

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26th September 2022

- 1 I attended with Cllr Pallett 2 meetings, on 20th July & 7th September, with SCC Highways officers including on site to discuss the best way forward in tackling proposed road safety initiatives in the village. This has already resulted in action with regard to the reinstatement of some road markings and further progress is the subject of agenda item 13.
- 2 I visited the consultation session held on 21st July at Stanton to publicise the proposals from developers Jaynic for the development of 91 acres of land at Shepherds Grove for employment uses including new access roads via a roundabout on the A143. Fears had been expressed that the considerable new traffic flows generated could impinge further on Elmswell where an element of traffic seeking to access Shepherd's Grove through Elmswell / Walsham is already a factor in vehicle counts over the railway crossing. There is clearly nothing to be done at this very early stage other than register EPC's legitimate interest and concerns which I have done.
- 3 I met with Cllrs Mansel, Pallett, and Shaw on 28th July to discuss the comments from our professional adviser Ian Poole of Places4Planning on the matters arising from the village-wide consultation via the Elmswell Newsletter on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Our review took account of statutory and other consultees beyond the immediate community. We were able to suggest that the process had not thrown up any substantive errors or omissions and that the Plan could go forward for SEA & SRA Screening Reports to Mid Suffolk.
- 4 I spoke at the Mid Suffolk Development Control Committee on 3rd August in support of EPC's case for Refusal of the Application for 19 houses at Grove Lane / Ashfield Road. With the unexpected support of SCC Highways officers, the Application was unanimously refused. An Appeal has been lodged and the Inspector's reasoning, either way, should be informative.
- 5 The matter of the incursion on to Council's land adjacent to Blackbourne and the excavation of a considerably over-sized drainage ditch by the developer building adjacent to the site remains unresolved pending agreement on the final terms of settlement. Engineering issues are substantially resolved but Council's case that the community should not suffer financially from the actions of the other side are subject to further discussion.
- 6 Two Council employees are undertaking training via SALC as part of their continuing professional development. David Austen has attended an all-day certificated play area safety training course and our Clerical Assistant, Lucy Holt, is beginning a modular on-line course on Council roles and responsibilities.

Peter Dow

Clerk to the Council

25.09.2022