

## Notes of the Public Forum 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013

Although the lorries travelling to work on the School Close development now appear to be better managed overall, it was noted that the Bardon lorries are still travelling through Bampton to reach the site. This is despite numerous requests to stop and in contravention of the planning orders.

In response to Wendy Lunel's query of the previous meeting a response had been received from Dean Tichener of the Forward Planning Dept at MDDC. He was able to confirm that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment panel would comprise of representatives from: A national volume house builder, a regional house builder, a small scale house builder, a land agent, a registered social landlord, statutory agencies eg Environment Agency, DCC, Natural England and elected members of MDDC.

There had been several burglaries around Bampton and Shillingford. Please see the separate police report. Reports had also been made of individuals hanging around the Pump House and the Scout Hut and registration numbers had been given to the police.

**There was also a report regarding a man in a white van loitering around the village. He is known to the police, who called into the Spar to provide this warning, for doing the same in Tiverton and is known to be on the look out for children. Parents please be aware and make your children aware.**

It was thought it would be useful to have even a part-time police station in the fire station and Cllr Polly Colthorpe offered to pursue this possibility.

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bampton Town Council  
Held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013.**

1. In attendance were Cllrs Tanner (acting Chair) Rodney Baker, Keith Pitt, Jean Pope, Jack Ward, William Weston. Apologies were received from Brian Smith, Rachel Gilmour and Francis Stoner.

Also present were Cllrs Colthorpe and Stanley.

2. There were no declarations of interest.

3. In amendment to the previous minutes Point Five should read that the Libraries Award was given to Devon County Libraries and not just the one at Phoenix House. The minutes were then agreed as a true record.

4. A letter of thanks had been received with regard to BTC's contribution to getting the Shillingford Road repaired.

A letter from Dean Titchener regarding the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment confirming that the panel of experts who will assess the available sites will be largely composed of national and local house builders and developers.

5. Cllr Colthorpe stated that as she now sits on the Fire Authority Committee she would ask about the possibility of a police station being sited in the Bampton Fire Station. She went on to tell the meeting that of the £1.3 billion budget DCC receives from central government a reduction of £100,000 would be applied over the next four years. However, west country schools would now be getting a better deal overall having previously been funded below the national average. DCC would also be asking for more money from government to maintain the highways. Devon has 8000 miles of road many of which need repairs after the bad weather of last year and which will carry a significant amount of extra traffic in summer. We may also expect an improvement in the broadband service over the next two years as funding has now been received in order to bring provision up to speed. Devon County Council is now offering apprenticeship programmes across many careers from business and admin, ITT to civil engineering. More details from the DCC website, all positions available through application.

Cllr Stanley reported that since the recent change in benefit payments arrears in rent owed to MDDC have fallen. As a result of the 'bedroom tax' more people are looking to exchange their homes for smaller council properties. MDDC will have to find an extra £650,000 in the year 2014/15 due to a cut in government funding. It is inevitable that a reduction in services will follow.

## 6. Finance.

Outgoings for the past month:

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| D/D MDDC rates              | £77.00               |
| J.Eyre. Town clerk          | £308.80 inc expenses |
| M.Morgan Toilets            | £300.00              |
| MJF Contractors             | £418.72              |
| Just the Job. Hollet Garden | £40.00               |
| Withleigh in Bloom          | £1700                |
|                             | £341 } 2041.31       |
| BTC agreed                  | £656.89              |
| Bampton in Bloom balance    | £1384.42             |
| to BTC                      |                      |

The car parks brought in £173.95, bringing a total of £562.56 since April.

## 7. Planning

Willow Cottage, West Street. Withdrawn

Combe Lodge. No objection.

Barn on Fore Street. No objection.

Barn conversion at White Horse. No objection.

Solar factory at Buckhayes Farm. Response to be sent by 9/7/13

## 8.

a. The Pump House is much improved and Cllr Pope had secured two loads of sub soil to use in building the BMX site. Cllr Pitt suggested it was time to get the electricity reconnected. Proposed by Cllr Tanner seconded by Cllr Baker. A discussion took place regarding the installation of camera and this will be discussed in full at the next meeting. Cllr Ward stated that there is still church funding available towards the work at the Millennium Green.

b. The Environment Department will ensure that all asbestos is removed from the old school before demolition begins. Cllr Stanley said he thought Bath Demolition would most likely be doing the work and that their practices are sound.

c. A meeting regarding the Flood Plan is arranged for July 9<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped to establish an up to date volunteer list to support the plan.

d. Further to a meeting regarding the Parish Plan a list of eight initial points of action were agreed which would serve to improve Bampton for residents and visitors. ( Please see separate sheet). It was also noted that when current building works are completed there will be another two hundred houses in Bampton and the need to improve facilities to support them will be crucial.

e. A letter requesting £3,000 of BTC according to an agreement made with the previous council had been received. There appears to be a lack of any minute stating that this decision was proposed or seconded or agreed at a Finance meeting. It was agreed to contact the Heritage Centre Committee to request copies of relevant documentation. It was thought that the project would benefit the church, which has seen a rise in attendance recently due to various initiatives.

f. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Bampton Fair Steering Group will take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the Scout Hut. In the meantime Highways are to be contacted regarding the usual road closures.

g. To be discussed on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

h. A meeting with parents and children who use the Station Road play area was well attended with many suggestions being made as to how to improve the site. Steve Densham is to be asked about the possibilities when the meeting regarding the Shillingford park takes place.

i. Cllr Colthorpe is to arrange a site meeting to assess the need for a crossing at Newton Square. More near misses have been reported caused by the speed of traffic and large vehicles parking in the blind spot outside the Spar.

Traffic calming measures were also considered for Castle Street. A letter from Mrs Kenny regarding this point was discussed. Cllr Weston commented that large lorries wanting to reach his farm now had to use Castle Street and the parking there made this difficult. He went on to say his application to join the council was prompted by his desire to see parking restrictions on Castle Street as access to Ford Lane was similarly blocked by parked cars making access difficult from that end of town.

j. Regarding the recreation ground; it was thought that a meeting should be arranged with MDDC to discuss the whole site. The possibility of creating a by-law to ensure dog walkers do not spoil the area by leaving dog mess there. Prices have been requested from Wicksteed to reinstate the swings and signs to show the way to and give some information about the Castle are also being discussed. The plaque to show these are now part of the QEII Playing Fields scheme is also to be arranged.

k. Some consideration is also needed regarding the site of the new burial ground. Cllr Stanley suggested that this was also a matter to be discussed with Steve Densham as he knows of the process.

l. There will not be a break in meetings for the summer holiday and the next meeting will take place on Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup>.

m. The Riverside Hall; the previous clerk had spent a significant amount of time working with the Riverside Hall committee in helping to make the organisation more effective. The hall is well supported by volunteers and the whole situation is thought to be more healthy. It was however noted that significant repairs are required to parts of the property.

9. Cllr Ward raised a concern about the public toilets which he had found dirty and in a mess. Other councillors agreed that although the toilets had been kept very well for sometime it would be worth checking with the cleaner that he had access to all he needed to do the job.

A complaint had been made about finished metal works being left in the turning bay and on the pavements near the Global Industrial Estate. It was suggested that this may be something that MDDC Enforcement Office could deal with.

The Parish Lengthsman was to be asked to attend Ford Lane, and the path to Woodland Court where the trees around the light also needed cutting back.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

