

HARESFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2017

Monday 22nd May, 7.30, Haresfield Village Hall

Haresfield Parish council –chairs report: Humphrey Cook.

Haresfield Parish Council has had an exceptionally busy year dealing with a wide range of issues we are trying to prevent from having an adverse effect on the quality of life our village

Principle matters affecting Haresfield are as follows:

Network Rail

After more than 5 or 6 years of constant dialogue, particularly by David Dodsworth, some progress has been made to improve the appearance of the yard from the view of adjoining properties and the terrace to the pub. The laurel hedge is beginning to act as a screen

The crossing gate closing mechanism has not been attended to stop it banging

Notification of works being carried out from the yard is being sent to some houses but not, then altered without further notification and so serious disturbance continues overnight and during weekend working

So far our efforts to get NWR to use other sites nearby has met with a resounding no, in spite of the danger to the village of massive articulated lorries reversing all the way from the school without a banksman and often during children drop off and pick up times – an accident waiting to happen . They also prevent emergency vehicles accessing the houses and the pub beyond Beacon Lane and have damaged the highway

There is no overall project manager to coordinate the activities

A group of residents, who were not prepared to take anymore prevarication from NWR, comprising Charlotte Tilsley, Jenny Knight, Pete Willoughby, Liza Bye, Steve and Wendy Luckett organized a meeting attended by about 25 residents at the pub to confront 3 representatives from NWR

Slow progress is being made but the noise and disruption continues. A further meeting of the group has resolved to compile a dossier and send it the CEO and Operations/Technical Director with a demand for compensation to try to get past NWR's department for "fobbing off"

Our aim is to get NWR to use the yard for emergency access to the track only because of its entirely unsuitable location

Roads

County Highways are painfully slow to respond to requests and even slower to take action

They will only support 20mph signage if an accident occurs on the dangerous bend opposite the school !

We have looked at width restrictions on the approach roads but they would require street lighting which has always been rejected by the village in the past

M5/J12 is under review for the second time as it does not cope with the present level of traffic which will only increase with the incinerator and Quedgeley East business Park, exacerbating the rush hour queues

Speeding

Still an issue

20 is plenty signs were erected in an effort to reduce speed in the area of the school, but these are no longer supported by GCC Highways Department

We looked at setting up cameras but the cost was too high for a small parish like ours and the requirement for them to be monitored has proved too difficult. Alternatively a flashing speed sign would have to be paid for at circa £15,000 each, but do again not have the funds to do so

Parking

Still a major problem due to parents dropping off and collecting children twice a day with in some cases a complete disregard for residents – parking across people’s driveways or using them to turn round met with some very abusive responses if confronted

The school head teacher has written to parents numerous times to remind parents that we live here and they are just visitors but has been ignored by many

Police

Virtually no presence and insufficient officers to monitor small villages

Fly tipping and litter

A continued problem in various farm gateways, the highways depot at the beginning of Mount Lane and Haresfield Beacon – Stroud D C are very quick to respond but at a cost to the ratepayer

Litter dropped from cars passing through the village is a problem without a solution for it is virtually impossibility to catch any offender, leaving our voluntary litter picking teams to clean up

Flooding

The problems that occurred a few years ago have not recurred since Haresfield Farms cleared the ditches and culverts and GCC attended to their underground pipes

Planning

Stroud D C Local Plan was published in November 2015 and sets the criteria against which any development is considered

Hunts Grove

An additional 750 houses have been added to the local plan taking the total to 2250

350 houses built to date. Planning conditions have been reviewed including the upgrade of Crosskeys and M5 roundabouts resulting in a delay to the start of the next phase which has now commenced off Waterwells

A part of the development lies within Haresfield and the PC attends meetings with the developer and Stroud DC to review each stage and hopefully improve the overall quality

Quedgeley East Business Park

An outline planning application has been submitted by the owners, St Modwyn, on which HPC have commented and requested revisions to reduce the height and size of proposed buildings, more appropriate materials, improved landscaping particularly along Mount Lane, avoiding overshadowing the cottages just before the motorway bridge in Haresfield Lane

A decision is in abeyance whilst a solution to traffic build up on the B4008 up to J12 / M5 and the Mount Lane and B4008 junction has been resolved

Incinerator

Construction proceeding on site

HPC are represented on the Community Liaison Group to raise any issues arising and to be informed about the construction programme

Various attempts have been made by Glosvain and others to have the project stopped but so far to no avail

Colethrop Farm

The handling of excavated material and building waste at Colethrop Farm, which does not have planning consent continues to give us cause for concern. Reports of activities/lorry movements should be reported to our clerk so that Stroud D C enforcement can take action

Planning applications are made by the owner at regular intervals for another "storage" building each time for a different use. HPC continue to resist

Planning

We encourage any resident who wants to carry out work to enhance their property, which requires planning consent, to come to a PC meeting and discuss it with us – we are very supportive of any improvements and can help guide you through the planning process

Langet Cove, Beacon Lane

The Woodland Trust has granted HPC a 75 year lease and handed it over with all trees inspected and made safe, new fencing and access points, so we are now looking after it

The village school is using it as a nature teaching facility and proposes to build a visually appropriate classroom shelter from natural materials

Defibrillator

Has been purchased and is waiting to be fitted in the telephone box opposite the village hall -just an electrician to be sourced to do so

Dog fouling

A continuing problem by one or two irresponsible individual dog walkers in spite of the dog bin having been installed on the edge of the Merryfield 2- 3 years ago

Village Hall

A new 5 year lease has been granted by Haresfield Farms for the land on which the hall that belongs to the village is located

The village hall committee is now run by Andy Cole as chairman and Charlotte Tilsley as secretary who now look after bookings for various user groups and report the annual accounts to HPC.

A group of enterprising residents are in the process of a complete refurbishment of the hall to make it fit for hiring under current compliance regulations comprising a new kitchen, redecoration with re-roofing being the next task. Much time has been given freely and materials procured at no or very little cost

A number of very successful fund raising activities have provided the funds required without a need to call on the precept

Pub

The Beacon Inn has been flourishing with owner and landlord Steve Lockett getting it back on its feet as a viable business and once again becoming a social meeting place for all in the village. However Network Rail continues to do everything they can to prevent access to the pub, massively affecting room bookings resulting in considerable financial loss.

School

The school continues to gain excellent results from OFSTED

The Merryfield

Run by a separate trust provides playing space for the school and the cricket club with the parish council paying for the insurance policy

Haresfield Herald

Thanks to Ursula Jeakins who compiles and publishes the Herald and greatly improved its' presentation to keep us all informed of village issues and events

Precept

Our precept has been maintained for the third year running but Stroud D C add 1.9% for inflation

Representation

County Councillor Tony Blackburn has retired and will be remembered for being the only one to take a stand on behalf of Haresfield against the incinerator. We wish him a happy retirement

Replaced by Steve Davies

Stroud District Councillor David Mossman has given us his full support on many issues during the year and looks after our interest well

Parish Council meetings

So as to have a Stroud D C councillor present our meetings have been moved to the last Monday of the month

Thanks

My thanks go to all our councillors, who have ably supported the Parish Council during the year

Fiona Bevan, deputy chair, Jenny Knight, Hayley Pillinger, Aimee Williams-King and Steve Lockett

A special thanks to our clerk Maddy King who has kept us all in order, dealing with financial matters and providing excellent support and guidance

We would also like to wish David Dodsworth a very happy retirement from being our VGOM for many years and taking such an interest in all aspects and the welfare of the village. I expect we will still hear from him from time to time

Finally

An influx of new younger residents with children at the village or local schools is regenerating a real sense of community spirit which used to exist when I moved here 21 years ago and should be encouraged, supported and appreciated by everyone who lives here

Humphrey Cook dipl arch RIBA

Chairman Haresfield Parish Council

Reports followed from representatives of the village as follows:

- **St. Peters Church** – Caroline Segelov. Haresfield was formerly part of the Cotswold Edge group of parishes, a group of 6 parishes. Since the retirement of Richard Amys two years ago, St. Peters has relied upon retired ministers and the unfailing work of Alec Jeakins. Now part of the newly formed Stroudwater Team ministry, comprising 15 churches. Following advertising in the church times, Steve Harrison has been appointed to head up the team, and will live in the vicarage at Leonard Stanley.

Attended by relatively few regular churchgoers but serves the community for christenings, marriages and funerals. Church wardens are Alec Jeakins and Caroline Segelov.

The John Roberts clock dated 1698, one of the oldest in the country has been restored and the bell now chimes on the hour

- **Craft Club** – Jenni Entrican. Various and varied activities including Christmas wreaths, glass mosaics, pinboards, sugarcraft, card making and felting, The group meets in the village hall at 7pm on the second Monday of each month.
- **1st Haresfield Brownies** – Brownie Leader: Chris Long. Thanked the working party of the village hall. Currently 14 brownies and 2 leaders, and meet on a Tuesday in term time. Recently went on a Civic Trust Trail in Gloucester and have a visit planned to Fairford Air Tattoo. Chris was congratulated on receiving her 30 year service to Guiding award last summer.
- **Little Hares Playgroup**– Hayley Pillinger. Sadly the playgroup is closing due to lack of numbers. The question of funding was discussed and any outstanding funds will be donated to the village hall fund. Maybe a new playgroup could be set up with good promotion which the PC would support.
- **Haresfield Church of England School** - Apologies from headmistress Mrs Bacon. Continuing issues with parents parking.