

Parish Council of Coleford

Miss V Watts
Clerk to the Council
Tel: 07971 516916 / 01749 880428
Email: clerk@colefordsomerset.org

Gallant Hill Farm
Foxcote
Radstock
BA3 5YB

Newsletter for September 2017

Planning

2017/0600/FUL -Demolition of existing garage building and development of proposed convenience store and 1 dwelling house with associated external works).Amended PLANS

Crossways Garage, Anchor Road, Coleford, BA3 5PG

There was a lot of interest in this planning application both at this month's meeting and last. It's encouraging that people took the time to come and voice their views both for and against the application, which really helps the Councillors to get feel for how the Parishioners feel about what's happening in the village.

After much consideration of the plans along with the letters and emails supporting the application and against it. Councillors noted that:

- Mendip Planning portal noted 56 comments received, 1 neutral, 5 in favour of the application and 50 against it.
- A retail assessment would have been helpful as to whether there was a need for this type of store.
- Concern over the impact on neighboring residents.
- The hours proposed (6 until 11pm) were excessive. 7am and 10pm would be more appropriate.
- Concern over the lorry access and parking during deliveries. Mr Osborne reiterated that the lorry actually pulls back into a loading bay whilst unloading.
- Why was the house included? Is it linked in as a home for the shop manager? Mr Osborne confirmed that there was no link.
- Concern over the site attracting youths loitering in the area.

It was noted that the Japanese Knotweed which is growing on the site has been reported to Sarana Osman who is the Contaminated Land Officer at Mendip District Council. The land owner has been contacted and informed that the removal of the plant in the correct manner has to be dealt with.



After discussion it was proposed by that the application should be recommended for refusal due to:

1. The inclusion of the house within the plans limits the parking bays and the ease of access for delivery vehicles.
2. The proposed hours are excessive and should be reduced to 7am to 10pm.

If these issues were addressed the Parish Council would look favorably on the application

2017/2061/HSE - Retrospective planning application for a garden store in the rear garden of 2 Hillside, Coleford to update and incorporate changes to application 2015/1935/HSE

2 Hillside Church Street Coleford Frome Radstock

The Parish Council proposed that the decision should be left to the Planning Officer as the Parish Council were unable to comment as the they have been unable to see what has been built on the site and therefore are unable to comment that the application be refused as the Parish Council have been unable to see what has been built on the site and therefore are unable to comment.

2017/2053/HSE - Removal of existing conservatory and erection of a single story extension to the rear,
3 Wesley Villas Church Street Coleford Frome BA3 5ND

The Parish Council proposed that the application be recommended for approval as the proposal would be in keeping with the neighboring buildings who have already undertaken the same work.

2017/2099/FUL - A barn to accommodate calves under 18 months of age, due to prohibition of moving animals under TB regulations.

Hillside Farm Newbury Hill Coleford Frome BA3 5RU

The Parish Council proposed that the application be recommended for approval as the design is in keeping with the neighboring buildings.

Decisions on Previous Applications

2017/1268/LBC - Minor alterations to the internal layout of existing granted listed building consent (application number 2013/0412) and relocation of roof lights.

The Mill House, Mill Lane, Coleford, Frome, Somerset

The application has been withdrawn

Coleford Village Day

The Parish Council were keen to congratulate the Coleford Revival group for putting on such a magnificent event. The sun shone and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day resulting in the most successful village day to date. Thank you to Philip Horler and his team of volunteers for taking the time to help organise such a fantastic village event.

Somerset County Council report

County Cllr Ham reported that:

- He has now undertaken the 2017 Small Improvement Scheme training for Highways. He confirmed that he is allowed to select 2 schemes for the years out of the 16 Parishes which he covers. The criteria is quite extensive and Cllr Ham must put forward the best applications. If the Parish has a plan or proposal then this needs to be put forward to Cllr Ham ASAP. Proposals must be submitted by the 31st October 2017.
- He has been selected to Chair the task and finish group to investigate the sale of the County Farms and form a policy for the future.
- Cllr Ham has been part of the team that reviewed:
 1. The Highways maintenance contract
 2. The strategic road update
 3. Road safety and
 4. Asset realisation programmeCopies of which will be circulated with the reading pack.
- Improvements to delayed transfer of Care: Jeremy Hunt the secretary of state for Health has written to congratulate Somerset County Council for the work that has been done to reduce delays in people leaving hospital. SCC's improvement was the best in the country. Building on this recognition SCC are about to launch a new "Home First" policy which will work with partners to further speed up safe discharge from hospitals. This is a national priority and the "Better Care Fund" money of £11m is dependent upon further improvements.
- Adult Social care providers: The Care Quality Commission will report shortly that Somerset will have no care facilities rated as inadequate with over 87% being good or outstanding. This reflects continuous month on month improvement and will make Somerset close to being the National leader in this area. This has been achieved by the Council working very closely with suppliers of care, carefully monitoring their performance and helping where appropriate.



- Joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA): This years JSNA carried out by the County Councils Public Health team looks in detail at the issue of ageing well and highlights the importance of maintaining good health, social contacts and personal independence. Somerset has an ageing population with 1 in 5 residents now being over the age of 65 but many will still experience poor health as they get older. The report looks at what people can do to age well and how Somerset as a County can improve the life experiences of older people.
- Healthy weight: Public Health commissioning Zing Somerset to deliver support to those most in need to reduce and manage their weight. This includes people in deprived communities, children and families. Alongside Zing there have been various small grants to grass roots organisations to deliver specific projects for people in need. The website www.healthysomerset.co.uk/weight details a variety of options in more details for Somerset residents.
- Smoking in Pregnancy: The national figures on the stop smoking service provides an opportunity to compare performance locally with both the South West region and nationally core Mums2b Smokefree service. Of the women in Somerset who set a quit date, 292 reported as quitting or 58% compared with 46% nationally and 48% for the South West.
- Children's social care: OFSTED visited SCC for their final pre inspection monitoring visit. The focus this time was on the leaving care service and support of children with disabilities. Formal feedback is awaited but once again comments were favourable on the clear progress being made. The full OFSTED inspection is expected to take place in the autumn.
- Mind of my Own: Children in care and children's services staff at SCC have been praised for leading the way in implementing technology to young voices heard. Organisation MOMO was set up to help children and young people have a say in the care they receive. It offers a blend of technology, social work and children's rights expertise to create apps that children can use on their own or with a worker or carer for communications and preparing for life after leaving care.
- Work experience opportunities: It is really important that young people leaving care have the opportunity of work experience of an apprenticeship. If local companies or organisations are willing to assist please let HR at SCC know.⁴
- Highways finger posts: Documentation which has been drafted following consultation with SW Heritage Trust to enable communities to maintain the finger posts themselves has now been published: www.somerset.gov.uk/policies-and-plans/schemes-and-initiatives/Somerset-fingerpost-restoration-project/
- Travel Somerset: SCC traffic and travel service has proven a hit as it celebrates its first birthday. The mobile friendly website available at www.travelsomerset.co.uk has been accessed by more than 100,000 in its first year and @TravelSomerset tweets regular live alerts to its 2824 followers
- Somerset Waste Partnership: SWP has appointed a new managing director Mickey Green will be starting in the autumn. He brings a wealth of enthusiasm and drive for this exciting but challenging sector.
- Recent Press releases can be found at www.somersetnewsroom.com

Mendip District Council report

Cllr Philip Ham reported as follows:

- Transformation - Two asset bids in principle have been accepted so progress is being made.
- The library and police buildings are on hold for 4 weeks while the new Police officer in charge of transformation - Sarah Crew; looks at the project.
- Officer and members training programme has started and is programmed for the next 2 years.
- Boyles Cross started in Frome and two more meetings on Saxonvale have taken place.
- Business rates - Many small business are now exempt and larger businesses after the re-evaluation are appealing. This could leave a hole in the budgets. However there is a scheme to help if your valuation has gone up by more than 12% and also a hardship scheme that is available but it is evidence based.

- Licensing - May now not go to the 5 Council Capita Contract for legal reasons.
- Moorlands - The Gypsy and Travellers legal case is now to be heard in December.
- Open Space Protection Orders - Cabinet have agreed for the final order to be publicised.

District Cllr Townsend reported as follows:

- 16th August - MDC Planning Board - The long debate on the Shepton Prison development is coming to an end with the Appeal approving the plan and some additional parking agreed.
- 22nd August - MDC Licensing Sub Committee - attended two hearings to decide whether two taxi drivers were Fit and Proper Persons to carry members of the public. Both were considered acceptable.
- 25th August - MDC Licensing Sub Committee - attended a hearing to consider a Notification of a substantial private party. The applicant withdrew when he understood all the concerns of the Police, Environmental Health and the Sub Committee.
- 28th August - MDC Licensing Board - The 'back office' licensing functions are being taken over shortly by Capita as part of the cost saving 5 Councils procurement deal. This should have no effect on the 'local knowledge' available to us.
- 31st August - attended the presentation by Wainwrights of their amended plans for the quarry extension. There are still concerns about environmental impacts which are being considered by County as the mineral planning authority.
- 11th September - attended MDC Cabinet. The Council is finalizing arrangements for a Public Space Protection Order which will give additional powers to control dogs and the consumption of alcohol. On the Finance side the initial projection for this year is a marginal overspend, but it's very early days yet.
- 12th September - Keyring Letting Agency, Directors Meeting. Our Community Interest Company still has more waiting tenants than available properties. An extensive marketing campaign is in progress to try to bring empty homes to market in the District and to contact potential landlords in Frome in particular.
- 12th September - attended MDC Training course covering managing relationships with stakeholders.

Finger post signs

A detailed report showing the finger post signs located around the village including a photograph of each had been compiled. The priority is to establish who owns the land that the signs are located on and arrange for the undergrowth to be cut back prior to then putting together a programme of which to prioritise in a renovation scheme.

Progress report on BMX track to include agreeing financial plan and funding applications

The new entrance at Highbury Playing Field has been installed and DID look great. Sadly within a matter of days the gate has been damaged in a mindless act of vandalism which is incredibly sad. The incident has been reported to the police who are now compiling evidence.



The last village meeting regarding the BMX Pump track was held on the 7th September which was attended by 16 people - lots of young people (which is great) but few parents. The next meeting will take place on the 16th of November. A video has been filmed and put together by a couple of youths which is really good and once the editing is completed will be used to help advertise the pump track and fund raising events.

Please come along to the live music event and a Bar-B-Q on the 24th September at the Kings Head to help raise funds for the pump track.

Coleford defibrillator

In response to the request for funding from the Rotary Club the Parish Council has agreed a donation of £300 towards the cost of replacing the stolen defibrillator - Another mindless act which could easily have cost lives. Additional security measures will be in place to prevent the same fate for the new unit.

Small Grants Award for 2017/18

The Parish Council are now welcoming applications for funding from the Small Grants scheme (There is £1500 to be shared out). If you are involved with a local club or organisation and have a project which needs funds then why not apply? The closing date for applications is the 31st of October 2017. Applications will be considered by the Small Grants Working during the first week in November and be agreed at November Parish Council meeting. The application is available from the Parish Council website using the following link: www.colefordsomerset.org/documents



Calling all Dog owners



Dog fouling within the village is at an unacceptable level - this includes on the footpaths, pavements and green spaces which INCLUDES open farmland. We are extremely concerned at the level of fouling on the football pitch within Highbury playing field. With football teams playing most weeks including the new youth teams, it's quite simply dangerous and will not be tolerated - Dogs are not welcome in the Playing Field!

If you are walking a dog and it does a poo then please pick up after it! The Parish Council provides poo bags free of charge at dispensers on Highbury Street and Church Street - there is no excuse. If you know of a regular offender please email clerk@colefordsomerset.org

Date of Next Meetings:

Tuesday 26th September 2017

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Planning Meeting

Parish Council 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 NEW website www.colefordsomerset.org

Philip Ham, Chairman