

## **Four Marks Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017, 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, Dave Mills, Simon Thomas, Anne Tomlinson and Karin Black

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs S Goudie (Clerk), District Cllrs Ingrid Thomas and Deborah Jackson (for part), 3 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** None

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#### **17.15 OPEN SESSION**

Cllr Janet Foster opened the meeting and invited the members of the general public in attendance to speak.

Mr Mike Smith, advised the Parish Council as the former Treasurer of the Four Marks Youth Club, that he is currently holding an amount of £9,500 which had been held in account since the club closed some 25 years ago. He would like to now hand this money over to the Parish Council on the proviso that it is ring fenced and only used for projects that would benefit the youth of Four Marks, and that he, along with four other committee members, are consulted prior to the money being used to ensure that it is being spent as per their wishes. Cllr Foster thanked Mr Smith and requested that any conditions must be put in writing to FMPC as to the use of the funds.

Mr Simon Shapland raised the issue of mud on the pavement on Lymington Bottom Road from Winston Rise to the bridge. Both Cllr Foster and Cllr Hammond confirmed that they had both raised the same issue and hopefully it would be dealt with urgently. He also raised the missing concrete bollards outside Tescos and the Chinese, and the issue of cars parking on the pavement. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted HCC and had been informed that as this area is privately owned it was out of their jurisdiction. Mr Shapland also questioned the memorial push testing at the Cemetery, and asked what the Parish Council were doing to reinstate a public house in Four Marks. The Clerk responded to the Cemetery query and Mr Shapland was advised that as a public house is a commercial concern, the Parish Council cannot do anything, other than consider any application of a public house in the village.

PCSO Matt Shepherd reported two burglary incidents in the last couple of months and a suspicious siting of a white transit in various locations. There was also a tyre slashing incident reported, and a report of drug paraphernalia found in the Village Hall car park. They were going to increase police presence in the area. PCSO Shepherd also advised of some 'Nottingham knockers' incidents, where young offenders knock on doors to sell goods, he advises everyone to check before opening the door and he agreed to send the Clerk posters to put on notice boards to make people aware.

Cllr Brake asked when the Police Station in Alton was moving to Mill Lane and PCSO Shepherd confirmed that it should be 20<sup>th</sup> March, but likely to be pushed back due to proposed roadworks in Mill Lane at that time. He also confirmed that the response officers would still be based in Alton.

**The Open Session concluded at 7.55pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **17.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **17.17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **17.18 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr Karin Black signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting, the Chairman welcomed her to the Council.

### **17.19 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- There were two issues raised on the draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017**, previously circulated. Minute 17.05; under Finance & General Purposes meeting report, it was agreed to correct referral to division 8 to level 12 and 'could be' to replace 'would very likely' to ensure greater clarity and Minute 17.11 under the response to the Medstead Post Office consultation, replace 'moving the' to 'providing a' to avoid the agreed decision to be misconstrued. The wording was changed as agreed, and the Minutes were subsequently proposed as a true record by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Brake, approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no further matters arising.

### **17.20 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- Planning Committee, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.  
Report from Planning Committee Chairman:
  - Confirmation that the Janelands appeal had been deferred with no re-commencement date as yet.
  - Magpie Lodge, Station Approach. This application had been difficult to comment on as the plans were not easily readable, and clarification had been sought over some concerns.
  - On decisions notified, permission had been granted to allow the golf club to continue operating with the correct licences in place, and 3 Gloucester Close had been granted approval for their proposed changes.
  - The Appeal had been allowed at Mansfield Park, Station Approach, Medstead for 9 dwellings, which was disappointing but not unexpected.
  - The Committee had been advised that some decisions were imminent under delegated powers, however the District Councillor was liaising with the relevant planning officers as the Parish Council had raised concern over one of these applications and if amendments were not made to the application, a request would be made for the application to be heard at Committee.
  - Following the concern raised over the incorrect removal of hedges on several recent developments, strong and enforceable conditions were to be implemented on the Glenmore, Lymington Bottom application to ensure that the hedge would remain and contractor parking would all be on site.
  - The definition of affordable housing had been raised at the planning committee meeting, as the term affordable is being used to market the new houses off Lymington Bottom Road, and the price appears to contradict the term 'affordable'. The District Councillor confirmed that the definition of 'affordable housing' in planning terms, is that the price of the property is 20% cheaper than the market rate of the same house type in the same location.

Two issues were raised on the Minutes of the above meeting, and it was agreed that these should be raised at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

- Open Space Committee Meeting, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.  
Report from Open Space Committee Chairman:
  - A meeting had now been held to discuss the 2017 Four Marks Fun Run, which this year is being held in conjunction with the Alresford 10k, with combined prizes being offered for best result over both events. This event will be the start of the proposed health and well-being event 'Festiwell', on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Children's races will be held at the Recreation Ground.
  - A meeting had also been held with representatives from the Football Club, who detailed what was required for promotion to the next league and their proposals, which would be discussed in detail at the next Open Space meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
  - The Benian's Committee have been invited to a formal meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the Agenda would be sent out to all members prior to that meeting, and a pre-meeting discussion would take place prior to the Open Space meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March.
  - Confirmation that Hampshire Cricket had booked the Four Marks Cricket ground and facilities for some disability cricket and softball matches, hire details were yet to be agreed.

There were again queries on the Open Space Committee Minutes, all of which would be raised again at the next Open Space meeting, however for clarity:

- On Minute 17.20, the footpath referred to should read 17b not 71b.
- Minute 17.20. The Minutes do not make clear where the Swing gate is that is referred to, and the words 'children's play area' will be added to heading to clarify.

#### **17.21 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

- Post Office residents meeting. Cllr Thomas attended the meeting and was asked to give a short summary of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to discuss lobbying the post office to consider a franchise in Four Marks. It was attended by approximately 120 residents, including support from local businesses, and two Medstead Councillors. The Post Office had declined to attend. Approximately 400 leaflets had been delivered to promote the meeting. Cllr Thomas confirmed that the Hardware store branch would be closing in March, but the owner of the Handy Store had yet to carry out the refurbishment nor been trained as the Post Office were awaiting the outcome of the consultation. There was no doubt that there was proof of increased footfall, but this was not one of the Post Office's criteria. District Councillor Deborah Jackson also spoke at the meeting, warning that this aggressive approach may divide the communities, which both Parish Council's had fought hard to re-establish cohesion, and raised concern that this may put the franchise in Medstead in jeopardy.  
The outcome was that a letter would be sent in an attempt to lobby the Post Office and Cllr Thomas confirmed he had subsequently provided the correct statistics that had been wrongly presented that night for submission.
- The Chairman confirmed that as COGS organise regular litter picks that the Parish Council would not get involved in the District wide initiative in March.
- The Chairman also raised the suggestion of employing a part time Groundsman/handyman, although this would not include the grass cutting. Initial concerns were the cost implications of NI and Pension obligations, and it was agreed that the Clerk should seek advice from other sources, look further into job description and costs, for further discussion at the Open Space Committee meeting.

#### **17.22 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Both District Councillor reports were submitted prior to the meeting and attached to the Minutes as Appendix 1 and 2, and were thanked for their detailed articles.

District Cllr Thomas confirmed that she had asked the Planning Officer to write to the Applicant and request that the new dwelling at Westwood, Lymington Bottom is reduced in height to a single storey dwelling, and therefore in keeping with its surroundings, and if this request was not forthcoming then a request would be made for this to be heard at Committee.

District Councillor Thomas also raised two issues on matters raised earlier in the meeting and confirmed that she would provide the parish office with application forms for affordable housing and suggested that maybe consulting with Medstead over the potential of a shared groundsman/handyman.

"Festiwell". An initial meeting had been held and District Councillor Thomas confirmed that she was now working hard at EHDC to put this event together.

Following a question from the Parish Council, also confirmed that the handing over of land to Parish's was not on the agenda at the moment.

Finally, following concerns raised over the mud on Lymington Bottom Road and the pavement, District Councillor Thomas had attended a meeting with Simon Jenkins, Head of Planning, that Monday and the lack of conditioned site wheel-washer at the Miller Homes development was raised, but confirmed it would help the case if the Parish Council were to also raise this directly with Mr Jenkins.

#### **17.23 FINANCIAL ISSUES**

- (a) It was RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Thomas, to approve the list of payments made in January 2017, as **detailed below**.

## List of Payments made between 01/01/2017 and 31/01/2017

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
03/01/2017	Reg Pullen	1954	27.90		Travel expenses for SLR
03/01/2017	James Coles Services	1955	53.60		Cleaning - Benians Pavilion
05/01/2017	Talk Talk Business	DD	27.54		Office phone/internet-dec/jan
10/01/2017	SSE Southern Electric	1956	18.81		Bowls Club - Electricity
10/01/2017	Kevin Perkins	1957	48.00		Electrics - Oak Green
10/01/2017	Hampshire Woodlands Ltd	1958	1,176.00		Open space tree works
10/01/2017	Four Marks Village Hall	1959	45.00		Hall Hire Nov/Dec
11/01/2017	Idverde Limited	1960	428.40		Bin emptying
11/01/2017	Vincent Hire Ltd	1961	93.60	Semrah	Aerator/Scarifier-cricket ptch
17/01/2017	1&1 Internet Limited	DD	19.12		Website software support
18/01/2017	Eddie Hodkin	1962	144.00		Oak Green Cleaning works
18/01/2017	WKL Building Supplies	1963	18.44		December materials
31/01/2017	Glasdon UK Limited	1964	103.82	Inv. 722769	Dog waste bin - Rec Grd
31/01/2017	Glasdon UK Limited	1964	103.82	Inv. 722254	Dog waste bin - Rec Grd
31/01/2017	Westcotec Limited	1965	180.00		Additional brackets for SLRs
31/01/2017	Cato Computers	1966	805.64		New computer & installation
31/01/2017	FM01	1967	48.05		FM01 Travel exp. Jan 17
31/01/2017	APS Ltd, Stationers	1967	12.97		Office stationery
31/01/2017	FM02 - LC	1968	191.18		FM02 Jan Salary & Travel
31/01/2017	HM Revenue & Customs	1969	418.32		Jan 2017 PAYE & NI
31/01/2017	FM01	SO	1,365.00		FM01 Jan 2017 Salary
31/01/2017	FM01	1967	-0.20		Deduction of PAYE o/p
31/01/2017	Hampshire Pension Fund	SO	344.01		Jan 2017 FM01 Pension
		<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>5,673.02</b>		

- (b) It was RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Thomas, to approve the bank statements, corresponding bank reconciliations and trial balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017, **previously circulated.**

It was agreed that Cllr Davis would carry out a reconciliation check, as per the Financial Regulations, after the February month end.

## 17.24 INTERNAL COUNCIL MATTERS

- a. **To discuss the progress of the tender process for Oak Green refurbishment works and consider any further recommendations prior to awarding contract.**

Two quotations had been summarised for the Open Space Committee meetings, and following that meeting, both companies were asked for more clarity and detail on certain areas of their tender. As such it was agreed to extend the decision date to 15<sup>th</sup> February. However subsequent to the Open Space meeting a further approach to tender had been made and the Chairman had agreed to allow the third tender for consideration. All tenderers would be advised of the new decision date. The three tenders would be summarised, considered and recommendation to Full Council agreed at the Open Space meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- b. **To discuss the terms of reference and agree action plan for Community Facilities Working Party.**

The working party currently consists of Mr Dunwoody, Mr Hall and Mr Timms, all of whom had agreed to continue.

Cllr Karin Black agreed to become the parish council representative on the working party and the members would be advised accordingly.

It was agreed that the key issues had already been discussed, but a meeting needs to be organised to discuss the next steps and agree some new action points and further information should be compiled to move forward, including surveys on existing facilities. It was agreed that this should

be a community led project, with involvement from the special interest groups to ensure that their wishes are considered, with Parish Council involved in a monitoring capacity only at this stage. An initial thought appears to be erect a shell for a minimum cost, then add to it following input from each group that uses it. It was agreed the difficulty arises in that you need plans to get cost, but you need an idea of cost to draw up plans and this circle needs to be broken.

A working party Terms of Reference needs to be compiled and approved. Clerk to write to the committee with the above points and suggest a meeting is held at the earliest opportunity.

**c. To consider and discuss the purchase of the Parish's own Speedwatch equipment, *details circulated.***

For background and to enable consideration, Cllr Brake advised members that the purchase of the equipment was proposed as there is a requirement for equipment with a longer range. The equipment that Medstead Parish Council have purchased does not have that range. The current share arrangement was working although the equipment needs to be collected from Alton Police Station, although as none of the other villages were currently using the equipment, Four Marks were getting use of it regularly.

Questions were asked on calibration, life span, public perception and whether this initiative was acting as a deterrent, and would be a popular expenditure of Parish funds? Opinion was divided and the first two options tabled for proposal were not agreed, but following a third proposal by Cllr Tomlinson, it was RESOLVED to agree a donation of £750 towards the new equipment by a majority vote of 6-4.

**d. To approve Christian Aid charity collection at Oak Green, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

It was RESOLVED to agree to grant permission for a Christian Aid Collection as requested.

**e. To discuss Parish Council response to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment consultation, *previously circulated* as per directive at Planning Committee meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017**

It was agreed that as some members had not had the opportunity to look at the consultation in detail, that this item would be deferred and discussed at the Planning Committee meeting to be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**f. To update on progress Wellness Festival 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and Fun Run update and action arising from initial meeting.**

Details on this had been discussed earlier in the meeting and therefore already Minuted. However to confirm the event was moving forward, would be named 'Festiwell' and further reports would be given monthly. All members have been requested to become actively involved in this event.

**g. To discuss and agree format of publication of contact details for Councillors**

It was agreed that a generic email would be welcomed and the Clerk agreed to pursue this further. Councillors agreed to let the Clerk know what details they would like publicised on the notice boards, in Four Marks News and on the website.

**h. Clerk's notices, to discuss and agree representation at forthcoming events and courses, *correspondence items circulated***

EHAPTC – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – Cllr Davis, agreed to attend, the Clerk agreed to send the relevant paperwork

HALC CONF – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 – Cllr Foster attending.

LOBBY DAY – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017– Clerk to be advised by Councillors directly should they wish to attend.

**17.25 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

- Allotments, Cllr Davis reported that the Committee had become rather tougher on tenants who let their plots go to weed. At Renewal, 5 tenants did not renew. At the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> March, they will be looking at the constitution rules and are hoping to produce a hand book.
- Benian's Committee; Cllr Knight gave a brief report on the Committee meeting the previous month. She asked if the Parish Council would be in favour of becoming a member of the Alton and District Sports Council at £10 per annum. This was agreed. She was asked if the loose paving slabs

could be fixed and scalplings could be laid between the path and the Arches container, which it was agreed would be discussed at the Open Space meeting. Cllr Knight also reported that the Committee had agreed a payment of £2,500 towards this year's utility costs, and that members had been advised of the joint meeting to be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

- Festival Committee, Cllr Hammond, no meeting.
- Village Hall; Cllr Mills had attended a meeting last week. There was a new treasurer, it had been agreed to erect a sign in the car park stating that it was for the use of village hall users only, and a maintenance booklet to write comments and problems was to be introduced. They were also agreeing to make some new cupboard space under the stage and the Clerk asked if the Parish Council could have a small storage area.
- Footpaths; nothing to report

#### **17.26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Chairman confirmed the following details for the Annual Parish Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The large hall was booked, with a start time of 7.30pm.

Attendees for the panel confirmed were; Simon Jenkins, Head of Planning EHDC, Sean Baldock, Compliance, EHDC, District Councillors Ingrid Thomas and Deborah Jackson, and Sarah Goudie, Clerk. The Chairman would chair the panel.

It was agreed to contact the Scouts to see if they would be prepared to offer teas and coffees on arrival, Cllr Mills agreed to ask and confirm back.

Questions would be asked for in advance, by 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and sent to the panel prior to the meeting, but the meeting would be run in the Question Time format, where the audience would be allowed to speak, following the response.

The Chairman was going to ask COGS if leaflets could be dropped at the same time as the Easter Service cards.

All details need to be made very clear on the promotional material.

Mark Kemp Gee would be in attendance to give his report, but his input would be limited due to the HCC Election purdah restrictions.

#### **17.27 APPLICATION TO INCREASE COUNCILLOR NUMBERS**

Following the increase in applications to fill the councillor vacancy, the Clerk had been requested to ascertain if it would be possible, and what the procedure would be, to increase the number of Councillors. The Clerk confirmed that a formal application to the local district council needed to be made and, following their agreement, a six week consultation period would be required before the requested increase would be granted. The Clerk advised caution in taking this further at this stage, as although there is interest now, at the next election numbers may drop and with a higher Councillor number, and therefore a higher number for the Council to be quorate, this could lead to problems in the future. It was agreed to defer further discussion on this until the First Council meeting in May.

#### **17.28 NEXT MEETING:**

**Full Council Meeting**                      Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 7.30pm, Village Hall

#### **17.29 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05pm.**

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**CHAIRMAN**

## APPENDIX 1

District Councillor's report to February 15th 2017 - Ingrid Thomas

At this month's Community Forum in Alton the forthcoming celebrations for Jane Austen's 200 year anniversary were presented, there are lots of plans for events happening in June. Sadly very few Four Marks or Medstead residents attend these meetings, the topics are varied and if there is something you would particularly like to have discussed in the forum it is likely that I can get it added to the agenda. It would be great to see more residents there, it's your chance to put issues to all the local district councillors and community officers so a good way to make things happen.

As part of my welfare portfolio I attended the Animal Welfare Conference which proved very interesting, EHDC animal welfare officers have won several awards recently. The day covered the new fly grazing of horses laws which have come into force, the number of horses suffering this way may reduce as a result which has been a problem for us recently.

A very interesting part of the day was the talk by a gentleman from Guide Dogs for the Blind who highlighted the problem of using transport with his dog, even booked taxis would often not allow his dog to get into the vehicle which contravenes the law. A good discussion on all angles was had, it's always interesting to learn new things and think about different problems that affect others.

Mark Kemp Gee and I had a meeting with highways safety officers to once again point out the dangers with some parts of the A31. We looked at the central entrance to the Shrave and these officers were in full agreement that the turning was dangerous, they went away to begin the process of making changes and chasing the developer who needs to do some of the work before he can sell his houses. Let's hope action happens soon. We also looked again at the water run off problems at Brick - Kiln Lane, again the problem was recognised and a full plan should be coming, so maybe this time a solution will be found.

Planning has been reasonably quiet this month with a couple of exceptions, the reserve matters for the Bargate site north of Boyneswood Lane came to committee, a lot of work was done to get improvements to the scheme, it was given permission but with added conditions. I see many problems ahead with the installation of the sewerage pipes but as Thames Water are a statutory provider they have a right to push their pipes through wherever they decide, let's hope they don't damage our trees.

The other controversial site is near Four Marks school this one is also likely to come to committee as it is out of character and the Parish Council are very concerned. I have asked officers to ask the applicants for changes which may improve the situation but in the current form I will not be able to chair the planning committee as I would be predetermined against the current application and so will speak from the ward councillors seat.

The first liaison meeting for residents and WLG who are the developers of Friars Oak site will be held early in March details on the parish notice boards. We are still waiting on the dates for the next meeting with Miller Homes and Cala which is very unsatisfactory as there are still many problems not least with mud so I hope a date will soon be published.

I have had several meetings about our forthcoming Festiwell. This is going to be a really special event for the villages. Please note **Sunday 9th July in your diaries and make a special effort to come to Four Marks recreation ground to join in.**

We hear a huge amount about the need for us all to try to lead healthier lifestyles and this festival is going to be packed with ideas for small and larger things we can do to stay healthier. There will be a run for the fittest, several walks, gardening ideas, food stalls, mental and physical aspects of wellbeing, lots of things for younger and older people to try out and join in with. More details each month and ideas you may have are very welcome. If you run a business or club and would like to have a stall at the event please contact myself or Sarah Goudie the parish clerk and we will give you details. I hope this will be the beginning of new ideas for us and will be a success if somebody manages to improve their life.

As ever if I can be of any assistance to you please contact me  
Ingrid Thomas  
Cllr for Four Marks and Medstead, 01420 561552

## APPENDIX 2

### FMPC District Councillor Report: Deborah Jackson

I start this month with some good news in that the District Councillor community grants for two Medstead-based projects were signed off earlier this week (most of my grants this year have been south of the A31!). I will look out for the brightly-clad Speed Watch team monitoring our roads in all weathers, as well as looking forward to being able to sit on a summer evening on the new picnic bench near Medstead's village BBQ. I still have some money left for this year, so please do let me know if you have any small projects that could benefit from funding.

Also early in my report so that it doesn't get "lost", a reminder that the Friar's Oak Liaison meeting with William Lacey Group, originally scheduled for February, will now be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March in Four Marks Village Hall. Although delayed, with no plans to start work in the short term, this is not anticipated to cause any significant issue. I am grateful for those involved for enduring that this meeting has been advertised as widely as possible.

Heading to the other junction with the A31, Miller and Cala continue to be somewhat tardy with regard to notifying about traffic movements, and are needing the Parish Clerk's continued encouragement that yes, information is still needed, even if there are no predicted changes from the previous week. Whilst the Clerk is trying to identify when the next Liaison meeting will be (should be end February), I am still trying to pin down the actual completion of actions identified at the last liaison meeting. For example, the wheel-wash facility at the Miller site. Confirmation of the installation date was expected before Christmas, with the equipment up and running by the end of January. I believe that Cala have, at last, got all the required traffic management signage erected, although there are two that still need to be double-checked.

As Councillors and visitors to Medstead may be aware, work recently started at the Croudace site at Cedar Stables, with earth-moving vehicles leaving the site in a northerly direction, rather than through Medstead village centre and adding to the building congestion at the two bridges onto the A31. Although in accordance with the conditioned and agreed Construction Management Plan (CMP), this caused concern for some residents of Bentworth, who bombarded the Clerk of Medstead Parish Council with complaints. There have been some heated comments and I have been trying to resolve the current difficulties. It appears that not only were residents of Bentworth mistakenly informed that no CMP existed, but further inspection showed the CMP document on the EHDC website to be an early draft, and not the final Plan that the developer has been quite diligently following! So all in all, a series of clerical oversights (no doubt resulting from the Officer workload), that have had significant local impact. I am in contact with the Case Officer and am hopeful that this will be sorted out over the next few days.

Further to a recent on-site meeting with Four Marks residents and a case officer, I have been informed that an EHDC press release is to be made; reminding all developers of the need to adhere to approved plans and that approval to changes must be sought before they are made on site and not retrospectively. Whilst I fully support this type of communication, the overwhelming message I am hearing from local residents is a lack of trust in the planning process, with developers being able to get away with whatever they want. Any press release of this nature needs to be both enforceable and enforced!

Following concerns expressed by a householder in Hussell Lane, I am working with Mark Kemp Gee to see what improvements can be made to the pedestrian "refuge track" running from "Gavel Acre" to The Green. The track, which is not wide enough to take a pavement, is being driven over by lorries and no longer serving its purpose. If re-elected our County Councillor is hoping that, with the support of the Parish Council, it will be possible to make some improvements here.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February I attended the meeting of the EHCD Planning Committee, for the Reserved Matters application for the Bargate development on land to the North of Boyneswood Lane. Despite representation from local residents requesting refusal, and from the Parish Council and me asking that the application be returned to the Officers and developers for re-consideration, the site layout was unanimously approved. The only minor concession we did obtain was a condition preventing the cutting of additional private accesses (pedestrian gates etc.) from new the houses onto Boyneswood Lane. Only time will tell as to how enforceable this condition actually proves to be.

In the last month I have also attended meetings of the Environmental Services Committee (JESC), Development Policy Panel (DPP) and the Alton Community Forum. The main discussions at the recent Joint Environmental Services Committee related once again around the topic of litter particularly that dropped along the major roads. From the comments received by the two councils (EHDC and Winchester), this is a significant concern for many residents and something that needs to be focussed on. A number of other

potential improvements to some of the waste and recycling services are also in the pipeline, but are currently only in very early stages. DPP provided members with an update on progress with Part 3 of the Local Plan, which will include a review of open space, sport and recreation facilities in the district. At the Community Forum we were given number of presentations highlighting the potential impact that the bicentenary of Jane Austen's death (d1817) will have on tourism in Alton and the surrounding area. Tom Horwood (Exec Director of EHDC) also explained a little about the forthcoming boundary review within the district, where it is planned for a consistent electorate for each district councillor based upon the predicted population in 2023. Interestingly, Ingrid and I represent 28% more residents than when these figures were originally calculated, the largest increase in the whole of EHDC!

Deborah Jackson (EHDC Ward Councillor, Four Marks & Medstead)

deborah.jackson@easthants.gov.uk

07484 167743 (*please leave a message as the mobile reception is dreadful!*)

