

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 18th July 2022

1 I attended on-line with Cllr Mansel present at a meeting on 21st June to take further an investigation into the possibility of a more palatable solution to the inevitable future need for more primary school places than Elmswell Primary School can accommodate on the present site but avoiding the need for the children to be bussed out of the village. There now seems to be a consensus that an additional school in Elmswell would be the most desirable outcome and that investigation into the possibilities already tabled should continue. This includes the EPC suggestion of an agglomeration of 3 sites at School Road, accessed from Church Road and currently owned by SCC / MSDC with the added complication that the largest holding is now transferred to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is ring-fenced within the General Fund. The ensuing actions were agreed as:

- * confirmation of the Planning status of various option sites
- * confirmation of the process for unpicking the HRA constraints
- * circulation of imminent re-cast figures from SCC re pupil number forecasts
- * another meeting convened when all of the above points are to hand.

2 On 21st June I met with Cllr Pallett and Jenny Day, the Business Support Officer of Communities Together East Anglia, formerly BSEVC, towards taking further the initiative to provide community transport for Elmswell residents. The services on offer would seem to be adequate and efficient, obviating the need to look at anything specifically Elmswell based and organised. It was agreed that, as a next step, publicity via the Elmswell Newsletter should be used to assess local support. A firm relationship with CTEA is established and the outcomes of the advertising assessed towards further action.

3 I attended the Mid Suffolk Development Control Committee at Ipswich on 22nd June to reinforce EPC's case that there are shortcomings in the detail of the Reserved Matters Application ref DC/22/01615 which included the Early Years provision and highway improvements. There was considerable sympathy with the EPC case, particularly with regard to highways issues and Cllr Mellen continues to lobby and liaise towards a result which better accords with the result which had always been expected in terms of separation of the community path from the vehicular traffic and the widening of School Road to allow 2 HGV's to pass. The Conditions were approved, but the text has yet to be published.

4 I attended with Cllr Pallett at the Parking Strategy Consultation session held by BMSDC at Woolpit on 22nd June. There was a strong emphasis on car parks rather than car parking which does not address the issues which come to EPC related to problematic on-street parking, in particular at the school, in Station Road, at Shop Corner and at the railway station. There was a strong suggestion from what we saw and heard that the consultant-driven exercise is more about the process than the result. Nevertheless, I advertised the opportunity for comment in the Newsletter towards encouraging some reality into the process.

5 I was away on 4th July when the latest meeting between the parish councils and MSDC / SCC was held to take further the proposals for the Community Path between Elmswell and Woolpit. I have circulated the meeting notes and invite input from Councillors towards the next meeting. The route and engineering drawings are not yet in the public domain, although I can have reference to them to deal with any specific queries.

Peter Dow
Clerk to the Council
16.07.2022