

## **Four Marks Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Tim Brake, John Davis, Davie Edgar, John Hammond, Kellie Knight, David Mills, Derek Seaton, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Goudie (Clerk), District Cllrs Jackson & Thomas, 9 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** None

---

#### **16.124 OPEN SESSION**

Sophie Barnett, 68 Lymington Bottom, wished to speak on the planning application for Virginia, 115 Lymington Bottom. Her concerns were that this proposal is overdevelopment on what is a rural edge to the village. This is 5 houses in a cul-de-sac in what is currently a linear layout. The parking issue with the school is already a huge problem and also raised concerns over the topography of the plot.

Kay Johnson, 72 Lymington Bottom, although in a difficult position is directly opposite the proposed development and is concerned over the density of the houses and the fact that it will change the whole character of that area of the village, and if approved will set a precedent for the future.

Christine Friar, 107 Lymington Bottom, lives next door to the application site. Also expressed concern over the density and the three properties to the rear of the development, being too high and do not want the replication of the situation in Brislands Lane. This is still a very rural part of Four Marks and the proposals are out of character. Also has serious concerns over the school traffic problems.

Bob Moore, 64 Lymington Bottom, re-iterated the concerns of his neighbours and referred to the Neighbourhood plan and village design statement. The design of the properties within the development is completely out of context not only with the immediate area, but Four Marks in general.

Michael Collings, Alton Lane. Although he owns the land to the rear of the site, due to the inaccuracy of the plan showing incorrect boundaries, they were not consulted by the applicants. Part of the development lies outside the settlement policy boundary, and due to the topography of the site, he will be affected by the height of the rear dwellings. Also raising concerns over the serious parking issues and also queried why there was no planning application notice outside the property.

Cllr Ingrid Thomas wished to update the meeting with reference to the Benjamin UK situation and confirmed that this would be a permanent cabinet meeting agenda item until the situation is resolved. HCC are very concerned about the whole situation and their lack of knowledge of their operation and are working with EHDC to try and find a way to resolve the concerns. The local MP has also been advised and consulted. Any update would be conveyed to the Council as and when available.

Mrs Friar asked if there was any update on Devolution. District Councillor Thomas appraised her of the situation to date and that HCC had run a consultation proposing to become a Unitary Council which take over all services. Cllr Simon Thomas also responded in that he has heard both sides of the argument and spent a good deal of time on this issue. He confirmed that a representation has been sent on behalf of the Parish Council but was hopeful that there would be more consultations from other parties in due course.

Cllr Brake raised concern that the update page in the Village Design Statement did not appear on the website. The Clerk agreed to look into this as a matter of urgency.

**The Open Session concluded at 7.50pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **16.125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **16.126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman declared an in interest in Agenda Item 13. The Vice Chairman had agreed to Chair the meeting at that point.

#### **16.127 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016**, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Brake, and seconded by Cllr Edgar. Cllr Thomas brought a typo to the attention of the meeting, which would be corrected prior to signing and publication.
- Matters arising.  
The Clerk confirmed a conversation had taken place with EHDC with reference to the parking problems at the school and that they would be working with the school and look at options to potentially alleviate the situation.

#### **16.128 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT AND PLANNING ITEMS:**

- The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had been circulated. Cllr Thomas summarised the salient points from the meetings, as below.
  - **Neighbourhood Plan.** It had been agreed that there was a need for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group to continue in a slightly different format and a new Terms of Reference had been circulated for approval. However subsequently Medstead Parish Council had raised some concerns with the new terms, which needed addressing and also Andy Hickman had indicated he would like to stay involved. An amended version would be submitted for approval in due course.
  - **Councillor Training.** It was agreed that Councillor training was important, particularly on planning, and the Clerk had agreed to liaise with HALC for a trainer to come to the Parish and conduct a Council session rather than some individual training.
  - **Planning**
    - Both applications at Westwood, 119 Lymington Bottom had been withdrawn.
    - The Parish Council supported Medstead Parish Council's objections to amended plans for Land to the West of Lymington Bottom Road.
    - Land to the East of Kitwood Place, an old chicken farm with several outbuildings although currently a storage and distribution facility, had been granted pre-application approval to convert two agricultural buildings to residential. An application had been received to demolish and rebuild which was not as detailed in the conditions of approval. There is a potential here for up to 6 dwellings in an area that is outside the settlement policy boundary. This site needs to be watched closely. Ropley Parish Council supported the objections to this application.
  - **Appeals**
    - Support is being given to Medstead Parish Council with their current appeals.
    - It had just been confirmed that the Janelands enforcement appeal would be held in January.
    - There were no dates yet for either the SINC or Blackberry Lane appeals.
- Planning Applications:  
Reference No: 56591  
Location: Virginia, 115 Lymington Bottom, Four Marks, GU34 5AH

Proposal: Five detached dwellings with associated car parking/garaging, and widening of access road, following demolition of existing dwelling.

Four Marks Parish Council **strongly object** to this application for the following reasons:

- **Policy.**
  - The location of the proposed development is directly on the border of the Settlement Policy Boundary (SPB), part of the site itself lies outside the SPB. Therefore it is in the countryside on the edge of the settlement and subsequently not compliant with Policy CP19 and CP20 of EHDC's Local Plan JCS, or with guidelines laid out in the NPPF.
  - The proposed dwellings are completely out of character with its surroundings, this is development of a residential garden, therefore the proposals will harm local character and therefore contrary to Policy 1 (3.4) of the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Drainage.** The junction with Lymington Bottom, Alton Lane, Kitwood Road, Gradwell Lane and Hawthorn Road floods after heavy rain due to the topography of this area, this is a long standing problem, and has never been resolved. The addition of 4 new dwellings in this area will exacerbate this problem, despite the proposed SUDS drainage system for surface water.
- **Topography.** The three proposed dwellings to the rear of the development will be considerably higher than the proposed dwellings to the front of development, which are already higher than the existing property, therefore highlighting their disparity with their surroundings.
- **Design.** They proposed dwellings are completely at odds with the recommendations laid out in the Village Design Statement, Page 15 (bullet points 1-5). The Village Design Statement is an adopted supplementary planning document, therefore material considerations and their guidance needs to be considered in planning applications. (Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, 1.32).
- **Traffic and Highways Concerns.**
  - No traffic or road survey has been provided with this application.
  - This area is highly congested twice a day due to the high volume of school traffic. Whilst parking provision within the site would not cause additional parking issues, at certain times of the day there would be no sightline, despite the increase in visibility splay, due to on carriageway parking by school traffic, therefore making egress onto Lymington Bottom extremely dangerous. (Photographic evidence attached).
  - The transport survey was carried out during the school holidays, therefore not a true reflection of the situation.
  - The transport survey also states that it is less than a mile's walking distance to the shops and a km to the bus stop, this is underestimated, and involves a steep walk uphill taking any route. Car journeys would be inevitable.
  - A traffic survey was carried out on behalf of the Parish Council in January 2015, this recorded up to 1700 vehicle movements per day at this site. From data taken from the Speed Limit Repeater sign, which when in operation is sited opposite the development site, the average speed here is 40mph.
  - The Parish Council disagree with the Highways statement that the potential traffic generation from four additional dwellings would not have a severe detrimental impact on the operation and safety of the highway network. The photographic evidence and data collected confirm that there are serious concerns over the impact that, potentially, a minimum of 10 additional vehicles accessing and egressing at this point each day would have over both the pedestrian and vehicle safety at peak times.

- Inaccurate submission material. It appears that a location plan with incorrect boundary lines has been used to show the plot in relation to neighbouring properties, this gives an inaccurate perception of the development in relation to the property in Alton Lane, whose garden directly borders the site, 119 Lymington Bottom and the Settlement Policy Boundary. Plans with the correct boundaries can be viewed on planning application 21763/003.
- **Pre Application Advice.** The applicant does not appear to have taken into consideration the pre-application advice that this development will be at odds with the Neighbourhood Plan and EHDC's Local Plan Policy 29.

In summary, this is a high density, out of character with its surroundings, proposal contrary to Policies CP19, 20 and 29 of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy and Policy 1 of the Medstead and Four Marks Neighbourhood Plan, with little consideration of the guidelines laid out in the Village Design Statement and known traffic issues, and as such respectfully ask the Planning Officer to **refuse** this application.

#### **16.129 OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- The minutes of the Open Space Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had been circulated.

The Chairman summarised the salient points from the aforementioned meetings, as below:

- Cemetery. Following a recent application for a headstone that breached statutory regulations, as detailed in the Winchester Diocese Standard charter, had prompted a revision to the Parish Council's regulations with a need to be more detailed about the nature of headstones and reference to the Diocese stipulations. The new regulations would be brought to Full Council for formal adoption.
- Benian's Pavilion. Comments on the proposed expansion had been noted for passing on to the Committee, with a preference for Option C, however following that meeting and further advice, it had been noted that on two options that the kitchen was internal with no natural light or ventilation and that Option B was the most practical solution to the lack of bar and lounge space, and far more cost effective. These would be forwarded on by the Council's representative.
- Site visits. Two site visits had taken place prior to the meeting, one at the Lymington Bottom Green, where a maintenance proposal was explained, and subsequently approved, and the second was to discuss the hedgerow between the Recreation Ground and Medstead Farm. Following which a proposal which included a rural style deer fencing with wooden posts, followed by maintenance and removal of deadwood, weed treating and planting programme, was approved, using developers contributions and grants. The Ash Tree, which had a Tree Preservation Order, which had been removed due to disease issues would need to be replaced and guidance was awaited from EHDC's Arboriculturist.
- Cricket. There had been no compromise on the availability following a meeting with the Archers, and as such the Alton juniors may not return next year. However, John Cook (Hampshire cricket) had a proposal for Sunday afternoon non-league cricket, which he is going to present to the Open Space Committee in due course. It had been agreed, however, to spend the funds to put the wicket 'to bed' for the winter as it would be a shame not to after the efforts to get it up and running this year.
- Oak Green. The tender was now ready to begin the procurement process, although concerns were raised over project management and ensuring that similar problems to the previous refurbishment were not encountered. Cllr Brake advised of a local resident who may be keen to project manage.
- Benians Pavilion Fees. Although this item crossed two Committees, Open Space and Finance, it was discussed under Open Space. The Pavilion makes a loss of approximately £2,000 per year and it was agreed that the Parish Council needs to try and make up this shortfall, particularly in the light of potential future changes. It was

agreed that at least two clubs are not paying an appropriate amount for the usage of the Pavilion, and their fees must be increased appropriately. Although there was some difference of opinion over the proposals, it was agreed that the Archers, being the most dominant user, must have their fees increased significantly. Cllr Davis, with his financial prowess was asked to prepare a profit and loss report to justify the increases. A second proposal was to keep the fees at a similar rate (excluding the Archers and the Sports & Social Club) but ask the Committee for a payment at the end of the financial year to make up the difference. A third proposal was added to this, which was to offer the committee a lease for the building as a whole, details to be agreed, and this was considered to be a potential option for proposal. It was agreed to increase the ad hoc hiring cost to £10 an hour. All increases would take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

District Councillor Thomas suggested the Parish Council contact Liz Panton, who has experience with leasing issues and may be willing to help. The Clerk agreed to make contact with her.

### **16.130 FINANCE**

- The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July had been circulated.
- Cllr Foster advised the members that the Clerk had requested the support of the Parish Council to obtain her CiLCA qualification (Certificate in Local Council Administration) which would be beneficial to the future running of the Parish Council and would enable them to become eligible to adopt the General Power of Competence should the two thirds of the Council be declared elected in the future. The financial cost to the Council would be £500 for the portfolio and include four one day training courses. The qualification is to be completed within one year. It was RESOLVED to agree this request following proposal by Cllr Knight, seconded by Cllr Brake and approved unanimously.
- Following the conclusion of the audit and return of the Annual Return and Certificate from the External Auditor, a Minute needs to be recorded of its approval. The Acceptance and Approval of the Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 was proposed by Cllr Foster, seconded by Cllr Tomlinson, and carried unanimously. The issues arising from the report, which was the lack of documented review of the Risk Assessment, have already been addressed, and added to the annual review procedure.
- Following approval at the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the permanent appointment of Lesley Chandler as Deputy Clerk, the Clerk asked for approval to offer salary scale LC1 Point 15. Cllr Brake proposed the request, this was seconded by Cllr Thomas, and agreed by all members.
- The Clerk had circulated the receipts and payments for the months ending 31<sup>st</sup> July and August 2016, and circulated the receipts and payments to date at the meeting. There were no questions and were proposed for approval by Cllr Tomlinson, seconded by Cllr Thomas and agreed.

### **16.131 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Foster closed the meeting at 9.00pm to allow the District Councillors to speak during this Agenda item.

Councillor Ingrid Thomas' report was circulated at the meeting and is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 1.

Cllr Foster asked if anyone had given her any feedback on Butserfest? Cllr Thomas responded not as yet, they were trying to ascertain whether a two day festival would be better with two different genres of music but she was still awaiting comments at this stage.

Cllr Deborah Jackson reported that the 6 week diversion at Lymington Bottom bridge had been as successful as possible and the diversion had not caused too much upheaval or damage to verges as predicted, primarily due to the good weather, although there were a few speeding incidences reported. Cala Homes have now started work and Friars Oak, now their conditions are discharged, will start at the end of October. Some works have been carried out in Boyneswood Road at the bridge, with more to follow.

The Bargate Homes (Beechlands development) reserved matters are now in, and the location and direction of the sewage pipe has caused much discussion.

Cllr Jackson offered her congratulations to Cllr Thomas on her appointment to the Cabinet, and invited members to attend the re-formatted Council meetings where there was to be more debate allowed.

Both District Councillors were thanked for their attendance, and the formal meeting re-opened at 9.20pm.

### **16.132 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

- Allotments; Cllr Davis. The inadequate Constitution had been raised at Monday's Committee meeting, and Cllr Davis had been volunteered to rewrite the offending clauses to ensure that the Allotments could be run effectively. The waiting list of 7 was now down to 1, due to tenancies being ended due to neglect. There were elements of dissention within the Committee and a re-think had taken place, hopefully resulting in a better dialogue with the plot holders
- Footpaths; Cllr Mills. Still two footpaths to check and still waiting for the concrete bollard to be removed from footpath 6.
- Oak Green; Cllr Foster. Although only September, Cllr Foster asked for proposed dates for the Christmas tree to be erected, it was suggested that the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December would be the most appropriate and Garthowen would be approached to see if this was convenient. Cllr Thomas also announced that Fine Cuts was shutting.
- Village Hall; Cllr Mills. Chris Lake was now looking at proposals for connection to mains drainage or provision of their own drainage, following concerns of joining with the new development. He also confirmed that Trustees were covered on their own insurance. Price increases would be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and concern had been expressed over the replacement cost for the chair lift. Cllr Mills was of the opinion that as it was used so little, and currently still worked, that a replacement costing around £7,000 would not be appropriate at this stage. There was still discussion over the new storage and that the nursery stuff was not being put away and that there was nowhere for the chairs to be stored, which means they have to be carted up the stairs every time they need to be used. The Clerk thanked Cllr Mills for moving them up for the meeting.
- EHAPTC & Harah report. Cllr Thomas.  
The HARAH Rural affordable housing event was enlightening, particularly as there are really difficulties, financially, providing the needed housing. Although Four Marks, being one of the bigger parishes, are already providing affordable housing through the large developments. Site allocations for affordable housing are being dealt with through Stage 3 of the Local Plan.  
The EHAPTC welcomed the new Chairman, and his Clerk. Ferris Cowper, EHDC leader gave a presentation on EHDC's view of Devolution. Do we devolve, and have a democratically elected mayor? Do we join the Solent bid? There was a split reaction and he received aggressive responses from those opposed to his preferred way forward. It is clear that the smaller parishes will suffer and there will be an inevitable clustering of parishes. But no-one knows at this stage what is going to happen. Emotions ran high as the majority felt that East Hampshire is not part of the Solent, being rural and having more in common with Hart and Test Valley. Cllr Thomas suggested that the two leaders stop sniping and sit down and talk, as other counties have had to do.

There was also a discussion on the Parish Charter, details of which had been circulated by the Clerk for any comments and a detailed presentation on the second TAG consultation, which has raised serious concerns, particularly the lack of detail on the proposals. The local MP has become heavily involved in this, together with others with experience in air traffic working together to try and influence the CAA's decision.

#### **16.133 CHAIRMAN AND CLERK'S NOTICES:**

- Chairman's notifications;
  - DBS checks for staff. The Clerk had been made aware that HALC were suggesting that Clerk's were DBS checked. After discussion, and the Clerk confirming that she had not, to date, been in a one to one situation with unaccompanied children, that she felt that it was not necessary bearing in mind the cost implication. However Councillors were not all of the same opinion and it was put to the vote, 5 were for the proposal and 5 against, the Chairman then used her casting vote to vote against, to confirm that, at this stage, it was not necessary. However it was agreed that it would be reviewed if required or if there should be a change of circumstance. Cllr Mills also agreed that he would check, when attending the Rospa playsafety course, whether he should be DBS checked to carry out the inspections role.
  - TAG Farnborough. Following Cllr Thomas report on the EHAPTC meeting, Cllr Mills also raised concern over the consultation. It is restricting comments, the maps were showing a line not a corridor, there was no definition and it is hard to determine the routes. Concern was also expressed that they were running their own consultation. It was agreed that the Parish Council should respond to this second consultation, and Cllr Mills agreed to prepare a response for the Clerk to submit.
- Clerk notifications
  - HCC Road Traffic Accident survey. A request had been made to Hampshire Police to provide up to date RTA statistics for Four Marks, which they advised would cost £36. It was agreed that it would be worth paying for, however to try and save the cost, Hampshire County Council, through Mark Kemp Gee, were approached to see if this information was available through them for no cost. This was confirmed as not possible. So a cheque had been raised and the application sent off for the report.
  - Late correspondence. The Clerk advised that she had received an email that day advising of a DCLG 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement Consultation, this had also been circulated by HALC, advising extreme concern and advising that the Agenda for the AGM would be changed to discuss this issue. This would be an Agenda item for the next Full Council meeting, to prepare a submission from the Parish Council. The Clerk also reminded Councillors of the date of the HALC AGM and asked for any Councillors wishing to attend to contact her to book their place.

#### **16.134 COMMUNITIES BUILDINGS PROJECT**

Cllr Seaton had circulated and up to date report requesting a decision for them to move forward with, as detailed with that report.

Cllr Tomlinson asked Cllr Seaton who was involved in that meeting, and Cllr Seaton confirmed that it was currently Mervin Dunwoody, Mike Hall, Tim Brake, Bryan Timms and himself. Cllr Seaton was asked to clarify attendance on all reports. Chris Lake did not want to be involved at this stage.

The report focused on thoughts of possibilities and contained details on a survey of existing facilities. They had come to the conclusion that a new building was required, as the current buildings are not

sufficient to meet the current needs, and the only place to provide this was on the Recreation Ground, and would the Parish Council make a site available for that purpose?

Cllr Mills was concerned that the Scout Hut had not been considered in this report and queried the limited use of the Primary School.

Cllr Knight asked what kind of bookings were the Village Hall turning away, and would a new building rectify this or would the same problems arise.

It was agreed that better statistics should be presented, and a full assessment of the need documented. What type of activity is not being catered for or being turned away? An analysis should be prepared of who is using each building how often, and by how many, this would include the Benians Pavilion and Scout hut, and a report containing evidence of need, the ages of users. It may be that one large building to replace other facilities may not be appropriate, but to improve what is there to get maximum usage from all. The village is linear and maybe upgraded facilities in different locations may be more appropriate.

What is clear is that all the facilities require updating and the working party were proposing to carry out site visits at similar size parishes to make comparisons.

It was agreed that more research needed to be carried out before a decision is made, and it was agreed that this would be carried out.

Cllr Foster raised concerns that Cllr Seaton is the representative on the Benians Committee and on the community projects working party and that there was potential for a conflict of interest. It was agreed that although it may not be the case, it could be perceived that his involvement with both could be seen to have an element of bias, and it was agreed that a new representative, one that is not involved in the working party, should be appointed. Cllr Knight, having already resigned from the working party, agreed to take this role back on.

## **16.135 CODE OF MEMBERS CONDUCT**

Due to the Chairman's declaration of interest in this item, Cllr Tomlinson took over the Chair.

Cllr Seaton had asked for the correspondence details between himself and the Chairman to be brought to the attention of the members of the Council and discussed as an Agenda item. He was invited to address the Council and he asked the members whether they felt he had breached the Code of Conduct and the letter written to him by the Chairman was warranted.

The Chairman was asked to explain the reasons why she felt the Code of Conduct had been breached, and continued to detail the events leading up to, and reasons for, the submission of the letter to Cllr Seaton. Evidence was given of four separate issues where it was felt that Cllr Seaton had not acted appropriately in his position as Parish Councillor.

Cllr Tomlinson then asked both Cllrs Foster and Seaton and members of the public to leave, and the meeting continued, under Closed Session.

The Clerk advised members of the legal position and rules and regulations that applied to Councillors and after a detailed discussion between all remaining Councillors, Cllr Tomlinson agreed to speak to both separately and advise each member of the conclusions reached, before returning to the meeting.

In summary, both perspectives were understood, and members were supportive of this issue being brought to Council, and of both member's positions. It was RESOLVED that the code of conduct had not been breached, however to avoid further issues, it was agreed that Cllr Seaton should

concentrate solely on the Communities Project, and correspondence under the Parish Council name would require agreement of the Chair or Vice Chair. Also, whilst the members were fully supportive of the Chairman's role and the reasons why the letter was sent, she was asked to acknowledge that there had been no breach.

Both members returned to the meeting and acknowledged the respective requests, and the meeting was re-opened, and Cllr Foster re-took the Chair.

**16.136 NEXT MEETING:**

<b>Planning Committee</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2016, 7.30pm, Benians Pavilion
<b>Open Space Committee</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2016, 8.30pm, Benians Pavilion
<b>Full Council Meeting</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2016, 7.30pm, Village Hall

**16.137 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.30 pm.**

.....  
**Chairman**

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Last night's thunderstorm had all the ingredients of a battle, rather reflecting what is happening on the devolution front. Hampshire County Council is pushing hard for its Unitary Authority solution whilst the District Councils continue to work towards Combined Authorities. To me the best solution would be to maintain the current system until a properly agreed plan can be made which will benefit all of our community.

Personally I feel that until Government has worked out what to do with Brexit and has made a firm plan for that, they should not be changing Local Government especially if it means we will have less of a say in what happens in our villages. Sadly at the end of the day it will not be either local council but central Government who make the decision which will affect us all.

I was pleased to attend probably the last meeting of the Brislands Lane liaison group with Charles Church, the group have been through a long and at times extremely frustrating period. Some of the issues raised have been solved whilst others came up meeting after meeting.

Having heard rather a lot about the problems that new residents are having with the homes built on the same site I sincerely hope that Charles Church will quickly remedy the problems.

Developers have a real duty to try to make their presence in our community as painless for local residents as possible. I am still trying to arrange the initial meetings with other developers who have now started working in our villages. It has not gone without notice that Cala have yet to put up signage of routes for their deliveries to ensure lorries use the agreed routes which is not a good start.

The site at Friars Oak seems to have finally begun, the non-material amendment which we were all so opposed has taken up a lot of my time over the last two months but I think a solution is near. The reserve matters for the site at the end of Beechlands Road have now arrived and are available for comment on EHDC website.

This weekend Butser Hill was the venue for the 10th Butserfest which is a festival for younger (or older) people which is alcohol and drug free, over 3000 young people attended and appeared to be having a great time even in the rain. If you are one of the younger members of our community I would be very interested to hear your thoughts about the festival and how it could be improved for you.

As ever if I can be of assistance to you on any District Council matters please contact me and I will do my best to help.

**Ingrid Thomas**

**East Hampshire District Councillor for Four Marks and Medstead**