

# Parish Council of Coleford

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## Newsletter for July 2017

### Planning

We had a dozen people come to our meeting wishing to express their concern over the planning application which has been submitted for the *Crossways Garage* site. The application is seeking approval for the demolition of the existing garage building and development of a proposed convenience store and 1 dwelling house with associated external works. Everyone had an opportunity to voice their views prior to the Council coming to a decision.

After consideration and discussion the Councillors agreed that Coleford Parish Council would recommend that the application should be refused for the following reasons:

1. The roads into the village are not suitable for the large delivery lorries and there is a concern over the lorries reversing into the site to unload.
2. There is a question as to whether there is sufficient parking bays when taking into account the members of staff driving to work plus the shoppers.
3. A sequential test is required to establish if there is a need for a further convenience store.
4. There is concern over the noise generated from:
  - The cars using the parking bays,
  - The air conditioning units and
  - The removal of refuge
5. The position of the air conditioning unit is inappropriate taking into consideration the location of the neighbouring house; whose bedrooms are immediately adjacent to the proposed site.
6. The site has been identified by the Parish Council as a preferred location for housing as part of the Consultation process for the Local Plan Part II.
7. The proposed opening hours of 6am to 11pm are excessive and will cause disruption to neighbouring properties.
8. The lighting of the site is a concern and is likely to cause disruption to neighbouring properties.



2017/1596/LBC - The Mill House Mill Lane Coleford Frome BA3 5LR

Single glazing to be replaced with double glazed units, additional window on rear elevation, removal of glazing bars on two windows on rear elevation and removal of partition wall on first floor  
Coleford Parish Council recommended that the decision should be left to the listed building officer.

2017/1570/FUL - Highbury Playing Fields Off Newbury Lane Coleford Radstock BA3

Construction of a new access off Newbury Lane onto playing field.  
Coleford Parish Council recommended that the applications should be approved.

### **Decisions on Previous Applications**

2017/0044/VRC - 2 Hillside, Church Street, Coleford, BA3 5NE

Application for variation of condition 2 (Drawing) von 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.

Mendip District Council approved with conditions

2017/1247/AGB - Wheal Friendly, Ham Hill, Coleford, BA3 5QD

Prior notification for the erection of general purpose agricultural building

Mendip District Council decided that planning permission is required

### **Somerset County Council report**

County Cllr Ham reported that the new Council is settling down after the election. He confirmed that he is involved in the following.

- Policy and place Scrutiny
- HR and policy group
- Corporate Parent group
- Somerset Quarries group
- Somerset Rivers Authority Scrutiny and
- Saxonvale development group.

At Policy and place he discussed the proposed route of the new spur A358 road to link with M5 south of Taunton and the lack of proper consultation in regard. They looked at new revamped Registration service including the service SCC provide in North Somerset and that it has disposed of several old buildings and made the service cost effective. They also had a very interesting presentation from Devon and Somerset Trading Standards and to note the enormous work load they deal with. They looked at performance data from the last quarter of last year which showed 7 million overspend, not so bad when you consider total spend is over 300 million.

The corporate parent group is responsible for the 500 plus in children in our care. Cllr Ham explained that they are referred to as our looked after children. There are several strands within the group i.e. Education, Health and Wellbeing, Further education, work and self-living and Family support. Cllr Ham will be a Governor of the virtual school and be involved with the education side.

Regards to Quarries there is the ongoing Halecombe deepening of the quarry, Wainwrights want to build and operate three new tip areas on the boundary of the quarry and Torr to bring forward a phase of the restoration plan at part of the works.

Cllr Ham has had two business meetings regarding the development of Saxonvale in Frome, this is a very complicated situation, and one that has been around for at least twenty years.

Cllr Ham has also been involved with highway issues.

### Mendip District Council report

District Cllr Townsend reported that Cabinet met on 10<sup>th</sup> July. We endorsed the Somerset Growth Plan and Mendip Economic Development Strategy with the aim of providing a supportive environment for economic development. A strong plea was made for a University of Somerset to benefit our area. Also approved was an updated Empty Homes Strategy - we are all encouraged to identify such properties. It has also been agreed that the Scrutiny team will, in the future become more proactive and looking at specific issues of concern.

There will be some reallocation of Councillors to boards and committees over the coming weeks

Glastonbury festival appears to have run very smoothly.

Devon and Somerset Fire service have been investigating the issue of cladding within the area. There are 139 high rise buildings in the area with 63 visited as at the end of June with none being of significant concern. Mendip District Council has no social housing or high rise buildings.

Cllrs Ham and Townsend were the Member's representative on the new Mendip DC Members and Officers Development Group. This innovative body has been established to promote a joint training and development programme for Councillors and Staff together.

Cllrs Ham and Townsend attended a meeting of the Wainwright's Quarry Liaison Group where the Quarry announced the submission of their comprehensive response to all the issues raised by County in response to their application last year for three new tips. These are required to allow the Quarry to continue operations until 2042. A public presentation will be made in Stoke St Michael Memorial Hall.

District Cllr Ham reported that it has been a very busy month at MDC. Transformation has taken off, investment portfolio have been very bullish and have bid on several properties after hours of due diligence to provide bids we are comfortable with, the competition is strong. The market place is not what you would believe and who you think are owners are not! We have taken officer and member training to new level with the new formed group setting the agenda.

Fly tipping, waste, waste collection are all topics that came out of meetings with Id Verde including Gypsy Lane, Frome town centre and Coleford. All these areas will be monitored closely over the next three months.

Cllr Ham reported that the annual leisure report from Fusion Leisure had been received, which shows participation up, investment higher than promised and a good safety record.

Cllr Ham attended the CAB annual meeting last week which provided an excellent annual report. Coleford got mentioned several times and thanked in public for our donation. The evening celebrated the work of volunteers with a speech from the High Sheriff of Somerset Mrs Anne Maw.

Cllr Ham also met with Mr Alan Sandall the divisional leader for the scouts regards moving forward with SCC and the long leases required by @ the Hub and Coleford Scouts.

He confirmed that he has also had meetings around the Moorlands site at Glastonbury, Wells rugby club development and planning applications. There are lots of planning application work this month and a lot in the pipeline.

### **Progress report on BMX track including arranging public meeting**

Talks are ongoing to secure quotes for the second entrance to the Pump Track. The planning application for the second entrance from Newbury road is now in the planning pipeline and we hope that this will be granted without issue.



A Music Gig at the RBL and hopefully a BBQ at the Kings Head will be held during the summer as fund raising events. Cllr Tony Gurd is completing a sponsored Sky Dive to help raise funds for the project. The BMX Pump Track will really help our youngsters, to give them a facility to let off steam, to integrate, to compete and form friendships which should all go towards reducing this every present and unfortunate small element of anti-social behaviour, which has reared its head in our village in the past.

A Village meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> July or the 24<sup>th</sup> July starting at 7.30pm to be held at the Hub which will help spread the word to the parents and children, similar to the meeting we held about 2 years ago.

### **Community Pay Back scheme**

The team came out for their first visit on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> July. The weather was forecast to be unsettled so it was agreed that they would focus on cleaning the changing rooms, litter picking the Highbury playing field and sweeping the hard courts.

We've lined up lots of jobs for the team to complete over the coming months. They offer extremely good value for money and the Council is keen to make the most of their time within our village. They will be visiting on the first Tuesday of each month from now until Christmas.

### **Street Furniture**

The Parish Council has undertaken a review of street furniture within the village and over the coming months will be looking to replace some items with new and will look to repair or renovate other items.

### **Meetings to attend**

The BMX Pump Track - date will be either the 27<sup>th</sup> July @ 7.30pm at the Coleford British Legion  
PACT meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> September

Butterfly bank Summer Maintenance day - 23<sup>rd</sup> July from 10am to 12.30pm

Butterfly bank Summer event for youngsters - 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2pm until 4pm

This is a planned joint event with the new Coleford Woodcraft Folk Group. To include some clearance to encourage seed setting, as per the Work Programme.

### **Date of Next Meetings:**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Planning Meeting

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017

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](mailto:clerk@colefordsomerset.org)

Please check out the NEW website [www.colefordsomerset.org](http://www.colefordsomerset.org)

*Philip Ham, Chairman*