

## **ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Parish Clerk's Report to the Annual Council Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

- 1 On 27<sup>th</sup> April, I attended on site with Cllr Pallett to discuss with the MD of Matthew Homes and local site managers the incursion on to Council land by the Developer's sub-contractor to gouge out a deep 3m wide ditch running for some 85m close to and parallel with the northern boundary of the newly acquired Council land adjacent to the development site. Full liability was accepted for the improper action and a deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> May was agreed for the receipt of revised proposals which are now with us and which clearly require a response informed by Council's own specialist professional advisor. Together with Cllrs Pallett and Barker I am looking, therefore, to instruct an appropriately qualified and experienced engineering practice.

Meanwhile, Council has received no further approach regarding the proposed easement to allow the installation of mains electricity cabling to the development site.
- 2 Elmswell Community Enterprise Limited (ECE) is now autonomous but, clearly, working closely in tandem with Council during the initial setting-up period. One of the benefits of this has been input from experienced and qualified ECE members towards interior design initiatives at Wesley in anticipation of the proposed formal opening there on 9<sup>th</sup> July. These include large photographic images featuring visually interesting aspects and perspectives of the Wesley facility together with the siting of indoor plants to soften the outline.

Meanwhile, short-listed architects have been interviewed and front-runners are set to present sketch plans and schematics of their initial vision for the Elmswell Tavern revamp by 27<sup>th</sup> May. Quotations are sought for a measured 3D survey of the building to be carried out in tandem with a structural survey so that, when an architect is appointed, some of the requisite preliminaries are dealt with allowing a faster start on the detailed design proposals. The Plunkett Foundation professional assigned to the project has begun the process of drawing up the Share Issue details and the all-important social media presence which will form an important element of the Share Issue launch is well in hand. Cllrs Pallett and Barker are working with me towards a proposal for the various aspects of tenure.
- 3 Cllr Pallett and I met with the 2 principals of Bacton Transport on 4<sup>th</sup> May to establish a working accord with the village as their large enterprise, comprising some 52 HGV units plus trailers and extensive logistics operations, moves on to Lawn Park. The meeting was thoroughly co-operative with regard to possible problems of vehicular access via Warren Lane, light pollution etc. and a very worthwhile relationship established. The Company has immediately booked Wesley for a management meeting.

- 4 BMSDC have launched a public consultation around cycling and walking infrastructure which has particular relevance in light of the Elmswell / Woolpit Community Path proposals both generally and as they might impinge on the primary school Travel Plan which EPC is keen to address. I have circulated Councillors (11.05) and will feature the initiative in the Newsletter.
- 5 The volunteers currently looking after the recycling centre at Station Road recently tried repeatedly to arrange an uplift of the over-full paper banks. When I contacted Mid Suffolk it transpires that the paper bank operator has, without notice, stopped offering the service. I have tried to ascertain the contractual basis whereby this can happen and sought assurances that any future arrangement will be on a more business-like footing. Mid Suffolk have agreed to provide skips for waste paper for Elmswell whilst a new contractor is sourced.
- 6 I have instructed Mark Johnson Design of Thurston to prepare all necessary drawings to allow EPC the option to make a full Planning application for residential development on the Council's plot at Crown Mill adjacent to Nos 2,4,6,8,&10. All of the households have been notified of Council's intentions in this regard and I have undertaken to keep them informed as and when the matter moves forward.
- 7 My thanks to Cllr Barker for his thorough and patient trawl through the Council files and records, both in paper and electronic form towards producing the Internal Control Report tabled at Agenda item 10. The 2 issues raised in the subsequent Internal Audit carried out by Heather Heelis of Heelis & Lodge have been addressed with immediate effect; the Privacy Policy is tabled for formal ratification at Agenda item 33 and will then be posted on the Council's website. Meanwhile, the Fidelity Insurance cover has been increased from £250,000.00 to £1,000,000.00 with immediate effect.
- 8 I contacted Neil McManus of SCC who has worked with us on strategic Planning issues in recent years to seek his help in trying to address the painful anomaly whereby Elmswell children are destined to be bussed to Woolpit every day to go to a newly planned primary school. I am to expect an approach from the appropriate SCC officers and will pursue this. Meanwhile, I have been approached by Messrs Endurance Estates seeking consultation regarding their recent submission to the emerging BMSDC Joint Local Plan which includes the suggestion of a new primary school site on land to the east of Eastern Way, as noted at our February meeting (21.02.11 refers). I have agreed to a further approach under the Council's Pre-application Protocol.

Peter Dow  
Clerk to the Council  
16.05.2021