

Chairman's Report Spring 2018

I open my report with the main topic being the proposed development at the north end of the Village. We were supposed to be consulted but I understand that a large number of houses did not receive the leaflet, which had the contact details on it. We have written to the proposed developer Lanpro and passed on our view that it was not a representative "consultation". We also note that SNC planning officers recommended the approval of the development of the 15 houses on Flordon Long Lane. As we mentioned in our comments to the application this will lead to further strains on our already stretched infrastructure.

The surrounding villages i.e. Bracon Ash & Hethel, Swardeston and East Carleton are opposing the planned development and asked that we form a task force to actively oppose the proposed development. CPRE are also opposed to the development and wish to get involved at a later date.

When you consider Mulbarton has been a building site for the last 15 years is it any wonder the villagers are tired of the continuous development, which is changing the whole character of the village.

Members of the public should also be aware that a new Greater Norwich Local Plan is being pursued jointly by South Norfolk Council (SNC), Norwich City Council, Broadland Council and Norfolk County Council (NCC), and is looking to build 40,000 houses over the next 18 years, of which circa. 9,250 will be built in South Norfolk. You can view the document online at www.gnlp.org.uk. Consultation ends on the 15th March 2018. The document is 157 pages long and I think it is designed to make you brain dead before you understand the contents. We are of the opinion it doesn't address the issues that are uppermost in Residents' minds.

After waiting 12 months for SNC to repair the entrance to the Village Hall car park we have taken on the task ourselves and repaired the potholes, but remember you are paying twice for this as SNC have the responsibility for the Common but have chosen not to do the work. We have also resurfaced the east side of the Village Hall car park – this was carried out during half-term to minimise disruption to Village Hall operations.

We have replaced the swings on the Common at a cost of £1,000s and would ask that people respect this facility, and take note of the age restrictions that are displayed on the play equipment. Remember it is YOUR money we are spending.

We have spruced up the Jubilee Gardens at The Meadows and also rescinded the licence we had for the north end of The Meadows, so as and from 1st July 2018 SNC will assume full responsibility for the management and maintenance of the land, which incidentally is in Bracon Ash. The allotments and play area are unaffected by this decision and remain under the management of Mulbarton Parish Council.

A number of people are complaining about the indiscriminate, not to say dangerous, parking on or around the streets immediately surrounding the school. I thought one of mantras from SNC planning department was to encourage children, with their parents, to walk to school if they could. Can you imagine what it will be like if we have up to 200 more houses in the Village? I know one of the "selling points" of the proposed new development is a dedicated footpath from the development through the Churchyard but this is dependent on the Church giving permission and also the willingness of parents to walk their kids to school when it is raining and blowing a gale at the same time.

We have replaced the solar light at the Village sign so that everyone can enjoy the greeting of the sign night and day. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is currently being used two nights a week for football and one night per week for tennis. The area is also marked out for netball. If you wish to book the area for football, tennis, netball or some other use compatible with the facility please get in touch with our Clerk Anne on the usual contact numbers or email address. We have replaced/repared the security fencing surrounding the MUGA, which incidentally was deliberately cut by a parent to allow their child access to the area who when cautioned by our Vice-Chairman directed a load of verbal abuse to her - something which is not acceptable. As a Parish Council we are used to the usual "brickbats" but some of the recent comments on social media have been derogatory as well as factually incorrect. Remember all Councillors are volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of the Village and it would help their moral if comments were of a constructive nature rather than personal.

Peter Leigh, Chairman, Mulbarton Parish Council