

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for February 2017

Local Plan Part II - Coleford

Mendip District Council had asked if the Parish Council wished to comment on the progress on the Local Plan Part II. Letters had been received from parishioners, which all supported the recommendations made by MDC. Coleford has been told that it needs a minimum of 6 houses from now until 2029. The only site which has been highlighted by MDC as a potential site for housing within the village is behind the bungalows on Highbury Street (Adjacent to Newbury Lane) down to the boundary of the old recycling site, which could accommodate between 18 to 24 houses. This site would in theory satisfy the full minimum quota required plus extra. However, it was noted that the minimum requirement of 6 houses could be met through normal infill within the existing village boundary. After a full discussion it was agreed that the recommendations made by MDC, which reflects the original submission from the Parish Council, should be accepted.

BMX Track

Mr Ken Lloyd, Chairman for Nunney Parish Council spoken on the installation of the BMX pump track within their village. He explained that they had overcome many issues that they hadn't anticipated and he hoped that by sharing their experiences it may help Coleford PC to avoid the same pitfalls. He explained that:

- Planning permission will be required. It cost them approx. £5K for permission alone.
- Will need to use a certified BMX track designer - Their original quote was for £19K plus materials.
- There are different types of tracks. He could give contact details for local family who are very experienced and could help give advice on which might be appropriate for Coleford.
- They needed 120 tonnes of clay.
- A licence will be needed to receive the clay but on a positive people will pay you to take it.
- Clay is laid down first & rolled. Gravel then laid and rolled. Mendip dust is then laid and rolled as the top surface.
- Holwell quarry provided the gravel free of charge
- The contractor who completed the installation worked very quickly and finished the job for £4K for 4 weeks work.
- Maintenance is undertaken every 6 months at a cost of £380
- Ensure insurance is in place for the new track



Mr Lloyd said that he was happy to provide contact details for companies that will be able to help with the design and build and is happy to answer any questions that may arise during the process. A working party has been formed to investigate available grant funding and start to formulate a plan for the track.

PCSO report

PCSO Mike Storey and Sargent John Gould confirmed that there have been fewer logs relating to anti-social behaviour during the last month. The police presence within the village has remained high and visits to Youth Club have continued when possible.

Two Councillors warned that they had received a call recently, which turned out to be a telephone scam. The caller tells the home owner that they have been overcharged by MDC for Council Tax and that they can help entitled to claim it back. They then go on to offer to complete the application for a fee or they can access the form online and complete themselves for a reduced amount.

The next beat surgery is to be held at the Hub on the 25th February 2017.

Councillor vacancy

We still have a Councillor vacancy, which we are really keen to fill. If you think you could spare a few hours each month to attend the Council meetings which are held on the second Wednesday of each month then please get in touch. The Clerk will be able to tell you more about the role and answer any questions that you might have.

Somerset County Council report

County Cllr Ham reported that:

- The budget now stands at £7 million deficit and it is predicted that by the year end this will be further reduced to £3 million.
- There is a 1.99% increase in Council Tax with 2% for Social Care and 1.25% SRA, which is same as the previous year.
- Somerset has the 2nd lowest Council Tax in the Country
- Broadband is now into the 2nd phased contract with Giganet. £54 million has now been invested. They are committed to providing up to 100mb which is better than anything yet so the people that have had to wait the longest will be getting a better service.
- Colleges within the County are hoping to join together to form the University of Somerset.
- There has been lots of work done with Mendip CAB during the last month to help secure emergency funding which can be utilised when people are in financial trouble. This then relieves the pressure and allows time to sort problems. This in turn the saves money and can prevent children being taken into care, bankruptcy, loss of home etc

Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Townsend reported that:

- Increased borrowing powers have been agreed so that up to £40 million pound could to be reinvested into projects which will help to boost revenue to increase income to MDC.
- Planning has been approved for the development of Shepton Prison which includes an increased number of parking bays. However the developer is appealing against the refusal of the original application.
- Keyring Lettings currently has 35 properties on its books but is experiencing a real shortage of homes coming onto the books - approximately 1 a week at present.
- The Consultation to increase Halecombe Quarry was impressive and comprehensive. The conclusion is that the increased depth which will result in larger bunds will not have a significant visual impact on the area. If approved it will allow the quarry to continue up until 2044.



District Cllr Ham reported that:

- Mendip District Council budget review showed that there is currently an under spend of £960K. However there is still a £4 million gap between now and 2020.
- Council tax will go up by 1.9%. All other Districts are to go up by 3.5%
- The Mendip Lottery was launched at Kilver Court on the 20/02/17. The first draw will take place on the 25th March with £25K first prize. There is a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize. 50% of the ticket sale goes to the seller organisation, 10% in the central community pot. 40% for prize money, administration and VAT
- I-chooser. This facility helps customers find the best electricity and gas prices with savings being reported between £253 to as much as £450. In order to find out what savings could be made you need to register with MDC who then bid on your behalf. There is a month window for you to then accept the offer if you so wish.

- The plans to move Shepton library are due to be signed off next week. There has been issues around the running costs. The new library for Shepton Mallet will be at Shape Mendip Campus, which will save the County £35K per year.
- Transformation - It's been very busy time with 36 projects coming forward for consideration with planning and financial aspects are being considered. All transactions will go through the Phoenix 2 board.
- Fly grazing horses has become an issue and is a matter for enforcement. There is a paper going through to deal with the problem including how to deal with the horses and owners and how costs will be covered and if fines should be implemented.
- Markets - The Wells Christmas market was a big success. Frome Independent market starts again on the 1st Sunday of March. Shepton Mallet market starts on the 3rd Sunday of the month. There is a market due to start in Street and they are looking at ways to improve the Wednesday and Saturday market in Frome.

Decisions on Previous Planning Applications

2016/2968/TEL - A 15m shrouded pole 2 x dishes, 2 x equipment cabinets

Land off Anchor Road, Coleford, Radstock,

Prior approval not required.

Approved by Mendip District Council

Present Planning Applications

SHA/18519 - Prasant Manandahar - Application For Inclusion In The Pharmaceutical List Offering Unforeseen Benefits Between Specified Points On Church Street, Anchor Road Or Highbury Street (Excluding Side Roads), Coleford, Somerset (Best Estimate)

SHA/18516 - Dudley Taylor Pharmacies Ltd - Application For Inclusion In The Pharmaceutical List Offering Unforeseen Benefits At Crossways Fish Bar, Or At The Dis-Used Shop Premises Adjacent Thereto, Church Street, Coleford, BA3 5NH (Best Estimate)

After discussions it was agreed that the Council continues to stand by its earlier objections to the applications for a pharmacy.

2016/3118/HSE - Two storey oak framed glazed conservatory to rear

Mendip Ho, Stock Hill Coleford Radstock BA3 5RR

The Parish Council recommended approval



2017/0044/VRC - Application for variation of condition 2 (drawings) on planning consent 2014/0859/HSE to incorporate a stepped side access to the side of the extension, timber decking to the side of the extension, a service hatch to the side of the extension and minor alterations to the side and rear elevations including the removal of two rear windows and change from bi-folding doors to sliding doors on the side elevation.

2 Hillside Church Street Coleford BA3 5NE

The Parish Council recommended refusal

Request for funding towards cost of training volunteer for Strimmer Scheme

A request had been received from Volunteer and Trails Officer asking if we would be prepared to share the cost of training a Coleford resident who had volunteered to become a Strimmer volunteer. The cost to the Council would be £65 + VAT and it was agreed that we should support the scheme.



Litter Pick

The Parish Council were very disappointed with the litter strewn state of Highbury playing field. It is an appalling advert into how we keep our village. There will be a litter pick held on Saturday the 4th of March starting at 9.30am as part of the national event, the Great British Spring Clean. Please give up an hour of your time to get involved and make a difference. Volunteers to meet at the Highbury Playing Field car park.

Date of Next Meetings:

Wednesday 8th March 2017

Tuesday 21st March 2017

Parish Council Meeting

Planning Meeting

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention please contact the Clerk on 01749 880428 or email clerk@colefordsomerset.org

Please check out the website www.colefordsomerset.org

Philip Ham, Chairman.