

# Wilstock and Sockmoor Forum

## Notes from the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January at the Canalside

### Attendees

Cllrs A Bradford (Chairman), L Hyde, J Taylor, P MacLaurin, L Parchment, W Revans, A Fraser, and R Ives.

J Boulton, S Boulton, J Mitchell, P West, G Neilly, D Chadwick, S Chadwick, R Kydd, M Toy, M O'Leary, L Pickersgill, S Pickersgill, K Websdall, M Marsh, J Radford, P Radford, A Breadmore, C Szucc-Krzyzanouska, M Hart, J Pomeroy, E Kay, F McAlorum, C Washington, S Washington, J Brooking, S Brooking, K Morgan, M Phillips, J Harrison, S Stevens, D Weeks, G Thorne, S Thorne H Phillips, N Jones-Gerrard (Persimmon), R Smith (Police), S Hill (Knightstone Hsg)) and K Bryant (Somerset Bridge School).

R Latham (Town Clerk).

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs L Spelman Ives, Cllr J Barham, Cllr Mrs M Denham Cllr B Sellick, and Mrs D de Vries (Sedgemoor Planning)

1. **Parking.** Parking was a problem in both villages, but was particularly acute in Stockmoor Drive. Cars were parking on and crossing over verges and in one instance on a gas reduction point. The situation was annoying, inconvenient and dangerous. Yellow lines were persistently ignored and attempts to enforce them were also ignored. Residents were reminded that the roads were unadopted and options were limited. Serious cases of obstruction should be reported to the police. Some properties were being used to house a number of Hinkley point workers resulting in over-parking. It was suggested that EDF should be informed of this and the Hinkley Point Police Liaison Team should be invited to a future meeting. It was pointed out that insufficient parking was being provided on new developments and that changes were needed to planning policies. It was suggested that the No Through Road sign should be made more prominent to prevent large lorries entering the villages.
2. **Country Park** The Clerk reported that he had been told that Persimmon were about to make a start on works to the Country Park, but that progress would be intermittent due to various timing restrictions. It was also acknowledged that not all of the legal and planning elements had been resolved and that this would delay the completion of the Park. It was agreed that Persimmon would keep the Clerk informed of progress so that this information could be passed on via the email list.
3. **Highways.** Cllr Mrs Fraser read out an email that she had received from County Highways regarding the current position on road adoption. Mr Jones Gerrard from Persimmon pointed out that his company were keen to have the adoption process completed. There was a general discussion about the unfairness of residents paying full council tax, but not receiving a full range of services. Mr Bryant reported that the work recently undertaken around the school had improved matters and was appreciated. The lack of bus shelters was discussed as well as the disappointing provision of public transport. The "bus lane" issue had still not been resolved. It was agreed that these matters should be discussed further at the next meeting. Pedestrian crossings, as marked by the developers, were regularly being ignored by motorists.

4. **New school provision.** The plans for a new primary school in Wilstock were discussed and also the desirability of a new secondary school to serve the North Petherton and surrounding area. This would address a number of local problems and significantly improve the educational provision for local children. Cllr Bradford stated that this was likely to be one the Council's priority issues.
5. **Wilstock Hub.** The Clerk read out a report about what the objects of the Hub were, how they were planned to be achieved and activities that were being undertaken in the community. The Hub building is to be located on land identified in the current application by Bloors to further to provide new dwellings and a school in Wilstock.
6. **Rubbish.** There were a large number of complaints about the standard of the refuse collection service, with rubbish being left behind by the collection teams on a regular basis. Reference was made to practices in other areas where recyclable materials were placed in wheelie bins and sorted at central locations. This saved time on the rounds and avoided waste being left behind. It was agreed to ask someone from the Waste Partnership to come to a future meeting. Street cleaning was highlighted as another area where problems were caused by the roads and paths not being adopted. It was apparent that Wilstock and Stockmoor were receiving a poorer level of service than other communities. Lack of litter bins and dog waste bins were a continuing problem.
7. **Next meeting.** The next meeting was scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and would take place in the school hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm