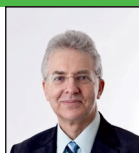


Extra News

www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk

Spring 2016

Parish Councillors



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Vice Chairman

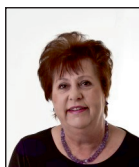
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Message from the Chairman

Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan 2011-2029 Development Plan Document (DPD)

At the Council meeting on 27 January 2016, it was resolved to adopt the Revised Local Plan. It was also resolved that the saved policies of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan (2006) be withdrawn. Therefore the Revised Local Plan will now be the starting point for determining planning applications considered by the Council. Full details are available on the Test Valley Borough Council website (www.testvalley.gov.uk).

From the Romsey Extra point of view it is disappointing that the Lower Whitenap development, which was opposed at all stages by your parish council and borough councillors, will now go ahead. Proposals for the layout of the site and other matters concerning the development will come forward in due course.

One piece of good news which did come out of the plan is that the inspector, after much in-depth discussion in public, decided to retain what is known locally as the Botley Road/Highwood Lane local gap.

Apart from the fact that the gap was already designated countryside and therefore had some protection from development, the retention as a designated gap gives Highwood Lane additional protection.

The robustness of the 'Gap' policy has already been put to the test. Forman Homes have withdrawn their planning appeal which was due to be heard in April. They stated that this decision has been taken '..... in the light of the findings of the Local Plan Inspector

and the changed planning policy context brought about by the recent adoption of the Revised Local Plan'.

I am sure that this decision will be greeted with delight by local residents who, supported by the Parish Council at all stages, fought long and hard to prevent what would have been a dramatic change, not only to the countryside in this part of Romsey Extra, but also to the way of life for those living in the area.

Turning away from planning, in March, your Parish Council conducted a tour of the parish. It is hoped that this will become a regular outing with the intention is to look at areas where there have been issues in the recent past, as well as other areas which have identified as needing attention. This will include rural areas in the west and south of the parish such as Shootash and Lee, as well as the eastern side including Woodley Close, Gangers and Abbotswood.

Bearing in mind that we are your Parish Council, if you do have any issues which you think need attention, or ideas as to how your area and environment could be improved, then please email me in the first instance – cllrwesson@talktalk.net. I will be delighted to put your ideas before the council for possible inclusion in a future tour. Suggestions are welcome from groups as well as individuals who either live in or use the facilities in the parish.

I am sure that you will understand that we will never be able please everyone but, as your Parish Council, we have a genuine desire to try to keep Romsey Extra as a pleasant place to live as well as to try to improve the environment and facilities in the parish.

.....Continued on page 4

The River Blackwater — Phoebe Merrick

Part of the south-western boundary of our parish of Romsey Extra is formed by the River Blackwater, which separates us from the parishes of Wellow, Copythorne and Totton. Like one of our other rivers, Tadburn Lake, it is prone to flash flooding as it does not have a chalk base to absorb heavy rain.

As a tributary of the Test, it is known to anglers but to few others. The bridge over the A3090 by the Ower roundabout is so discreet that you are unlikely to notice it unless you are a car passenger not watching the road ahead.

A place where this river can easily be seen is at the bottom of Ridge Lane. Few people ever venture down this lane, although walkers along the Test Way will have come close where the footpath takes them to Moorcourt Farm.

Moorcourt, which comprised two estates in the middle ages, is the only land owned by the abbess of

Romsey on the western side of Romsey. She owned most of eastern Romsey, but western Romsey was in lay hands. Since 1831, Moorcourt has been part of the Broadlands estate.

These two estates were known as More Abbess and More Malwyn. More Abbess had come into the possession of the abbey early on, and More Malwyn was given to the abbey by William Malwyn in the late 14th century.

The whole estate was owned by Richard Dowce from 1542 and remained with his heirs until its sale in 1738. The substantial farmhouse of Moorcourt has a very notable timber frame construction, and a neighbouring barn is supported by staddle stones, to give protection from rats. On the other side of Ridge Lane is a curious feature in one of the fields, which is allegedly a moated site. This raises the question, who was defending what

from whom and when in the bottom of that valley? So far no explanation has been found, although theories abound.

Until very recently the place where Ridge Lane crossed the Blackwater was a ford for vehicles, although a footbridge had been built some years before for pedestrians. When there was heavy rain, the river would flood and children who attended the school in Ridge Lane could not safely cross it. The school closed in 1934 and many of its pupils transferred to Copythorne.

This area was known as Wade, and Wade Hill Farm lies on the Totton side of the river. Wade is an early Saxon name (5th or 6th century) for a ford. Had the Saxons named it later on it would have been called a ford.

Woodley & Ganger Community Forum

The Forum met at the beginning of March to talk about their plans for this year, they have several events in mind following feedback from residents and a walk about of the area. On Saturday 23 April they are organising a community litter pick in conjunction with the 10th Romsey Scouts who will be providing refreshments to volunteers including bacon butties to set volunteers up before they go off and pick!

Building on the success of the last three years, the Woodley Close Community Picnic will be taking place again with a range of

activities and entertainments including the Woodley Bake Off, Best Dressed Bear, bouncy castle, coconut shy and more. This year however we will be holding it slightly earlier in the year – Sunday 26 June. If you would like to help with the organising or volunteer on the day, please let us know, we are always looking for more members!

Finally, we have been asked by the Parish Council to consult with residents on minor environmental improvements which can be carried out with the Woodley & Ganger area, we have spoken to several residents on our travels and are in

the process of feeding these back to the Parish Council for consideration. Some of which we will hope will be achievable around, litter picking, bulb planting, flytipping but others might more complicated due to multiple land ownerships in the parish but we are hopeful!!

We are always keen to hear your views for the area and events and looking for more members.

We can be contacted through our face book site WOODLEY CLOSE AND GANGER FARM COMMUNITY or care of Marianne 07899 664209



Trees at Woodley Village Hall & Open Space

Work was recently carried out to the neighbouring properties.

trees at Woodley Village Hall and adjoining open space to avoid the risk of injury to the public from falling branches. Also, to remove 2 trees which are over-shadowing

The Parish Council would like to thank the public and the Village Hall users for their understanding and co-operation during these essential works.

Solar Park Broadlands

Work commenced before Christmas on the Lee Lane Solar Farm. Coldharbour Lane was closed for some weeks before Christmas and Lee Drove for a few weeks after Christmas to allow engineering works to commence to install pipes and electricity to the area.

Although there was some noise at times there was very little disruption to the residents of Lee apart from the planning of their journeys. Some of the panels have already been installed and work continues. Completion date is expected some time in late spring.



Who Does What and Where?

BOUNDARY

What a fascinating word this is, defined in the dictionary as "something that indicates the farthest limit, as of an area; border".

In its strictest interpretation it is all about actual structures, the fences around our property boundary, the lines defining the boundary of a cricket pitch (and thus the ability to score a 4 or a 6).

At the council we use the word frequently, and often the boundaries under discussion are little easier to determine than those intangible boundaries we set ourselves in our thinking.

Maps defining parish, borough and county council boundaries are subject to changes when electoral district reviews and reforms take place. Often a boundary will run down the middle of a road e.g in Halterworth Lane where the east side is Romsey Extra Parish (REPC) and the west side Romsey Town Council, (RTC) or as in Braishfield Road which also divides REPC from (RTC) . Neighbours may find themselves in different Parish Councils.

The boundaries are not always co-terminus following reviews such as the one currently underway by the Boundary Commission.

In the Boundary Commission's County Council electoral division review now awaiting a decision Woodley Close, School Road and roads off, Campion Drive and roads off, Crampmoor Lane and road off, which are all now within Romsey Extra's parish, borough and county council electoral areas, will become part of Hampshire County Council's Romsey Town Division, although

remain in REPC and TVBC's ward of Romsey Extra. The reason for these changes is to ensure equal value to everyone's vote by seeking to make County Council Divisions approximately equal in size of electors. It can thus be extremely difficult for members of the public to work out who they should be contacting in the event that they need assistance from their local Councillor. Not only do they need to know which administrative boundary they live within, but also the council, Parish, Borough or County that is responsible for the issue of concern.

PARISH (Romsey Extra Parish Council REPC) has few duties but many powers, it is a consultative body for the higher authorities when it comes to such issues as planning, and its **aim is to maintain and enhance the quality of life for residents**

Parish councillors are often asked to signpost residents to the most appropriate higher council officer or councillor. In common with the higher level councils, REPC has a grant budget which can be used to assist funding of local organisations who share the council's aim. Elections take place in 4 yearly cycles at the same time as Borough elections. At present the 7 councillors on REPC are not "warded " i.e they do not have a particular part of the parish to represent , this may well change as a result of the current local government boundary commission review.

BOROUGH (Test Valley Borough Council-TVBC) has duties within the areas of planning, housing, environment (includes refuse collection and noise nuisance), recreation (includes parks and sports facilities), streets(includes parking, street

furniture)

Elections are on a four yearly cycle at the same time as Parish elections, the next is due 2019. TVBC is warded and the ward of Romsey Extra and the 3 wards within Romsey Town (Cupernham, Tadburn and Abbey) have 2 councillors each.

COUNTY (Hampshire County Council – HCC) has duties relating to highways and transport, adult social care and public health, education, business and economy, children and family services , leisure and tourism, waste and recycling , arts, libraries and heritage, it is the highest level local government authority .

Elections are on a four yearly cycle, the next is due in May 2017.

All three levels of council receive a proportion of the local council tax in accordance with their duties. Whilst REPC's annual budget is tiny compared to that of Hampshire County Council, it is nevertheless able and willing to support appropriate initiatives such as the recent decision to purchase automated defibrillators for use in public areas within the parish and its financial support for the Christmas lighting in Romsey town centre.

SOLENT COMBINED AUTHORITY Information currently available suggests that in the event of the introduction of a new Solent Combined Authority (SCA) this will not impact on current parish and district council boundaries nor their functions. The devolution process involves government passing down powers to combined authorities, not local authorities giving up powers to a combined authority.

Woodley & Crampmoor Friendship Club

The club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in Woodley Village Hall at 2 pm and is open to members over 55. There are slideshows, talks, demonstrations, bingo and some social time (chat). A mini-bus service is available for those unable to get there by themselves.

2016

APRIL

20th "Postcards to and From Romsey" Charles Burnett

MAY

4th "TBA" Pat Ball

18th "Talk with Live Barn Owl & Little Owl" Cherry Barlow

JUNE

1st Club Outing

JULY

6th Members Afternoon

20th "It's How It Is" Gwen Appleton

SEPTEMBER

7th Magician Ian Marriott

21st "Voluntary Nursing in Kenya & Sierra Leone" Debbie Perkin

OCTOBER

5th "Boarding Dogs" Janet Bache

19th "Changes in Ladies Fashion in 20th Century" Dinah Warnock

NOVEMBER

2nd "A Tale of Three (Medieval) Cities" Gordon Massie

16th "TBA" Phoebe Merrick

DECEMBER

7th Bingo

14th Christmas Lunch

21st Christmas Party

Message from the Chairman cont'd from page 1

I attended the Woodley and Crampmoor Friendship Club AGM on 3rd February. I was delighted when Doris Bunting, a founder member of the club 25 years ago, was invited to become Life President. The expression on Doris' face was a picture when she accepted. Doris well known in the parish having been a former chairman of Romsey Extra Parish Council as well as a former member of Test Valley Borough Council. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all members of the Parish Council as well as the Friendship Club that this is an honour well deserved.



Council Meetings 2016

The Council **NOW** meets at 7.15pm in the Court Room, **Romsey Town Hall**, Market Place, Romsey, SO51 8YZ (unless otherwise stated):

Thursday 7 April

Annual Parish Assembly:
Wednesday 27 April 7.30pm
(Woodley Village Hall) *

Thursday 12 May **AGM**

Thursday 9 June

Thursday 14 July

Thursday 11 August

Thursday 8 September

Thursday 13 October

Thursday 10 November

Thursday 8 December

* This is a meeting of the parish, the Parish Council will tell the meeting what it has done over the past year and take any questions. In addition, Richard Jordan Baker from Broadlands will be speaking followed by some light refreshments.

Contact List

Borough Councillors:

Ian Hibberd 02380 732247 or cllrihibberd@testvalley.gov.uk
Alison Johnston 01794 517939 or cllrajohnston@testvalley.gov.uk

County Councillor:

Roy Perry 01794 322472 or roy.perry@hants.gov.uk

Member of Parliament:

Caroline Nokes 01794 521155 or caroline.nokes.mp@parliament.uk

Carers Forum & Carers Club:

anne@meader.com

Diabetes Aware: 01794 515126

Mobile Library: 023 80 267393

Moped Loan Scheme: 0845 5216405

NOMADS: amateur dramatics - 01794 513860

Police: Safer Neighbourhood Team:
101

Romsey Citizens Advice:

01794 516378

Romsey Dial-A-Ride: 01264 356808

Romsey Sea Cadets: 01794 514387

Romsey Twinning: 01794 514880

Test Valley Community Services:
01794 519998

Scouts - Romsey District Scout

Council: Mr D Sutton 01794 502817

Woodley Village Hall Booking:

Mrs Garland wvha_1@hotmail.co.uk

Youth in Romsey: 01794 500581

E-mail: clerk.romseyextra@parish.hants.gov.uk
Or via the website: www.romseyextra-pc.org.uk

We welcome any feedback you might have on any issues raised in this newsletter or any other issues that concern you in the local area. Your feedback will help us to confirm that we are representing the general views of the parish as well as identifying particular problems that we are not aware of. We welcome any comments you might have and your participation in our activities. Please send them to the Clerk at the address on Page 1 or e-mail as above.