

ELMSWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting on 19th June 2023

- 1 Responding to input from residents, I have liaised with Network Rail regarding the all-encompassing, often offensive, graffiti at Lord's Bridge. This is, over the years since installation, a recurring issue. NR have, in the past, refused permission for volunteer efforts on the ubiquitous H&S grounds. We have improved our relationship with the regulator over recent years, largely through the support of MARPA. On this occasion the job was very thoroughly done within a few weeks. Watch that space.
- 2 Again, prompted by residents' complaints, I inspected the considerable overgrowth along the pedestrian ways at William Armstrong Close / Bennett Avenue. Responsibility would inevitably be disputed between MSDC /SCC and remedial action would not be swift. I had our Caretaker do a thorough one-off job which attracted notice and thanks from residents who might now be able to stay on top of the problem themselves.
- 3 I spent some time at Wesley on 23rd May with 2 members of the BMSDC Communities Team discussing the range of grant / CIL options available for EPC projects. I then joined the BMSDC CIL team in a Teams meeting on 1st June towards clarifying the position regarding the application of CIL funding beyond the Neighbourhood allocations to projects such as the Elmswell Tavern and the degree to which the community enterprise basis of such ventures renders them free from constraints as a 'business'. The dialogue continues.
- 4 The first meeting of Elmswell Community Enterprise shareholders was held on 13th June and attended by over half of the 279 investors in the project to refurbish the Elmswell Tavern as a Community Pub. The majority of those attending were new to any community involvement in Elmswell and a good proportion are entirely new to the village, bringing a refreshing new energy which may well be reflected more widely in village life. It was encouraging to hear wide appreciation of what Elmswell has achieved over recent years and of a determination that the Tavern scheme will continue as a key factor in a community which is taking account of the pressures of the recent relentless housing development. Elmswell Parish Council is held in some esteem as the driver of recent progress and as the prime mover in having saved the Greene King site from commercial development. The first AGM is due towards the end of the month and this will trigger a new phase in the undertaking with a broader spread of community input drawn from the new Membership.

Peter Dow
18.06.2023