**Notes from Public Meeting 4th November 2026.**

Held At Harpole Bowls Club, 7pm.

In attendance Chairman Cllr Smethers, Clerk, WNC Cllr Phil Bignell, Fire Safety Officer and approximately 30 members of the public (including HPC Councillors)

A fire safety officer had been invited to give a presentation on fire safety. An overview of Northants Fire, the main causes of fire and prevention was discussed. Leaflets were available to take away and many residents booked fire service visits.

Phil Bignell gave an update on S106's, a visit to Davidsons site and PCSO.

Cllr Smethers opened the floor to questions.

Q – Why are Vistry being given permission for more house building when they are behind on obligations?

Phil Bignell was not able to answer and said he would ask.

Q – Do West Northants Council have an obligation to ensure children have a safe route to school?

This was primarily about parents and children walking along Larkhall Lane from Western Gate. The issue is that there should be a school on the site. There are plans for pathways but deadlines have not yet been met to trigger this.

Q – Is the new pavilion no longer being built? How are Vistry allowed to get away with this?

The Parish Council are pushing West Northants to enforce on this and other obligations that have not been met. As a parish council we have no power to do this. We understand there are meetings taking place early November

Q – What is stopping the parish council from sharing to socials or the newspaper?

We have made a request for information and awaiting the response, but this may be a possibility. At the moment we are hoping to work with West Northants council.

Q – Can the parish council litigate West Northants Council?

Potentially but we would prefer to work with them if we can. The parish council need to have a clear direction of where were would like to be.

Q – Can West Northants put a stop notice on Vistry?

Phil Bignell advised that this is hard to do and using Towcester Bypass as an example advised that the court would want to know the "necessary harm" that not doing these things have done. However Cllr Wallace advised that in our case they have outright refused to provide the pavilion so there could be an injunction for breach of the S106. West Northants have been given information of another authority who has already done this so they could follow their example. Due to hierarchy on S106 it is hard to ask for an injunction when we are not the signatory.

It was noted that Vistry are in trouble financially and have started to reduce sites they are working on. The council need to consider what will happen if they go bankrupt.

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Q – Is the MP aware of the situation and helping us, or is it worth contacting the Housing Minister?

MP Sarah Bool is aware but has not been asked to do anything yet.

Phil Bignell offered to contact senior staff in enforcement department at West Northants council and ask for a meeting.

Q – On enforcement – there should have been works to Kislingbury roundabout from Panatonni Park Development which hasn't been done yet.

This is still on Highways plan, and there should be some improvement from Bloors S106 too which keeps getting put off because of all the other road closures in the area.

Q – Is the Solar Farm at Glassthorpe still happening?

It is believed that there is an issue with getting the power from the farm to Far Cotton station and there are queries as to if this is financially viable.

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