

# Mere Parish Council

## Clerks Report – September 2009

### Agenda Items

**6b) Invitation to Parish, Town & City Councillors Training Seminar** - Mrs. Judy Howles, Wiltshire Council's Area Development Manager writes: *'The last seminar in January was designed specifically to inform you how planning would work under the new Wiltshire Council. This was very well attended and at that meeting it was requested that the pattern of Parish Council Seminars should continue. I am pleased to advise you that the next seminar will be held on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (09.30 to 13.00) at the City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury (Alamein Suite), to which representatives from your council are cordially invited. This is an opportunity for you to give feedback on how the new council is working for you in relation to planning matters. I would like to stress the importance of your parish being represented at this event. There will, of course, be an opportunity for the normal question and answer session, although as this is a half day event there will be no workshop session in the afternoon. I would be grateful if you could please reply..... indicating how many people will be attending from your council.'*

**6c) South Wiltshire Core Strategy** - The following letter was received from Alistair Cunningham, Wiltshire Council's Director Economy and Enterprise: *'As you may be aware, the South Wiltshire Core Strategy is being taken forward by Wiltshire Council in order to update planning policies in geographical area of the former Salisbury district, apart from the area falling within the New Forest National Park. The Core Strategy has been in preparation since 2006 and is based on evidence and shaped by significant public consultation undertaken by the former Salisbury District Council. The South Wiltshire Core Strategy provides a vision, objectives and planning framework for spatial development of South Wiltshire over the period up to 2026.*

*At Wiltshire Council's Cabinet on 15 July 2009, the Council resolved that the document should proceed to the next stage of its preparation (Publication Stage). I thought it would be valuable to inform you in advance of the representation period that is due to start on 10 August and end on 30 September.*

*A paper copy of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy will be sent to the City Council and all Town and Parish Council Clerks within south Wiltshire, together with a formal notification that the representation period has started, by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009.*

*At the Publication Stage, representations are invited on whether the document is considered to be sound and legally compliant. In order to clarify what this means, a copy of the representation form and guidance note is attached. However, if you wish for further clarification please contact the Spatial Planning Team on the following number: 01722 434 390 or email james.sutton@wiltshire.gov.uk.*

*Following the representation period, the Council will consider comments received to ensure that we believe no fundamental issues have been raised on the soundness of the Plan before submitting the document to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a Government appointed Inspector. Before submission to the Secretary of State the Core Strategy will be taken to Full Council. to approve the submission. This will be at a special meeting to be held during late October or early November.*

*It is worth noting, that whilst Wiltshire Council receives the representations, it is the role of the Inspector to consider representations received and to propose changes to the document in light of these rather than the Council.*

*Copies of the Core Strategy and the associated evidence base will be available to view at the Council's Planning Office in Wyndham Road, Salisbury. Much of this will also be made available on the Council's website. Copies of the Core Strategy will also be available to view at the following Council offices and libraries:*

- County Hall, Trowbridge
- Milford Street, Salisbury
- Monkton Park, Chippenham
- Browfort, Devizes
- Salisbury, Amesbury, Downton, Durrington, Mere, Tisbury, Warminster and Wilton libraries.

*During the representation period, both public exhibitions and meetings have been arranged at which you will be able to find out more about the document and how you can comment. Details of these are set out below.*

*Public exhibitions, attended by Officers, will take place between 12.30pm and 7.00pm as follows:*

- 11 August 2009: Guildhall, Salisbury
- 1 September 2009: Guildhall, Salisbury
- 2 September 2009: Victoria Hall, Tisbury
- 3 September 2009: Antrobus House, Amesbury
- 7 September 2009: Michael Herbert Hall, Wilton
- 8 September 2009: Lecture Hall, Mere
- 10 September 2009: Memorial Hall, Downton

In addition, four meetings of the area boards have been arranged at which a presentation will be made on the South Wiltshire Core Strategy and there will be the opportunity to speak to Officers and ask questions, as follows:

- 3 September: City Hall, Salisbury, 7pm
- 8 September, Antrobus House, Amesbury, 7pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> September, Trafalgar School, Downton, 7.00pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> September, Nadder Hall, Tisbury, 7pm

If you have any further queries about the South Wiltshire Core Strategy or anything mentioned in this letter, please contact the Spatial Planning Team on 01722 434 390.'

**7f) Response from Area Highway Engineer regarding S38 Adoption Agreement at White Road Gardens** - Mr. David Button, Wiltshire Council's Area Highway Engineer responds: 'I can confirm that regrettably the developer of the above site Bloor Homes have despite the considerable passing of time since the original agreement was signed, failed to address outstanding pre-adoption issues on the site and therefore present it in a suitable condition physically and legally for adopting by Wiltshire Council to finally take place. While I appreciate that this is unsatisfactory for all parties and particularly the residents there, I have to advise that Bloor Homes have a duty to remedy the situation at their expense, rather than that of the Council Tax payers; I can confirm that both myself and subsequent colleagues associated with supervising this development have spent many man hours on countless meetings with Bloors and despite many promises being made over recent years, matters have not progressed to any significant extent. Accordingly, I am passing copies of this correspondence to my colleagues in our Development Control Team at Trowbridge who manage these agreements with developers with a request that they contact you directly with their views on your understandable concerns.'

**7g) Proposed Pedestrian Improvements, Castle Street, roundabout for Gillingham Corner junction and footway improvements** - Response from Mr. David M. Thomas, Wiltshire Council's Integrated Transport & Safety Manager: 'Thank you for your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009. After due consideration of the comments contained in your letter I can confirm that the proposed pedestrian improvements in Castle Street will not now proceed further. With regard to your request for a roundabout at the junction of Castle Street and the B3095 to Gillingham, I can confirm that this has been put on the Countywide request list for Integrated Transport funding and will be assessed against all other requests later in the year. I would further advise that with the introduction of the Community Area Boards requests for new highway infrastructure should in the first instance go to the Board to gauge support for the suggestion and be prioritised against other local requests..... With regard to the condition of the surface between the George Hotel car park and the Barton Lane junction, I have copied your letter and this reply to the Wilton Area Highway Office and asked that they undertake an inspection to establish if any action is justified.'

Mr. David Button, Wiltshire Council's Area Highway Engineer responds: 'Copies of your recent correspondence with David Thomas regarding the above have been forwarded to myself for further response. Accordingly, I can confirm that I have inspected the above site and submitted the length of the footway between the George Hotel and the western side of the Barton Lane junction to my colleagues in Major Maintenance with a request that this site be included in their proposed programme of re-surfacing works in the forthcoming financial year 2010/11. In the interim the footway will continue to be inspected with any priority defects receiving the appropriate re-instatement. I hope this information is useful.'

**8b) Disabled parking space for Mere town centre** - In response to my email asking if the Parish Council could consult with Wiltshire Council as to the feasibility and viability of allocating a disabled parking space in the town centre, I have received the following response from Jamie Mundy, Senior Traffic Technician for Wiltshire Council: 'The introduction of parking controls requires the making of a Traffic Regulation Order which involves lengthy legal and administrative procedures. A comprehensive review of the parking in a town as a whole is the most effective and efficient way of dealing with parking issues. An extensive review of existing on-street restrictions is currently

*underway, in 20 towns and parishes across the former North, West and Kennet districts. We are reviewing on-street parking controls at locations where representation has been made to the Council by residents and others. Once these reviews are complete, we shall be able to begin to review requests received in the Salisbury area. Therefore I confirm that the request for an on-street disabled bay in the town centre has been added to the list of requests will be considered when we investigate roads in Mere, hopefully commencing in June next year. In the meantime if the Parish Council wishes to highlight other areas in the town where it feels parking restrictions are required to be introduced or amended or removed then, please send the requests in to myself to be added to the request list and which will then be investigated in due course.'*

**10 d) Mere Historical Society** - Mrs. Caroline Cook, Visits Secretary for Mere Historical Society writes: *'A few weeks ago I left you with some copies of A Mere Meander, a self-guided historical walk around Mere, for the Council. The guide has been a great success. Supplies were left at the Information Point, the Angel Café and The Walnut Tree and all have reported such a lot of interest that our run of 100 copies is almost depleted. I gather that there are other businesses whose customers would be interested too if we could supply more copies. Mere Historical Society has funded the project to get it off the ground but, of course, does not have the funds to continue doing so. Would the Parish Council consider funding further 100 copies of the self-guided walk leaflet for use this summer? Liz Fricker printed these for us at 50p a copy. The guide can be downloaded from the Mere website, but hard copies are needed too. Could you tell me how Mere – Buildings and People and A Mere Meander were received at the Parish Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July?'*

## **Information Items**

### **Planning Applications**

During the period from 7.7.09 to 17.8.09 – the Parish Council received the following planning applications to which we submitted a 'no comment' response stating that 'due to time constraints & staff + councillors' holidays within the consultation deadline the Parish Council is unable to respond.'

S/2009/969/LBC – LISTED CONSENT – ALTERATIONS TO PROVIDE MEZZANINE FLOOR & NEW STAIRS FOR ACCESS GROVE BUILDING, CHURCH STREET, MERE.

S/2009/971/FULL – FULL PLANNING – DEVELOPMENT OF GARDEN PLOT TO PROVIDE NEW, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED DWELLING WITH ACCESS LAND ADJACENT TO ROWNEY, MANOR ROAD, MERE.

S/2009/1047/TCA – TREES CONS. AREA – REDUCE HORSE CHESTNUT BY UP TO 25% BECAUSE OF BRANCHES IN CONTACT WITH ROOF OF NEIGHBOURING MERE SURGERY SANDELLS, WATER STREET, MERE.

S/2009/1057/TCA – TREES CONS. AREA – FELL 23 FIR TREES & 4 FRUIT TREES BEEHCROFT, CASTLE HILL LANE, MERE.

S/2009/1069/FULL – FULL PLANNING – REPLACEMENT STABLES AND BARN STORE THE OLD DAIRY, CHARNAGE, MERE.

S/2009/1083/FULL – FULL PLANNING – 2 STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION TO FORM FAMILY ROOM AND STUDY AT GROUND FLOOR LEVEL AND FOURTH BEDROOM ON FIRST FLOOR 1 THE LYNCH, MERE.

S/2009/1144/TCA – TREES CONS. AREA – T2 REPOLLARD 4 x HORNBEAM, RAISE CROWN OF BEECH BY 3M & THIN CROWN BY 20%, REMOVE 2 LIMBS FROM HORSE CHESTNUT (OVER HOUSE), FELL CHERRY THE OLD RECTORY, CHURCH STREET, MERE.

### **Newsletters/Magazines/Periodicals**

Local Council Review – Summer 2009

Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2009 – Issue 64

South West Employers – Affiliate & Associate Member Newsletter – Late Summer 2009

Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2009 – Issue 65

Mrs. Lindsey Wood, Parish Clerk