

Wilstock and Stockmoor Forum

Notes from the meeting held on 26th November 2018 at Somerset Bridge School

Attendees (who signed the attendance record)

Cllrs A Bradford (Chairman), A Fraser, Mrs M Denham, P Spencer, W Revans and R Ives. P MacLaurin, N Taylor, L Pickersgill, S Pickersgill, M Marsh, J Boulton, S Boulton, M O'Leary, M Toy, A Breadmore, D Wakely, M Zalisz, V Nankivell, R Ballantyne, A Ballantyne, C Tutt, D Chadwick, R Canter, P Canter, J Wright, J Harrison, T Smith, P West D Barge, J Barge, P Moody (Persimmon) and R Latham (Town Clerk).

1. **Country Park** Paul Moody Technical Director of Persimmon Homes provided a detailed update on the works taking place in the Country park.
 - a. Bridges were scheduled for delivery later in the week for the Wilstock end of the Park. The ones for the Stockmoor end were delayed pending the granting of a licence to do with water voles. This section of work was likely to take place in February 2019.
 - b. Bog oaks were discussed and it was felt that these should be retained on the site where reasonable as items of interest.
 - c. No more ponds were planned.
 - d. The existence of a badger sets was restricting works on parts of the site.
 - e. Equipment for the MUGA was to be delivered at the end of January and shaping works would be taking place early in the new year.
 - f. Discussions would be held with Sedgemoor DC about putting up information boards.

It was agreed that the contractors working on the park had done a good job.

2. **Car Parking.** Concerns were raised about the following issues:
 - a. Heavy plant using narrow roads
 - b. Indiscriminate parking was causing major problems throughout the villages, but especially in area near to the BMW roundabout access. Willstock Way was being used as a car park. Up until now SCC had not taken any action as the roads remain unadopted, but this line was not taken by other highway authorities. County Cllr Bill Revans was hopeful that SCC might be more helpful in the future.
 - c. Cars, and buses, were now using Stockmoor as a rat run to avoid the A38, which, when added to the parking problems, was making life very unpleasant and dangerous for residents. Houses that were now being used for multiple occupation, linked to Hinkley Point, were adding to traffic and parking congestion. School pick and drop off times were especially dangerous.
 - d. The 'S' bend in Wilstock by the compound was proving problematic, given the amount of construction traffic.
 - e. A number of street lights were reported as being broken.
 - f. The police had said that they could and would take action if illegal parking was happening, had not been very evident and measures without enforcement were unlikely to be successful.

- g. In terms of actions, Paul Moody said that he would see that any broken lights were repaired and would work with SCC to see what could be done about other issues, including removing the “big sign” on the approach to Stockmoor. A note from SCC had pointed out that roads could only be adopted if they connected to the main adopted road network. It was agreed that contacting Hinkley Point might be helpful.
 - h. Cllr Spencer suggested that the Town Council could look to pay for local parking wardens, but that this wasn’t likely to be cost effective. Cllr Mrs Fraser suggested that a small group of residents and councillors should be formed to agree what the main problems were and what actions could be taken to address them. This was agreed as a good idea and Jeremy Wrench, John Boulton, Mandy Toy, John Ericsson, Jane Cater and Margaret Marsh indicated an interest in being members.
3. **Gateway Development.** Mr Phil Wade from Bridgwater Gateway Ltd. had sent a brief progress report and Cllr Mrs Fraser added to this in her role as portfolio holder at Sedgemoor DC. A further hotel incorporating a swimming pool and conference facilities was planned. Concern was expressed about possible impact from the development on parking in the villages.
 4. **North Petherton Library.** Nigel Taylor, recently elected as chairman of the Friends of North Petherton Library, gave an update on current developments and invited those present to consider joining the group.
 5. **Bus stops and shelters.** It was agreed that putting shelters on both sides of the road by the Compass Inn should be looked at. It was also noted that the hedge alongside the cycle track was not being cut regularly.
 6. **Play areas.** Tim Smith raised a number of issues concerning Wilstock play area. There should be rules requiring dogs to be kept on short leashes. The design was poor from a safety angle, with the swings some distance away from other equipment, making effective parental supervision difficult. The surface was poor. The cycle track posed a danger to smaller children. New equipment was needed for older children. It was agreed that Tim and Pete MacLaurin should meet to put together a series of recommendations that could be put to Sedgemoor DC.
 7. **Wilstock Hub.** Cllr Ives outlined the current position.
 8. **Christmas Trees.** It was agreed that the Stockmoor tree should go where it was last year (Marino Drive) and the Wilstock one in the park area. Cllr Mrs Denham said that she would provide a permanent tree for the entrance to Wilstock, if Persimmon could arrange to plant it. Paul Moody agreed to this.

The Meeting closed at 9:25 pm