

## Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum

### Notes from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Somerset Bridge School

#### **Attendees** (who signed the attendance record)

Cllrs A Bradford (Chairman), A Fraser, M Denham, P Spencer, W Revans, L Hyde, J Taylor L Spelman-Ives and R Ives.

P MacLaurin, J Boulton, S Boulton, J Mitchell, M Marsh, L Pickersgill, S Pickersgill, P West, S Washington, R Wood, M Instip, A Davey, D Barge, J Barge, M Andrews, K Stear, J Harrison and H Phillips

G Revell and P Wade (Gateway Development), A Higon (SCC) and R Latham Town Clerk

#### **1. Gateway Development – update**

- a. Phil Wade gave a presentation to the meeting on plans and progress on the Gateway development.
- b. Full planning permission was in place for the commercial element of the site. This included two hotels, offices and commercial buildings. The Premier Inn hotel was due to be handed over on 20<sup>th</sup> May.
- c. A considerable amount of environmental work had been undertaken prior to the actual construction phase. Badgers had been relocated and a detailed archaeological survey had been carried out, which had uncovered a Bronze Age settlement on the site. Over 5000 artefacts had been found and these were being studied at the Somerset Museum, funded by the Development.
- d. Extensive groundworks had been constructed, including flood water attenuation measures. Electric charging points were being provided and a Gateway App had been developed. There would now no longer be a petrol station on the site, but there would be a neighbourhood service centre incorporating cafés, keep fit equipment and a nursery. Progress on the second hotel and other units was dependent upon demand. The Developer was confident that the project would be successful, but things had been held up by the uncertainty around Brexit.
- e. No plans had yet been submitted for the residential part of the site, but an allocation for 400 dwellings had been made in the local plan

#### **2. Car Parking.**

- a. A letter from the vehicle parking group had been delivered to all houses in the two villages, asking residents to alleviate problems by parking safely, sensibly and unselfishly. Cllr Fraser thanked the members of the group for their help in drafting and delivering the letters.
- b. Cllr Revans pointed out that yellow lines were enforceable even on unadopted roads, but care needed to be taken about installing them as they could simply move the problem elsewhere or have unintended consequences.
- c. It was unfortunate that there was no one from the police or the developers at the meeting. It was agreed to hold another meeting of the group, at which it was hoped there would be a police representative.

3. **Travel demand management.**
  - a. Alistaire Higton gave a brief explanation of the work that he was doing to encourage alternative forms of travel to help ease traffic problems in the area.
  - b. He was working with Steer and Cystra to address road safety issues and support cycling. Money was available as part the Hinkley Point project to fund initiatives.
  - c. Questions about the state of cycle paths, funding for bus services, etc. were raised. Mr Higton agreed to seek answers to these.
4. **Country Park.** Work was continuing on this, but progress was still affected by weather, Wessex Water and ecological issues. It was agreed to ask the developers to look at more friendly cycle access onto the bridges,
5. **North Petherton Library.** The Friends Group had held their AGM and now had a full team of officers. The next management committee meeting was scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> February. The Town Council was in the process of agreeing the new delivery arrangements with the County Library Service.
6. **Bus stops and shelters.** The Town Clerk reported that he had contacted the County Council to take forward the provision of two new shelters near the Compass Inn. He was awaiting a response
7. **Play areas.** Concern was expressed about the state of repair of the play equipment on Wilstock park. The Clerk agreed to contact Sedgemoor DC
8. **Other matters**
  - a. The big sign by the BMW roundabout had still not been removed!
  - b. A number of streetlights were not working. It was agreed that these would marked with red tape by residents and the developers then asked to repair them.
  - c. The current status of the Timebank project was queried.
  - d. The next meeting was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The Meeting closed at 9:15 pm