

Cllr. Ferris Cowper's District Councillor Newsletter

July 2018

Dear villagers,

Here is my latest newsletter for July 2018

TPOs in the Kingswood Firs Area

I'm sure everyone was relieved that the programme of, allegedly, 2700 TPOs in this area has been abandoned.

I'm told there is some chatter that it is still continuing. It isn't.

There have been some routine TPOs issued as part of normal business and that affects Kingswood First just like it affects everywhere else.

Since the 2700 were withdrawn 7 new orders have been issued and 5 of those were in connection with building development planning applications as part of normal business. Of those 7, 5 were accepted willingly by the planning applicants, 1 was revoked and 1 was disputed.

The one revoked was issued a bit over enthusiastically, following a house sale.

So the latest fuss is about 7 only 2 of which were disputed.

I do suggest we don't over react. The real problem that remains is how to implement a balanced approach to provide protection where necessary without going over the top.

Planning

Recent Decisions.

It was all very exciting in the recent District Council Planning Committee meeting!

There were two items on the Agenda, both affecting Grayshott. Pendarren in Boundary Road and 48 Kingswood Firs, (what is it about Kingswood Firs at the moment!!!!). The planning issues in both were quite similar.

I opposed the Council officer's recommendation for the Pendarren development of three large dwellings which also had an inappropriate architectural style. I was very pleased to be successful in persuading the Planning Committee to agree with me. The officer's recommendation was overturned and my motion to refuse was agreed.

Better still, subsequent conversations with the developers and residents have resulted in a much more attractive development of just two dwellings. A good success I feel.

A bigger struggle was 48 Kingswood Firs where the problem was similar, over development of the site. However it seemed as though the Committee was reluctant to overturn the officers' recommendations twice in a row.

There was also a rather ambiguous presentation of the size of the proposed development including several misstatements about its height and also the use of a water colour artist's impression, which I have never seen before in a Planning Committee; we have always used precise graphics based on architects' plans.

The recommendation for consent was upheld. However there is now a significant follow up issue in relation to the conduct of aspects of the case as a whole including the site visit, the events that took place during the Committee meeting and also the way in which the Council dealt with a Freedom of Information request from an objector.

I am actively engaged in this follow up activity.

West of Grayshott

The Applegarth Vale development is now under way. The commitment to channel profits into the economic and business development project remains intact and secured by a Council levied bond on the applicant.

I understand that we are now likely to see, in a couple of months, a Planning Application for the former Golf Driving range. I'll deal with it, if it is submitted, in the usual way.

Local Plan

Just recently, as part of this process, the Council has completed a stage called "Call for Sites". This process is often misunderstood so I want to clarify it here. Call for Sites is pretty much what it sounds like, the Council invites anyone, (usually developers and landowners reply), to suggest plots of land where housing could be put up.

That's all it is. The fact that the Council records these suggestions means absolutely nothing at all in terms of possible approval. In my experience the vast majority of suggestions received in this way are rejected by the Council for all kinds of planning reasons.

Sites suggested in this way will be subject to an extensive process of public consultation and discussion with councillors on the Development Policy Panel and of course the local councillor and Parish Council. So the key thing is to look out for these sites on the EHDC website and send in your comments. It would help to copy me and the Parish Council at the time.

Car Parking

As explained in my previous newsletter, the plan is to move ahead with the simplest of the options as a Phase One to see if that will deal with the problem. This is

basically time limited on street parking on the major routes through the village. Please check back to the February newsletter for the details.

Implementation requires legal documents to be processed, called Traffic Regulation Orders, (TROs) and this is a duty of the District Council under an agency agreement with the County Council. I have seen the draft TROs and they look good to me.

I asked for the drafts to be sent to the Parish Council and that has now been done. I anticipate the orders, (which will be based on aspects of the public consultation held in the Village Hall earlier this year), will be out for public consultation by the end of this month.

[Burning Along Headley Road Opposite Ludshott Common](#)

The District and Parish Council both received several calls from alarmed residents about a large fire in domestic premises at the above location. (This location is not Fairlands by the way). It was reported to the District Council Environmental Health department, (and I visited it on their behalf) and also the Government's Environment Agency, who also visited.

The reports were accurate and I asked the owners to suppress the fire which in my opinion was not only illegal but was also, in my opinion, a significant fire risk with everywhere being so dry. Saddleworth was in the news at the time.

The situation calmed down.

[Grayshott Primary School Engineering Awareness; help needed!](#)

I am working with some public spirited local people and an education provider to set up an extra-curricular programme for year groups 4 to 6, in engineering awareness. Here are some extracts from the proposal;

"Learning objectives include:

- Basic problem-solving skills encompassing brainstorming, problem definition, decomposition, solution design and coding
- Learn how to work and collaborate effectively as a team
- Basic programming skills using Lego Mindstorms proprietary software
- Learn how to compose software efficiently and debug errors
- Learn how to use data from a range of sensors, including gyro, colour, touch, infrared and ultrasonic sensors to achieve reliable physical interaction
- Learn how to use multiple motors to propel the robot and drive auxiliary attachments
- Learn how to solve basic hardware/software integration problems, such as motor overshoot and misalignments

We aim to focus intervention on three distinct technology themes:

- Robotics
- 3D modelling and animation
- Electronics and computer control

For example, we might decide to use the Lego Mindstorms robotics platform to support the teaching of key concepts in mathematics, including:

- Numbers and measurement
- Angles
- Geometry

We might use 3D modelling to support mathematical concepts such as shapes, area, volume.

We might use animation techniques to support literacy and creativity, illustrating and animating stories.

We might use the Raspberry Pi platform to support computational thinking and to produce custom build projects around themes such as music, geography or science.”

I think this not just very exciting and hugely relevant to today’s national and wider business needs, but at this level of education, it is highly innovative.

I have agreed to raise the funds if I can. Can you help? We need £21k and thus far I only have £2k firm with a possibility of another £2k making £4k in total.

I was hoping for substantial sponsorship from local companies but thus far I have just £1k. So if you feel that this would be a wonderful way to give our local children a great start in life, could you contact me directly with your thinking about donations.

Thank you!!!

[Grayshott Primary School Awards Evening](#)

On Tuesday 17th July it will be my privilege to present an award at the inspirational awards evening at Grayshott Primary School.

[Grants](#)

I have a new allocation of £4,500 for the 18-19 council year so please get in touch if you would like to apply. (Obviously I expect to grant funds to the school project above!!!!).

[And finally.....](#)

I continue to supply written reports to Grayshott Parish Council’s Full Council every other month and I also attend at those meetings.

If you have any queries, complaints or just want information about EHDC, don’t go into a chat room, speak to me!!! You can get me easily as follows;

Cllr. Ferris Cowper
Cabinet Member for Whitehill and Bordon
and ward member for Grayshott.

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