the assistance.
  - iii) The half-yearly report to Worcestershire County Council had been completed and sent.
- b) District Councillor
  - i) Councillor Davis would support the request for the New Homes Bonus.

- ii) Councillor Davis would listen to comments on the proposed residential development at Defford.
  - iii) The District Council are into the annual budget process again and the Business Plan. Funds are satisfactory and costs are continually looked at.
- c) County Councillor
- i) The directional vehicle sign had been erected near the war memorial. Councillor Hardman was thanked for his assistance in the matter.
  - ii) Flooding in Upper End. The drainage system needed to be upgraded but this would be estimated to cost thousands of pounds. The Secretary of State for the Environment is dealing with concerns of flooding so maybe a grant available. May consider small scale schemes.
  - iii) Resurfacing in Church Street is required and is on the Councillor's list of action.
  - iv) The road near The Old Rectory is sinking and has already been reported three times. Councillor Hardman will investigate.

County Councillor Adrian Hardman was thanked for his attendance.

- d) Clerk – see Appendix 2

## 5. Planning

- a) Current applications pending
  - i. W/14/02287/PP – first floor extension over garage  
Cherry Trees, Eckington Road, Birlingham WR10 3DA
  - ii. W/14/02266/CU – change of use from offices and workshop/lab and stable/garage to 2 no. dwellings  
The Old Stables, Upper End, Birlingham WR10 3AA  
Discussion took place; loss of employment, access, notable building. It was agreed to support in principle but requested that the design should be shown on website clearer. Clerk to request better drawings and then send in consultation comments.
  - iii. W/14/01881/OU – Outline application for the creation of a residential development comprising of 63 units  
Land surrounding and including 1 and 2 Avon Bank, Upton Road, Defford  
Discussion took place. Issues with access, outside the development boundary, footpath boundary. Councillor Comins to draft comments and oppose the outline.
- b) Applications granted / refused – none
- c) Application references with the coding starting and ending “GPDO...” appearing on Weekly Lists (15/10). There is no requirement for parish/town councils to make a comment on this type of application. This is because they are not classed as a planning application only a notification. The criteria the applicant/agent needs to fulfil is what is set out within The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Order 2014.

## 6. Financial Matters

- a) Bank Balance: £5,958.65 as at 21 October 2014.
- b) Accounts for 2013/2014 were resolved.
- c) Receipts:
  - i. £110.00 – Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman (July)
  - £80.00 – Worcestershire County Council Lengthsman (August)
  - £2,499.00 – Wychavon District Council – precept and grant

Payments:

  - i. £110.00 – Lengthsman July (cheque 317)
  - ii. £80.00 – Lengthsman August (cheque 319)
  - iii. £125.00 - HM Revenue & Customs (July, August, September) (cheque number 318)
  - iv. £500.00 – Clerk July, August, September (cheque number 321)
  - v. £25.00 – Clerks expenses (cheque number 320)

d) Future Payments:

- i. £125.00 – HM Revenue & Customs (October, November, December)
- ii. £75.00 – Lengthsman (September)
- iii. £189.00 – Lengthsman (October)
- iv. £50.00 - Poppy wreaths. Cheque to be given to Chris Reynard on behalf of the British Legion

e) Budget

Councillor Hill produced a list of forecasted budget figures for information.

Discussion on level of balances it is appropriate for the Council to hold.

Question - Increase by 7.6% ignoring elections costs. Provisional budget until the ceiling is known. Redraft.

Included discussion–

Website annual invoice. This is now paid by the Jubilee Group.

Clerks pay, PAYE and expenses – quarterly payments as per financial year and in line with RTI. Agreed to increase by 2.5%.

Village hall contribution to remain the same as last year at £500. Resolved.

Charities.

Car allowance – 40 pence per mile (Adoption of Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (previously discussed on Scrutiny Panel) consider increases.

Insurance due in May.

Tree budget from litter pick includes Annual Tree Forum – Tree Warden Budget.

Plane tree budget. The provision of £500 for 2015/2016 was resolved.

Elections – be aware of administration costs.

CALC – aware sub is increasing.

f) Precept – application to be returned by 16 January 2015.

Accept the precept at £5,200 per annum subject to the issuing of the Government Guidance. The provisional precept would be reconsidered by members once any guidance had been issued. The resolution would be clarified at the January meeting.

Thank you to Councillor Hill for his hard work and keeping the members 'in order'.

## 7. **Birlingham Cricket Club request for funding**

New Homes Bonus application received from Mark Yeomans on behalf of Birlingham Cricket Club. Advert to residents for consultation/support. There had been no comments received from the email advertisement. Members were all happy to support. Agreement to submit to WDC.

Councillor New to make enquiries regarding the New Homes Bonus funding given to BVH for the microwave as there had been no further information from the BVH committee.

## 8. **Neighbourhood Plans**

The 'advert', see Appendix 3, was published through the email news. A letter was also posted on the village noticeboard. Councillors agreed that a meeting should be held. The Policy Planner at Wychavon District Council would act as a mentor. Questions need to be asked as to 'why' a plan was needed. Members said that a marker was needed for the future. It was important to let residents understand any 'plan', the pros and cons and have their views heard.

A meeting would be called and the villagers would make the decision.

## 9. **Councillors' reports and items for next agenda**

Councillor Hill to address the solar funding with reference to the Defford Airfield proposal

Karl Grimston – The Wood

## 10. **Closure** with nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 9.32pm.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 7.45pm.

**Signed:** ..... **Councillor Steve Morris, Chairman**

**Date:** .....

## **Appendix 1 Democratic Opening**

The Chairman was thanked for his attendance and for laying the wreaths at the memorial services. Also for advertising the services. There had been a good turnout both at Eckington and at Birlingham on Remembrance Day.

PACT – If receiving 'foreign' mail report it to the police i.e. Swinton, AA It is fraudulent to open so inform company and tell the police.

The Old Stables application had raised issues and clarification was made on these.

County Councillor Hardman thanked for the new sign.

## **Appendix 2 Clerks Report**

### **News e-mail**

#### **Birlingham News 63 - 2 October**

It's the Harvest Festival this Sunday, followed by a Bring and Share Lunch.

In this issue:

1. Harvest Festival, 5th October
2. Thanksgiving Service for Gerry James, 10th October
3. Neighbourhood Plan
4. Royal British Legion
5. Police Village Walkabouts
6. Pershore Food Bank

#### **3. Neighbourhood Plan**

You will have received a letter from Birlingham Parish Plan about the possibility of drafting a neighbourhood plan for the village. If there is sufficient interest, a meeting will be organised to discuss the viability of such a plan. If you wish to be involved, please contact the Clerk at [birlingham\\_clerk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk). If you don't wish to take an active part in the process, we would still like to hear whether or not you think a neighbourhood plan would be a good idea for Birlingham; please let us know at [news@birlingham.org](mailto:news@birlingham.org).

The neighbourhood plan letter can be viewed at [www.birlingham.org/pc\\_info/neighbourhood\\_plan\\_2014-09-17.pdf](http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/neighbourhood_plan_2014-09-17.pdf).

#### **4. Royal British Legion**

Eckington Branch of the Royal British Legion has now amalgamated with Pershore Branch but they will be carrying on as usual with Remembrance Sunday in Eckington and Poppy collections in Strensham, Eckington, Birlingham and Defford. Weather permitting, the normal routine of parade and service will be followed on Remembrance Sunday (9th November) at Eckington Cross.

Any volunteers to help with Poppy collections at Strensham South during the fortnight leading up to Remembrance Day (Saturday 25th October to Saturday 8th November) would be most welcome. Poppy Appeal Organiser in Birlingham is Chris Reynard (01386 751122) and he will be co-ordinating the collection.

## 5. Police Village Walkabouts

The police will be doing village walkabouts in Birlingham, Defford and Eckington on the fourth Friday of each month, from 1.30pm. The next walkabout will be on Friday 24th October.

The mobile police station will also be continuing its regular visits outside Eckington Village Stores on the third Thursday of each month, between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. The next visit will be on Thursday 16th October.

## 6. Pershore Food Bank

Pershore Food Bank thanks everyone who has contributed to the food bank, which is working very well to support local families. Currently the Food Bank is running short. If you would like to donate something please leave it with Angela Fitch, 3 King William IV Close.

## Birlingham News 64 - 13 October

This week brings news of a rare opportunity to have your name immortalised on a Flower & Produce Show trophy. Alternatively, you can make an impact in the village by joining the new Birlingham Skittles Team.

In this issue:

1. New Flower & Produce Show Trophies
2. Remembrance Services, 9th & 11th November
3. Birlingham Skittles Team
4. Pershore Food Bank

## 2. Remembrance Services, 9th & 11th November

A short Service of Remembrance will be held on Tuesday 11th November at the Birlingham War Memorial and a wreath will be laid on behalf of the parish. The service starts at 10.45am and will be followed by tea and coffee in the Church. Everyone is invited to attend this service.

Weather permitting, the normal routine of parade and service will take place on Remembrance Sunday (9th November) at Eckington Cross. The parade begins at 10.30am and the ceremony at the Cross – which covers the parishes of Eckington, Birlingham and Defford cum Besford – starts at about 10.45am. This is followed by a short service in Eckington Church. A wreath will be laid on behalf of Birlingham Parish Council.

## 3. Birlingham Skittles Team

Following on from the interest generated by our entry in the Wychavon Parish Games, a regular skittles team has been formed in the village and is now playing league matches at Pershore Sports Club. The matches are not held on a fixed day of the week, so a large pool of players is needed to ensure that a team can always be fielded.

If you would like to be part of the team, either on a regular or occasional basis, please contact Denise McGowan on 01386 750443.

## 4. Pershore Food Bank Donations

Angela Fitch would like to thank those who donated food to Pershore Food Bank over the last week or so. She will continue to collect on behalf of the Food Bank for the foreseeable future, so if you didn't get a chance last week, do please leave your food donation at 3 King William IV Close.

## [Birlingham News 65 - 2 November](#)

A Service of Remembrance will be held at the Birlingham war memorial on Tuesday 11th November.

In this issue:

1. Cuppa & Chat, 5th November
2. Remembrance Services, 9th & 11th November
3. St James's Church Services – November
4. Planning Applications

### [2. Remembrance Services, 9th & 11th November](#)

There will be no service at St James's Church on Sunday 9th November, as the traditional Remembrance Service will be held jointly with Eckington, Defford and Besford at Eckington Cross at 10.45am. This will be followed by a service in Eckington Church.

A short Service of Remembrance will be held on Tuesday 11th November at the Birlingham War Memorial. The service starts at 10.45am and will be followed by tea and coffee in the Church. Everyone is invited to attend this service.

### [4. Planning Applications](#)

The following planning applications have been received by the Parish Council:

- [The Old Stables](#), Upper End: Change of use from offices and workshop/lab and stable/garage to 2 no. dwellings (Case No. 14/02266). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 20th November.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at [www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/02266](http://www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/02266).
- [Cherry Trees](#), Eckington Road: 1st floor extension over garage (Case No. 14/002287). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 14th November.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at [www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/002287](http://www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/002287).
- [Land surrounding and including 1 and 2 Avon Bank](#) Upton Road, Defford: Outline application for the creation of a residential development comprising of 63 units (Case No. 14/01881). (Consultation period ends on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at [www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/0881](http://www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/0881). (Not in Birlingham but the Parish Council have been consulted).

## [Birlingham News 65 update - 3 November](#)

### [Planning Applications](#)

The Case Number and web link in the recent email contained an error in the second application listed. The correct details are:

- [Cherry Trees](#), Eckington Road: 1st floor extension over garage (Case No. 14/02287). Awaiting decision by Wychavon District Council. (Consultation period ends on 14th November.) Full details can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at [www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/02287](http://www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/02287).

## [Birlingham News 66 - 12 October](#)

Thank you to all those who have contributed to this e-mail. If you have items for inclusion in future editions, please e-mail [news@birlingham.org](mailto:news@birlingham.org).

In this issue:

1. Bill Quarrell

2. Parish Council Meeting, 19th November
3. New Homes Bonus Application
4. Defford Arms Darts Team – Winter Season
5. Planning Applications

## 2. Parish Council Meeting, 19th November

The next Parish Council meeting takes place on Wednesday 18th November at 7.45pm in Birlingham Village Hall. Among other things, the Council will be discussing the proposed development of 63 houses at Defford (bordering our parish at Bow Brook) and the application for change of use from offices to dwellings at the Old Stables, Upper End; setting the budget for next year, which determines the amount of Council Tax you have to pay specifically for the Parish; assessing the New Homes Bonus Application by the Cricket Club (see below); and setting a date for the first Neighbourhood Plan meeting.

The Agenda for the meeting is available at [www.birlingham.org/pc\\_info/pc\\_agenda\\_2014-11-19.pdf](http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_agenda_2014-11-19.pdf) and the minutes of the last meeting on 17th September can be viewed at [www.birlingham.org/pc\\_info/pc\\_minutes\\_2014-09-17.pdf](http://www.birlingham.org/pc_info/pc_minutes_2014-09-17.pdf).

## 3. New Homes Bonus Application

As a result of the New Homes Bonus Initiative, we in Birlingham have an annual amount of £1,133 available over the next three years up to 2017. Specifically this money is intended to be used for the benefit of the parish community and we anticipate that the various organisations in the parish will come forward with worthwhile ideas for spending this. The Parish Council will look at any ideas and, working with Wychavon District Council, consider those that fall within the guidance issued. In previous years, some of this money has been used by Birlingham Village Hall for roof repairs and a new microwave.

Currently there is an application from Birlingham Cricket Club to upgrade its facilities, including a new roof for the machine shed and improved security. The cricket pitch is used as a Community facility for many varied activities, so this falls within the guidance given for the use of the scheme. The work is expected to cost £1200 and the Cricket Club has asked for a contribution of £900 from the New Homes Bonus. The Parish Council is required to consult the community on all applications, so we would be pleased to hear your views before making the decision next Wednesday; please email any comments to [news@birlingham.org](mailto:news@birlingham.org).

## 5. Planning Applications

The following planning application has been determined by Wychavon District Council:

- [Cherry Trees](#), Eckington Road: 1st floor extension over garage (Case No. 14/02287). Approved. Full details and conditions can be viewed on the Wychavon DC website at [www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/02287](http://www.e-wychavon.org.uk/pl/pl.exe?cs=14/02287).

## CALC Autumn Training Programme

Circulated to all Councillors

Dear Clerk

Please find attached the training programme for the autumn period. This we have based on the requests and responses from those clerks and councils who were kind enough to reply to our question of what is required from training.

We are most fortunate to have secured the services of Gill Lungley to facilitate many of the events. Gill is a very experienced clerk and is well trained to impart her vast knowledge of parish council matters. She is also very happy to facilitate sessions to individual councils. This is helpful if you would like a short training session before a Parish Council meeting or if it is easier to gather councillors together at a venue of your choice. If you would be interested in Gill's training to councils then please contact me for further details as I will administer them.

Birlingham Parish Council November 2014

The first event on our programme is to be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 and I am out of the office for next week so I would be most grateful if you could book your place no later than Monday September 29<sup>th</sup>. Should you also wish to attend 6<sup>th</sup> October "Financial Administration" session please can you book your place by Thursday 2 October.

I look forward to hearing from you  
Caroline  
CALC

### South Worcestershire Development Plan Consultation

- 17 Sep

Dear Sir or Madam,

Yesterday afternoon you will have received an email (timed at 17.18 hrs) sent from [consult@objective.co.uk](mailto:consult@objective.co.uk) notifying you of a new consultation event in respect of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). This email was sent out as a result of a system error at a third party and contains incorrect and misleading information, please disregard that email. Please accept my most sincere apologies for the inconvenience and confusion.

To try to resolve the confusion I would like to confirm the actual position in respect of the SWDP process and what is happening over the coming weeks.

On Tuesday 16 September 2014 the Council published the papers (the Proposed Modifications) for the Council meetings at the three authorities involved in this joint plan (Malvern Hills DC; Worcester City Council and Wychavon DC), which will take place on 30 September 2014. These papers contain details of the proposed additional sites and other policy changes considered to be required, in order to meet the increased housing requirement, consequent to the Planning Inspector's Interim Conclusions, published in March 2014, as part of the examination process.

Until these papers have been voted upon by the Councils on 30 September 2014, this material has very limited status. Once voted upon and if accepted, they assume the same status as the rest of the document submitted to the Secretary of State in April 2013. A key aspect of the Councillors' decision on 30 September 2014 should, if they vote to proceed, be to initiate a 6-week public consultation on the proposals. This consultation will take place between 6 October and 14 November 2014 and will be entirely on the Proposed Modifications. The Inspector will not be accepting comments on matters that have already been consulted upon. As is usual, now that we are in the examination period, the comments and submissions received in respect of the Proposed Modifications will be passed straight to the Inspector.

The email you received yesterday contained a link to the information. This was automatically generated and is non-functional. However, in order to give everybody who has an interest in the SWDP and the Proposed Modifications the opportunity to comment, all of the relevant documents can be accessed via the SWDP website and the individual Councils' websites. This material was placed on the SWDP website at the same time as the Council papers being published (Wychavon and Malvern Hills), prior to the erroneous email being sent out.

The SWDP web page hosting this information can be found at:

[http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page\\_id=8494](http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=8494)

We anticipate that the Inspector will reconvene the examination hearings in early 2015.

Again, please accept my sincere apologies that this error occurred in the first place, but I trust that my email this afternoon will ensure that the situation is remedied and will go some way towards clarifying what will be happening in the coming weeks.

Should you wish to contact me directly, please do not hesitate to do so. I would however, ask that you do not reply to me at the email address above (this is a send only box of the third party). Could you please instead use my contact details given below, thank you.

With best wishes,

Paul Bayliss

Project Manager

South Worcestershire Development Plan

E: [paul.bayliss@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.bayliss@wychavon.gov.uk)

T: 01386 565334 M: 07896 472344

Working for Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon District Councils

Birlingham Parish Council November 2014

## Wychavon District Town and Parish Survey – South Worcestershire Playing Pitch Strategy

Dear Town / Parish Clerk

As you may have read in the Parish Newsletter, Wychavon District Council, Malvern Hills District Council and Worcester City Council are working with NAA to develop Playing Pitch Strategies that will consider the facility requirements for football, cricket, rugby and hockey. The documents will be developed in line with new Sport England guidance and will update the existing playing pitch strategies for each of the three local authorities. They will consider all facilities, regardless of ownership or management.

These existing documents have provided a strong foundation for decision making relating to playing pitch provision and have helped the Councils to bring in investment into sport. The new strategies will build on this and will set out where new facilities are required, as well as where improvement is needed. It is hoped that they will also be used to secure external funding, as well as to guide investment from new development.

Many Town and Parish Councils are important providers of facilities in the local area, and you may also be aware of unmet demand, or sites requiring improvement within the Parish / Town you represent. Your input into this project is therefore particularly valuable and will ensure that opportunities to improve facilities in your local area are maximised.

I have therefore attached a short survey form and would appreciate it if you could complete this on behalf of your Town / Parish. The information is primarily factual and for most Towns/Parishes, will only take a few minutes. Even if your Town / Parish does not own or manage any facilities, we are still keen to hear from you. Please complete the survey and return to me by email by 11th October.

If you would prefer to discuss this over the telephone, please contact me directly on 07890 187692 or let me know when would be convenient for me to call you and I will do so.

This is an important project for the Council and I therefore thank you in advance for your engagement.

Kind regards

Hazel Barber, Associate  
m: 07890 187692  
e: hazel@neilallenassociates.co.uk

### Eckington Road Footpath

The 'email news' acknowledged a complaint from a resident on the Eckington Road. A response was then sent in reply, quotes ' WCC has acknowledged the complaint and will investigate within 28 days. As I say, I suspect any response will go no further than strimming back but the root cause is actually years of neglect allowing nature to reclaim the footpath. They really need to get the path back to its original width so allowing pedestrians to walk side by side in safety; especially important for families. Anyhow I am sharing the photos that I uploaded to WCC and we will see what the response is and if it's not adequate then maybe we can get PC involved. Hasn't anyone ever campaigned for a proper footpath from Birlingham to Eckington or Birlingham to Pershore do you know? We could (on-line) petition.

**Clerk response** - I regularly walk the pathway on the Eckington Road and it is frustrating that the vegetation is allowed to grow so far over. However, it has been cut back as promised though it's probably not as much as we would have wished for. I believe the responsibility really should lie with the landowner who has allowed the hedge to get out of hand and the County Council whose verge is overgrown. A couple of years ago I got the path 'scraped' both on Eckington Road and Bakers Hill. Consequently, some of the tarmac was removed and now more weeds grow. Our Parish Lengthsman is only allowed to work on areas where the speed limit is no more than 30mph so I cannot instruct him to carry out works on the Eckington Road.

**Resident** - Thanks for the information. WCC has removed the incident from their website now so presumably they consider it cleared! I saw a chap strimming there about 3 weeks ago and while it

has certainly improved things it is not a solution. When I walk there with my grandchildren in single file many drivers move over into the centre of the road to pass when they can because they see the danger. Pedestrians are just forced to close to the road verge. I don't know who the landowner is but surely WCC has the responsibility and the authority to ensure footpaths are safe and this one is not. I will write to WCC once again.

**Clerk response** Hello, Thank you for your email. Please do write again to WCC and copy me in. I will put your email exchanges into my 'clerks report' for the next parish council meeting. If the Ward Member is there County Councillor Adrian Hardman I will bring up your concerns. As you have said it's a clearance but not a full solution.

The hedge owner would be the paddock owner which is Pentwyn and the County Council for the footway but the usual 'excuse' of funding often means nothing gets done.

I have in the past, as have several residents, complained about the hedge and its safety outside your property. The highway is restricted on the bend where the hedge is so close to the edge of the highway. Again, nothing gets actioned. It is all very frustrating.

Regards

**Resident** Thanks again June. WCC reporting is an online system that does not enable me to copy you in unfortunately. Anyhow, I have made a report as follows.....

*I reported overgrown shrubbery here some six weeks ago (#6369089). Two weeks ago a workman came and trimmed back the vegetation which is progress but not a solution. I must walk this footpath with my grandchildren in single file due to encroachment and even so thoughtful drivers move to the centre of the road when passing because pedestrians are too close to traffic. It needs sorting out properly as it is dangerous. We need this path and we need it safe. I tried to access the initial report online but it seems to have been prematurely removed and the feedback link does not work either.*

WCC system has given me a new incident report number (#6423469) which I assume anyone can access but in any case I will forward you any update correspondence as I receive. I know that funding (lack of) will inevitably come up but maybe if we focus on the safety issue then it will be harder to ignore.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

A get well card was sent to Horace Hewitt. The Clerk made enquiries regarding the overall contact for the Parish as Mr Hewitt was worrying about the Neighbourhood Watch as he covers the Upper End. As an ex-policeman he 'keeps an eye out'.

Councillor Hill would make some time to enquire of the Police co-ordinator.

### **Consultation on Proposed Modifications to the submitted SWDP 2006 – 2030** 2 Oct

Consultation on Proposed Modifications to the Submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan 2006- 2030.

This email is being sent to you as your details are held on the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) consultation database, and you have either made representations in the past or requested to be notified when consultation events occur.

On 28th May 2013 the three South Worcestershire Councils, of Malvern Hills District, Wychavon District and Worcester City submitted the SWDP to the Secretary of State. The SWDP is now being examined, and to date, two Stage 1 hearing sessions have been held in October 2013 and March 2014 to assess the soundness of the plan and whether it meets all legal requirements. As a result the Inspector issued Interim Conclusions (October 2013) stating that the Objectively Assessed Housing Need figures should be reviewed to provide more up to date information on the number of homes needed over the Plan period (2006-2030) in South Worcestershire. The three Councils therefore commissioned more work on economic, population and household forecasts relating to the Plan. This additional work was examined by the Inspector and he issued his Further Interim Conclusions in March 2014, which recommended an increase in the assessed housing need figures for the SWDP area, from 23,200 dwellings to 28,370.

As a result of the recommended housing increase, the three councils have considered ways of meeting this housing need through the allocation of additional housing sites. This has resulted in the need to modify the Plan as submitted.

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, at Council meetings, all three South Worcestershire Councils approved a schedule of proposed modifications including additional proposed housing allocations to reflect the increase in the housing figures in the Plan, as a basis for public consultation.

The Proposed Modifications to the Submitted South Worcestershire Development Plan will be available for comment between Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 until 5.00pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

The consultation only relates to the proposed modifications and not to other aspects of the Submitted Plan. There is no need to repeat representations that you sent to us on the Submitted version of the Plan in January/ February 2013 which have already been passed to the Inspector.

#### Representations:

Although you may have made previous representations to the process to date, should you wish to have the chance to appear at the next stages of the Examination concerning these modifications, it is essential that you make a response at this stage and let us know if you wish to appear. Please note that participation is at the discretion of the Inspector.

The consultation documents consist of:

- The Schedule of Proposed Modifications to the SWDP following Stage 1 of the Examination, arising from the Objectively Assessed Housing Need (including maps of new/amended housing sites).
- Guidance notes which include an explanation of the Tests of Soundness and Legal compliance the Plan has to satisfy
- Supporting background information (evidence)
- Response forms

All of the documents, supporting information and response forms are available electronically from the <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org> website.

Responses should be made on the response form where possible.

Electronic (e-mail) responses should be sent to [contact@swdevelopmentplan.org](mailto:contact@swdevelopmentplan.org)

Hard copies should be sent to: Paul Bayliss, SWDP Project Manager c/o Policy Plans team, Housing and Planning Services, Wychavon District Council, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT.

If you have any queries please see the SWDP website ([www.swdevelopmentplan.org](http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org)) or send an e-mail to the above address. You can also telephone the SWDP team on 01386 565565 or write via the Wychavon District Council address above.

Yours faithfully

Paul Bayliss, SWDP Project Manager

#### **Street Trading Consultation** 8 Oct

Dear Clerk

Please find enclosed a covering letter and consultation document in relation to Street Trading within Wychavon.

If you wish to make any comments on the proposals, please do so by 31 December 2014.

If you any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Birlingham Parish Council November 2014

Wychavon District Council is currently reviewing the way that it controls street trading in its area. As part of this process, the Council has published the enclosed consultation document. The Council is interested in hearing the views of representatives of both businesses and residents on the proposals contained in the consultation document.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please complete the relevant parts of the consultation document and return it to:

Street Trading Consultation – Wychavon

Worcestershire Regulatory Services

PO Box 866

Worcester

WR1 9DP

Alternatively responses can be submitted by email using the subject line "Street Trading Consultation – Wychavon" and sent to [wrsenquiries@worscservices.gov.uk](mailto:wrsenquiries@worscservices.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Mel Harris

Senior Member Support Officer

Wychavon District Council

### **Consultation : Designation of a Neighbourhood Area by Eckington Parish Council** 14 Oct

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Andrew Ford, Senior Policy Planning Officer, please find attached a letter informing you of a consultation in respect of a Designation of a Neighbourhood Area by Eckington Parish Council. I give below a link to our Neighbourhood Planning Consultation webpage where you will find further links for Eckington Parish Council's Application for a Neighbourhood Designation, including area map.

<http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-consultation>

If this consultation is no longer applicable to your position please can I ask you to kindly re-direct this email to an appropriate colleague, copying me in so that I can keep our database up to date.

Thank you in anticipation to your response to this matter.

Regards, Sarah Matthews. Planning Officer (Policy), Wychavon District Council, The Civic Centre

### **CALC AGM 2014 - 26 November**

Dear Clerk

Please find attached the notice for the Worcestershire CALC AGM. Please R.S.V.P. to our Executive Committee Clerk Hazel Robinson at [excommclerk@worscalc.org.uk](mailto:excommclerk@worscalc.org.uk)

We do hope you will be able to attend

Caroline Sutton (Administrator)

### **Worcester Transport Strategy Autumn Newsletter**

- Oct 29

Copied to all Councillors.

From: Nicky Fletcher

Transport Consultation Co-ordinator

**Wychavon CALC Area Meeting** Meeting Minutes (3rd September, 2014) and Agenda for forthcoming Meeting 4th December, 2014.

[kaye.angus@worscalc.org.uk](mailto:kaye.angus@worscalc.org.uk) Oct 31

Birlingham Parish Council November 2014

Dear Members

Please find attached the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd September, 2014, for your information together with the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting scheduled for the 4th December, 2014 - please schedule the date in your diaries!

Best wishes

Kaye Angus (Area Clerk)

### **New Homes Bonus**

Advertise. Action.

### **WCC Highway reporting**

The subsidence outside The Old Rectory has been reported (reference number 6441181)

### **Worcestershire County Council- Parish Lengthsman training**

A letter was received from the Senior Highways Liaison Engineer thanking the Lengthsman for attending the training course on 3 September. A Traffic Management Registration card had been passed to Carl and acknowledged on 11 November.

### **Shared letter to Minister Brandon Lewis - The Emerging SWDP**

11.11.14

Copied to all Councillors

Dear Councillors

On behalf of the 3 South Worcestershire Councils I am copying you in on a letter (as below) from the 3 Leaders to the Minister. As you know, the SWDP has now reached an advanced stage and the Councils have reacted positively to the Inspector's requirements and found the additional housing requirement. There is still a great concern from councillors and communities about the limited weight that is being given to the plan. Because of all the statutory requirements it can't be finally adopted until Autumn 2015.

You will see in the attached letter that the Leaders are asking the Minister to do the following:

*'....The SWDP will facilitate a significant uplift in housing delivery in the right locations so we strongly urge that you issue a Ministerial Statement which reaffirms that housing should be plan led, that more planning weight be afforded to plans at examination, and that is subsequently reflected in a revision of the NPPF.'*

Any support you are able to give is most welcome.

Please be reminded that this was an action agreed consequent to Recommendation 3 of the SWDP Cover Report considered at the 30 September Councils.

Regards, Paul Bayliss, Project Manager

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Our Ref: GW/FD/LM-L

30 October 2014

Birlingham Parish Council November 2014

Mr Brandon Lewis MP  
Minister for Housing and Planning  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Minister

Planning weight afforded to emerging Local Plans - South Worcestershire Development Plan (2006-2030)

As the leaders of the three South Worcestershire Councils (SWC) we are writing to you directly requesting your support and intervention with respect to the issue of affording emerging Local Plans greater planning weight in development management and appeal decisions. This letter is also supported and signed by the Chairman of the South Worcestershire Joint Advisory Panel which oversees the production of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP).

As you will be aware the South Worcestershire Councils (Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon) are working together under informal arrangements to produce a joint Local Plan covering South Worcestershire and which deals with complex sub-regional and cross boundary growth as well as the associated infrastructure requirements. The Plan represents a major undertaking as it brings forward strategic policies, detailed site allocations and generic development management policies all in a single development plan document.

Significant progress has been made with the Plan which begun the examination process in May 2013 and has already received positive responses from the Inspector with respect to the legal duty to co-operate and proposed levels of housing, employment and retail growth.

The South Worcestershire Councils have responded positively to the SWDP examination Inspector's recommendation for a further 6000 dwellings to be found and additional housing allocations are now being consulted on. The SWC and local communities support housing development when it is clearly plan led as advocated in the NPPF.

Local communities, including those preparing Neighbourhood Plans, are angry at the lack of recognition afforded to the SWDP in the consideration of speculative applications at planning appeals. Some villages have seen housing growth exceeding 30% over a very short space of time.

The emerging SWDP sets out sufficient and suitable housing allocations to satisfy the Inspector's recommended full Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) (Further Interim Conclusions 31 March 2014 - 28,370 dwellings up to 2030). Inevitably there are unreserved objections to these proposed housing allocations but given that the technical evidence base supports them it is incredulous to believe the inspector will not support the majority if not all of them. If not he will simply allocate rival sites but not least it would remain plan led.

The South Worcestershire Councils and our local communities are becoming increasingly concerned that Inspectors are being inconsistent with respect to the application of NPPF policy in particular over what constitutes an out of date Local Plan policy. Our firm view is that Local Plan policies can only be out of date if a five year supply of housing cannot be demonstrated.

The SWDP has to follow a statutory process which means it won't be adopted until Autumn 2015. Unless more planning weight is given to both extant Local Plan and SWDP policies South Worcestershire will be faced with more piecemeal, speculative housing proposed and an even greater infrastructure delivery gap. This is not sustainable development as advocated in the NPPF.

The SWDP will facilitate a significant uplift in housing delivery in the right locations so we strongly urge that you issue a Ministerial Statement which reaffirms that housing should be plan led, that more planning weight be afforded to plans at examination, and that is subsequently reflected in a revision of the NPPF.

Birlingham Parish Council November 2014

Thank you in anticipation of your considered and positive response to this request and of course we would be pleased to meet and discuss this matter further with you.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Mrs Judy Pearce Cllr Paul Middlebrough  
Chairman of the SWDP Joint Advisory Panel Leader of Wychavon District Council

Cllr Simon Geraghty Cllr David Hughes  
Leader of Worcester City Council Leader of Malvern Hills District Council

Copy to: Robin Walker, MP for Worcester

Peter Luff, MP for Mid Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin, MP for West Worcestershire

Karen Lumley, MP for Redditch County

### **Appendix 3 Neighbourhood Plan**

To the residents of Birlingham from Birlingham Parish Council

For many years communities were encouraged to produce their individual Parish Plans and Parish Design Statements. These allowed residents to express their views on the nature and location of housing developments and service provision in their parish and were accepted by local councils as a consideration in their forward planning.

The Government, as part of its localism policy, has strengthened the ability of communities to influence their local environment by the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans, Parish Plans are now in effect superseded.

The essentials of Neighbourhood Plans are:

- They allow residents to influence the location, design and dispersion of new housing, provision of infrastructure, green space etc
- They have legal status and planners and developers must take them into account.
- Groups of parishes can work together to produce plans for a defined area.
- Once a plan is accepted the parish can benefit from a 25% share of the new Community Infrastructure Levy.

Completion of a Neighbourhood Plan requires the full co-operation and involvement of the community and is a lengthy process. Most parishes find it necessary to employ consultants and only limited financial support is available from public funds.

A number of parishes in Worcestershire are preparing plans and Birlingham Parish Council is keen to promote the process in the village.

We are therefore asking for volunteers who would be ready to undertake this work under the guidance of the Parish Council.

Would anyone who would like to join the planning team please contact the Parish Clerk, June Hiden, by writing to Lamorna Broadway Road, Birlingham WR10 3AF or emailing

Birlingham\_clerk@yahoo.co.uk