

## **Notes from Public Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025.**

Held At Harpole Bowls Club, 10am.

In attendance Chairman Cllr Smethers, Clerk, WNC Cllr Phil Bignell, PS Lorna Clarke, PCSO Emma Teagle, HMPC clerk and approximately 35 members of the public (including HPC Councillors Bess, Roberts, Hancy, Haynes, Gibbins and Taylor)

### **POLICE / PCSO**

The Police were present to discuss the potential of a sponsored PCSO Scheme. Currently PCSO Teagles covers Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford and Harpole have been invited to join. Harpole sites under Towcester area and is on the edge of a large area from here down to Deanshanger. A sponsored PCSO would give a better quality of service. Whilst a PCSO has limited powers they have access to PCs when that power is needed. PCSO frees up PC time on things that do not need warrant or arrest powers. There are various services the PCSO can provide including a visible foot patrol. Bugbrooke recently undertook a survey to see if they should keep the PCSO and there was a response of 70% looking to keep her. How the PCSO is shared with the other parishes is for us to discuss. There was mention that Harpole is a growing community. The cost is approximately £40,000 to be shared as the parishes deem fit.

1 member of the public urged the PC not to pay extra for the service as the powers of a PCSO are limited, but a straw poll of those present suggested that they would be in favour.

### **QUESTIONS**

The floor was opened to Questions regarding changes in the village.

Q – Top of Sandy Lane is currently closed, is this reopening or will it remain shut?

A – The Sandy Lane Link Road will reopen next year. It has always been planned that this will be a residential road for the houses on the new estate and another way to get to the Sandy Lane Relief road for this side of the village.

Q – When the road reopens, how will the council look at stopping the speeding cars?

A – Speed Limits have already been changed from 60mph to 40mph between the end of the houses already facing South View to the bend. There are ways we can monitor this when it reopens. There is also a weight limit on this road so HGVs should be using the Sandy Lane Relief Road. (It was noted that whilst the signs to Lodge Farm have been removed from Kislingbury Roundabout, there is no signage at Pineham Crossing – clerk to follow up).

Q – Will there be a revamp of the Kislingbury Roundabout to prevent further flooding in the area?

A – WNC are aware that there is an issue and are monitoring it. They have received funding from several developments to do the work. We will chase to see when this will be completed.

Q – When will the works take place for the solar farm?

A – As far as we are aware this is with the cost review team and we will find out more in the New Year. Councillor from Flore PC was present and who advised their last communication was in July advising they were still discharging pre commencement planning conditions. A member of the public asked if traffic calming could be installed at the same time. This is unlikely as it would need different permissions and team.

Q – Will there be pedestrian access from Western Gate down Larkhall Lane?

A – this is in the plans for the open space on the North side of Larkhall Lane. PC are chasing for this to be completed as soon as possible.

Q – Are WNC aware of how close the new building is to the back of existing properties on Sandy Lane and South View, and that the existing sewer system has been built on?

A – The PC are aware and are in discussions with Vistry, the builder, to see if this is in accordance with approved plans.

Q – Do the PC get backing from WNC?

A – Unfortunately, WNC planning and enforcement are not fully manned and are under resourced so only serious cases make the top of the pile. The main question asked is whether there is any significant harm. This is what would be argued if the case ever got to court. As a PC we do not have any power to enforce, but will be putting pressure on WNC when we can.

## **PAVILION**

There was a discussion about the new pavilion. Initially the PC were trying to have this extended to a community centre but this is not possible. The PC potentially still like to do this, but have little land that could be used. It was suggested that when the PC take on the existing playing fields we could rebuild or extend existing pavilion. There was also a suggestion that allotment land could be used.

Q – Who said it couldn't be extended?

A – Barwoods had planning permission for what is being built. PC tried to negotiate but this failed. We are working with current developer regarding build, but it was too late to make any major changes.

Q – When will this be completed?

A – The aim is that it can be used for 2027 Season.

Q – Who will own it?

A – The PC will own it once completed and transferred. There is a possibility that this will be leased to the Football club, but will still be owned by the PC.

Q – Wasn't the plan for an all weather pitch? Why isn't this being installed from the beginning?

A – The plan was for FA standard pitches, not an all weather pitch. This was the desire of the football club.

Harlestone Manor Clerk advised that there will be pitches and a pavilion on the Bloor site on the Harlestone Manor side, but they do not have a team, so there maybe opportunities there.

## **CIL**

It was advised that the PC currently has CIL funds of nearly £1m for infrastructure projects in the parish.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENT**

The planning application for 450 homes at the top of Road Hill by Davidsons has been deferred twice at Strategic Planning Committee. The PC have worked with WNC councillors and the MP to ensure those on the committee were aware of the vision of Harpole PC – that there are no management Companies. PC will be meeting with the developer to discuss soon.

There is another development in pre planning stage. This is for 3 fields this side of Nobottle Road. 1 field is within SUE outline but the others aren't. Currently WNC are looking for reasons why not to approve rather than reasons to approve. It was agreed by the majority that they wished to object to this application as it is outside currently approved development area. It was asked if there could be a pro-forma letter that residents could use to ensure the objections are sound ones. This worked well for Harlestone recently where over 700 objections were submitted, a lot of which were the same letter signed by different people. This is more impactful than 1 petition with lots of signatures.