

*for Meon Matters Aug 2000*

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES - JULY 2000

The main item of interest at the July meeting was undoubtedly the progress on the Football Pitch-cum-housing provision being considered for the village. It might be said, quite literally that the "goal posts have been moved". This is because Mr & Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake have suggested that the pitch might be created on their land beyond the Glebe Strip's outer western hedge near the car-park. To be able to provide the football/village green facilities the developer says that he needs the proceeds from selling 15 houses. It is proposed to build 10 houses on the southern part of Kews Meadow above the children's play area, and the remaining 5 on the old allotments and adjacent paddock between Sebastopol Cottage and Coppice Corner Cottages. The Diocese has agreed to transfer the Glebe Strip if 2 or 3 houses are built at the southern end next to the other development. This would leave the bulk of Kews Meadow and the Glebe Strip as a new Village Green area with a tennis court and changing facilities for teams and referee.

With the exception of Tony Fry, who objected strongly to the building at Coppice Corner, the Council agreed to proceed with further discussion based on these proposals. Naturally the Council will want to see detailed drawings of the layouts proposed, particularly including sections showing relative heights at the Coppice Corner site. (It is anxious to avoid the over-powering impression given by the recent building at Anvil Close.) It also wants a footpath created to allow access from Duncombe Road to Workhouse Lane. And of course it wants a written agreement defining the facilities that the developer will provide at his own cost. The Council firmly believes that it would not be acting in the best interests of the village as a whole if it failed to give very serious consideration to what is on offer at no monetary cost to the Parish. Furthermore with government policy on housing, East Meon like many other places is going to see development over the next decades, so the chance of getting something more than just extra houses maybe an opportunity not to be missed.

Finally the Council said that it wanted to know the views of as many Parishioners as possible,, both for and against these revised proposals. So put them in writing please to Bert Perry at Solent, Ramsdean Road, Stroud, Petersfield GU32 3PJ before 21st September. (But no phone calls please.) To help you understand what is being suggested look at the map on display in the Parish Notice Board, or either shop. (Don't forget a few more houses could help to keep the village shops and the village school open.)

Apart from this most of the rest of the meeting seems trivial, but we will be chasing the County to see when we shall know what they propose to do about traffic calming - you are paying extra Council Tax this year so that the Parish can put in 50% of the cost up to a maximum of £3,000. More immediately repairs to the river bridge at the northern end of the Cross are likely start happening in mid-September, and to take about four weeks to complete - this will mean that the Cross becomes a no through road for that time.

The Council sincerely thanks those volunteers who produce Meon Matters for the extra work involved in enclosing this loose sheet. At its next meeting the Council will look at the possibility of re-scheduling its meetings so that there is time for a summary such as this to be properly incorporated into the printed magazine. If you want to know everything that happened read a copy of the draft Minutes on the Parish Notice Board. (They are not 'official' until they are approved at the next meeting of the Council.)

Bert Perry (Clerk to the Parish Council)