

Clerks Report – June 2009

Agenda Items

8b) Water Supply for Wellhead Allotments – I had a meeting with two of the allotment holders at Wellhead on 19.5.09 and explained to them in greater detail the principles of how the Parish Council would recoup the water installation costs and the water supply costs using £1500 as the estimated cost of installation and £150 as the estimated cost of water supply. 10% of the installation costs would be applied to the site for the Parish Council to recover the costs (normally interest would be applied in the first year but as this is so minimal it is not worth worrying about). The estimated water supply costs would also be applied to the site for the Parish Council to recover. The increase in costs is therefore likely to be £150 + £150 = £300 per year to be applied to the Wellhead Allotment site. We could divide this cost by the number of allotment holders but as some allotment holders have two allotments and others may only have a third of an allotment, this would seem unfair and it would be more equitable to divide the costs according to the approximate size of the allotment (without actually measuring all the allotments). I would recommend, therefore, that the charges for 2010 onwards should be applied as follows:

- Someone who has a standard sized plot and currently pays £5.50 will have to pay £28.14 next year £5.50 + £5.00 admin increase + £17.64 (£300 divided by 17 which is the number of standard plots on the site = £17.64)
- Someone who has 1/3 of a plot will pay £5.10 + £5 admin increase + £5.88 (1/2 of £17.64) = £15.98
- Someone who has two allotments will pay £10.20 + £5 admin increase + £35.28 (£17.64 X 2) = £50.48

Please note that members resolved, at the annual budget meeting, that an admin increase of £5.00 should be applied to each allotment holder, regardless of allotment size, with effect from March 2010.

I also explained that if the Duchy of Cornwall installed the water then exactly the same implications, in terms of costs and allotment rents, would apply because the Duchy would increase our rent which we would then recover from allotment holders. I have spoken to the Duchy of Cornwall who have confirmed that they are perfectly happy for the water to be installed and they have confirmed that they would be happy either way (either they would install it or we could install it) but they have stressed that it may take longer if they have to do it. The allotment holders are now slightly concerned about the increase rent implications and I am therefore willing to complete an application form for funding from the CCWWD AONB Sustainable Development Fund, but this would only provide 50% of costs. The allotments holders have also suggested that they help with costs of digging trenches etc.

7 b) A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere – Stephen Osborne-Brown, InterRoute Communications Manager has written: 'Further to our letter dated 18 December 2008, we are now in a position to provide stakeholders with an update regarding the above scheme. The Highways Agency and its service provider, InterRoute, has spent a significant amount of time reviewing the nature of the works involved and has managed to substantially reduce the period required for a full closure from 14 weeks, as previously proposed, to 5 weeks. This reduction was achieved by changing the design and working methods, allowing significant works to be undertaken safely under reduced traffic control, including lane restrictions, traffic signals and night-time closures. In addition to the 5 week full closure there will need to be 9 weeks of overnight traffic signals, allowing an alternating flow of traffic in both directions and approximately 5 weeks of overnight closures, during which time traffic will be diverted by other routes. Construction activities have been broken down into three separate phases to reflect the nature of work and limit disruptions. This will allow the maximum level of activity to be undertaken within the minimum amount of traffic

management. Seasonal traffic fluctuations and events affecting the network have also influenced the timing of the works:

Phase 1: Investigation and drainage repairs (traffic signals, 19.00 hrs – 06.00 hrs); May 09 – July 09

Phase 2: Widening preparation, drainage works, signage and safety fencing (traffic signals, 19.00 hrs – 06.00

hrs and night closures 22.00 hrs – 05.30 hrs); Nov 09 – Dec – 09

Phase 3: Drainage channel construction and signage (24 hour single lane closure on three lane section of

Chaddenwick Hill); Jan 10 – Feb 10; and major surfacing and drainage channel works (24 Hour closure

for 5 weeks excluding unusual weather risk); Feb 10 – Mar 10

The Highways Agency and InterRoute have worked closely with, and sought advice from the Police and three highway authorities, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire, in devising the most suitable diversion routes. This considered the needs and concerns of road users, residents and businesses situated along the routes. After reviewing all available options, and taking into account the constraints across various routes, the preferred diversion routes are:

Night time closures:

- Light vehicles to use the A350 and B3082 through Gillingham both ways;
- Heavy goods vehicles to use A37/A361/A36 both ways; and
- High loads to use A359/A361/A36

24 Hour closures

- All eastbound traffic to use the A37/A361/A36 except high loads;
- High loads to use A359/A371/A36; and
- All westbound traffic to use A350/B3081 through Gillingham

At the moment the specific dates have not been agreed. However, we will be holding a key stakeholder information briefing in June to which you will receive an invite. If you have any urgent enquiries in the meantime, please contact the Highways Agency Information Line on 08457 50 40 30 or email ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk

Information Items

Castle Hill & Long Hill

Mr. Kit Stallard from Linden Barn, Castle Hill Lane has sent an email saying: ‘I write to congratulate you on the good work done in providing the path and clearing the undergrowth on the hills. When walking the dog on the path I have spoken to many other users and all agree with me that the work done by the Youth Club has improved the area immensely. Please pass on our thanks for a good job well done. I understand that there is some opposition. Based on graffiti on the gate between the hills someone wants the work to stop as “your killing our trees” (sic). Please do not waver, but continue the work of undergrowth clearance and the improvement of the hills. You have much support.’

Planning

Salisbury District Council **approved** planning permission (with conditions) for the following developments:

S/2009/21 – TREES CONS. AREA – FELL APPROX 10 ASSORTED TREES. CROWN LIFT CATALPA TO APPROX 3.5M. CROWN THIN/REDUCE BEECH BY 15%
1 THE GRANGE, WATER STREET, MERE.

S/2009/52/FULL – FULL PLANNING – ERECT DWELLING – CHANGE TO THE ORIGINAL PLANNING PERMISSION S/2008/0798

LAND OFF BUTTS PADDOCK, SHAFTESBURY ROAD, MERE.

S/2009/136/FULL – FULL PLANNING – DEMOLISH EXISTING HOUSE AND REPLACE WITH NEW HOUSE

LITTLE SHOTLEY, ANGEL LANE, MERE.

S/2009/137/CAD – CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION) – DEMOLISH EXISTING HOUSE

LITTLE SHOTLEY, ANGEL LANE, MERE.

S/2009/139/LBW – LISTED BLDG (WKS) – RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF 2 x UPVC & 3 x DUOTHERM WINDOWS AT THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY

HATHERLEIGH, PETTRIDGE LANE, MERE.

S/2009/245 – TREES CONS. AREA – CROWN LIFT & CROWN REDUCTION TO BEECH. VROWN THINNING TO HORSE CHESTNUT.

THE OLD BREWERY, WATER STREET, MERE.

Newsletters/Magazines/Periodicals

Fieldwork (Campaign to Protect Rural England) - March 2008

The Clerk (The Journal of the Society of Local Council Clerks) – March 2009

Campaign to Protect Rural England – Annual Report 2008-2009

Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk