

## **ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

- 1 On 30<sup>th</sup> January I met with Cllrs Pallett and Brown on site with a representative of Matthew Homes on site to discuss the progress in backfilling the errant swale on the new land at Blackbourne and the installation of a proper drainage feature. The works are largely finished and we will be informed when the site fencing is removed so that we can proceed with ground preparation including the possibility of land drains yet to be discussed by BWMA members who will advise.
- 2 I attended the MSDC liaison meeting at Stowmarket on 7<sup>th</sup> February and noted presentations from officers on Planning, the 2023/24 budget, election arrangements and Localities arrangements. This was the first session since covid. Outside of the formal presentations, the opportunity for informal liaison with officers, Members and other T&PC representatives is productive.
- 3 I took the opportunity to bring Caroline Lucas MP, engaged in a tour of the constituency, to the village to help with the planting of the 9 trees at Clay Field which are replacing the 3 to be felled to avoid further nuisance to households in Thedwastre Close. The Press interest, including a TV crew, helps raise EPC's profile in terms of active and practical initiatives. I extended Council's thanks to the ElmsWild volunteers who advised on the planting in conjunction with Janet Spencer, our Tree Warden. This group has also been instrumental in the creation of a tree nursery, now established, in liaison with the Amenities Association, on land to the rear of the Memorial Library. This will serve to safely hold the plants being acquired for the extensive shelter-belt perimeter hedging around the new land at Blackbourne for planting in November.
- 4 I met with Cllr Hancock and the BMSDC Economy Project Officer on 16<sup>th</sup> February to establish an input to the Councils' community energy projects initiative and to the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership regarding the aspiration to have a community wind turbine erected at the perimeter of the new Blackbourne land. There are several preliminary stages before any specifications are determined for the basis of community consultation. These will be triggered by the imminent Government decision to rescind the current ban on land based turbines.
- 5 I have been approached by a Planning Agent on behalf of a client seeking feedback on a proposal to site a development of sheltered accommodation on land to the north of St John's and south of Parnell Lane. I confirmed that all previous attempts to develop this land had been met with considerable community opposition and had subsequently foundered. I understand that a community consultation session is planned.

**Peter Dow**  
**19.02.2023**