

## Notes from Public Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Held At Harpole Bowls Club, 10am.

In attendance Chairman Cllr Smethers, Clerk and approximately 21 members of the public (including HPC Councillors Roberts, Callaghan and Wilkinson)

Topics discussed:

- Davidsons planning application at the top of Road Hill. Latest plans were on display. This is part of the 2500 planned under South West SUE.
- There are objections to this from many consultees including that regarding flood risk. Whilst the building may take place, this is various organisations wanting to ensure that the development is the best it can be for the location.
- Sandy Lane Relief Road (SLRR) otherwise known as the Road to Nowhere. At the moment WNC say this will be complete by the end of 2024. This will take 6-8 weeks to complete the missing section and re surface existing and to replace lighting, and other street furniture. The Parish Council have a meeting with WNC at the end of the October to get a better understanding of whether this timeline is possible. Current hold up is discussions with Homes England and associated legal agreements.
- The SLRR needs to be completed as currently HGVs cannot easily access A4500 from the North as 7.5t limit in place in Harpole Village and along new road. Member of the public advised that they has seen HGVs trying to navigate the tight turn in the road.
- It was asked if there are plans to improve the end of Larkhall Lane. This is considered off site from the development and would have to come as an initiative from the Parish Council. At some point there will be a traffic light controlled crossing to the bridleway.
- It was asked if there were plans for a footpath from Sandy Lane down Larkhall Lane. There are not any in the developers plans but there could be a walkway through the open area north of Larkhall Lane when this is developed.
- It was noted that the developer is leaving mud on the roads and this has been reported.
- New Car Park is relieving some parking on Larkhall Lane but there is still parking on the road. Parish council plan to contact the school to ask parents to park there but there have been some snagging that needed to be completed first.
- It was suggested that double yellow lines are used in Larkhall Lane, but this is a long process and we have to ensure it is the right solution.
- Other options are to install a kerb to prevent cars driving over the verge on playing field side of the road and causing the road to break up. This will not be a WNC priority and the parish would have to contribute.
- The playing field is currently run by a charity, but is in the process of being transferred to the Parish Council. It is not owned by the football club.
- Parish Council is working with WNC on options for the entrances to the village with gateways and road painting to slow traffic down coming off faster roads. The council had requested that Larkhall Lane be reduced to 40mph for the section currently national speed limit but this has not been approved by highways.
- Road Hill is due to be closed for a period of time to allow National Grid to do works to ensure that the system can take the extra usage of new houses being built north of Nobottle Road.

- There are no plans for a full revamp of Road Hill, but the parish council have made representations to the planning application for Davidsons that we would like pathways to the village provided.
- It was explained that there are Community Levy Infrastructure (CIL) monies that are coming to the council to mitigate the developments and the council are looking for projects to work on for the benefit of the community.
- Projects suggested were improvements to the churchyard and new benches on Glassthorpe Lane and potentially at the top of Larkhall Lane / Sandy Lane.
- The Church is responsible for the upkeep of the church yard but the parish council do pay for the grass cutting and other maintenance.
- There was a discussion about volunteers and the fact there are less than there used to be for many differing reasons.
- Recently there was flooding at Sandy Lane / South View. WNC have been out cleaning drains and looking at the ditches to see what can be done.
- It was asked if the parish council had contributed to the new market square in Northampton. The answer was no.
- It was asked if the extension of the playing field and new pavilion was to go ahead. There are still conversations about what this will look like as the parish council would like something different to what is being offered.
- It was questioned if this is the best location for a community centre and if it would be better to move football to the new site and keep the old site for recreation and to then use old pavilion as location for new community facility.
- It was also suggested that the Bowls Club may be able to extend to provide the services the village would like.