

## **FOUR MARKS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council Held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, commencing at 7.30pm At the Village Hall, Four Marks**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllr Janet Foster (Chairman) Cllrs Karin Black, Tim Brake, John Davis, Davie Edgar, John Hammond, Dave Mills, Simon Thomas and Anne Tomlinson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Sarah Goudie, 4 members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** District Cllrs Ingrid Thomas and Deborah Jackson

#### **17.99 OPEN SESSION**

**The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public and Councillors and invited questions for the Open Session.**

Jackie and Louise, the managers from Heydeys PreSchool, were in attendance following a request from last month, with reference to their fund raising request. They gave a detailed account of their operation, staff, operational hours and current government funding, and with increasing numbers wish to improve their facilities.

The proposed plans and costings were circulated and advised that they currently have £1,500 in their fund raising account and have applied to other sources for additional funds, including Tescos and the Lions. They have also managed to secure some labour from parents of attending children.

Councillors had several questions, asking for a more detailed breakdown on government funding and how it works, numbers of enrolled children and waiting lists, and their association with Hampshire County Council. They confirmed that they are working with the development officers to try and secure larger premises, which could be the other half of the porta cabin they currently use.

Other questions included how they compared with other nursery groups in the village, they felt they offered as they are based at the school, an easier transition from nursery to school and were their children from Four Marks, to which their response was mostly, but also from surrounding villages as well.

The Chairman thanked Jackie and Louise for attending and advised them that they would be advised of the Council's decision in due course.

Mr Charles Kydd was in attendance, following circulation of his letter, to see if the Councillors had any questions with reference to the Village Sign application. There were none. The Chairman thanked Mr Kydd for his letter and for his attendance.

Mr Neil Bonter was in attendance following his application to be co-opted as a councillor, and the Chairman asked if there were any questions. It was noted that although there were no questions, the reason was because his resume was very comprehensive, there was nothing further to add.

Mr Bonter took the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their funding cheque for Streetwatch.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bonter for coming and was told he would be notified of the decision after the meeting.

Cllr Brake, spoke with reference to his and several other emails to both HCC and EHDC, over the excess of developers signs on all the local street signs. He confirmed that no request had been sought, and no permission granted. EHDC would be asking them to remove them, they are only allowed a maximum of three directional signs. Both HCC and EHDC have legal powers to ask them to be removed.

He also added how disappointing it was to hear that the Football club had chosen to decline promotion and asked if any of the preparation works had commenced. The Clerk advised not.

He also questioned the signs advertising that teas, coffees and snacks were being offered in the afternoons at the Benians Pavilion during August. Cllr Davis confirmed that this had been raised at the previous Benians Committee meeting and was the initiative of the walking for health group to help fundraise for the pavilion extension.

Cllr Black handed over a petition by parents to try and get a 20 mph speed limit outside Four Marks primary school following the recent accident and advised that that school were still waiting for the joint meeting to take place. It was confirmed again that nothing could be enforceable until the appropriate traffic order had been implemented by HCC. The Parish Council were of the opinion that the school should be chasing the meeting rather than waiting for someone to contact them. It was also agreed that the parents should also be doing their bit by adhering to the suggested one way system, and parking more sensibly. Cllr Black agreed to talk to the Head Teacher and ask them to chase the relevant authorities as a matter of urgency.

**The Open Session concluded at 8.05pm. Standing Orders were applied.**

#### **17.100 APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

There were no formal apologies for absence, however both District Councillors had sent their apologies as they were both involved at a meeting at EHDC.

#### **17.101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **17.102 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**

There were two applicants for discussion, the other applicants had not made any further contact.

Both candidates, it was agreed, were exceptional and it was extremely difficult to choose between the two. However it was eventually RESOLVED after much discussion to co-opt the candidate who had applied previously and had shown keen interest despite not being successful initially. The Clerk agreed to notify the successful applicant.

Due to the fact that the second candidate was of such high calibre, and it was hoped that they would re-apply should another vacancy arise, the Clerk was asked to see if they would be keen to become involved in some of the Parish Council projects, and potentially become a non-councillor member of one of the committees. The Clerk was asked to contact the applicant to see if this would be agreeable to them.

#### **17.103 COUNCIL MINUTES**

- The Minutes of the First Meeting of the Full Council held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, were proposed as a true record by Cllr Brake, seconded by Cllr Black, approved by members, and signed by the Chairman.
- Matters arising:
  - Benjamin UK. A letter of representation had been prepared and circulated at the meeting for approval. There were two suggestions of word changes, but it was agreed that the letter should be taken away to give Councillors more time to peruse and advise the Clerk of any comments or changes by no later than Friday morning. The letter would be sent on Friday. Cllr Thomas advised that Damian Hinds MP is writing to the appropriate Minister raising his concerns over the management of the homes. Both Cllr Foster and Edgar asked for an email copy to be sent.
  - Following a meeting the previous week, Alton Town Council have now backed the Alton Sports/Leisure Centre project, with conditions. Cllr Thomas also advised members that a report that some Guides who arrived to protest about the sports centre had been forcibly asked to leave Festiwell was untrue.
  - The Clerk advised that both the Licence Applications discussed at the previous meeting were both going to hearings due to receipt of objections to both applications.

#### **17.104 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- Planning Committee, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Following the circulation of the Minutes, the Planning Committee chairman, Cllr Thomas, summarised the salient points from the meeting, as follows:

- A good deal of time had been taken during the Open Session talking about the planning application for the Village Sign. Mr Whitchard, also in attendance, thanked the Parish Council for the Oak Green refurbishment project, which was a huge improvement.
- As there were several issues with the Minutes of the previous Planning meeting, they were amended at the meeting, and therefore not approved or signed.
- Amongst the applications discussed, there was one for a garage in front of a property, and as a recent appeal on a refusal for a garage in front of a dwelling had been upheld, and although the Village Design Statement had now been amended, the battle appears to be all but lost. However the application discussed, a condition had been requested that there was no change of use in the future to residential.
- Magpie Lodge had been granted permission, and an additional dwelling in Hazel Road, had been withdrawn. The Parish Council would, however, remain vigilant, on tree pruning and request for removals.
- The Appeal made by the car wash had been refused, and they are now being prosecuted. Two other appeals, land to the rear of 131 Winchester Road (the SINC) and Cardinals, Station Approach, were both dismissed.
- The addition of pitches and change of access application at land to the west of Brambles, has been refused under delegated powers.

Following the late submission of documents at the previous planning meeting it was RESOLVED to approve a policy on submission of documents, in that they must be received 48 hours prior to the meeting if they are to be considered. Documents received after the 48 hour deadline will not be accepted. It was agreed that this policy applies only to the Planning Committee meetings.

- Open Space Committee Meeting, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Following the circulation of the Minutes, the Open Space Committee in the absence of the chairman, Cllr Davis, as acting chair, summarised the following points from the meeting, as below:

- There were several residents in attendance interested in the Agenda item with reference to Storeys Sanctuary, including the owner. The item was to consider an email received by Diana Tennyson who had been concerned about lack of access for the wildlife. The owner Mr Haydon had erected the fence due to issues with fly tipping, however they confirmed that wildlife were still able to enter the area. The Clerk confirmed that the proposed formal right of way application had been deferred as the initial reasoning behind it had been removed once the owner had come forward, and only be revisited if there was cause to do so.
- The drone policy had not been circulated or discussed and deferred to the Finance & General Purposes meeting, as was the Recreation Ground hirers policy.
- The suggested opening event at Oak Green parade had been discussed but handed back to the shop keepers to get some ideas as to what sort of event they would like.
- Cllr Mills had raised concern over security, and access and gate at the scout hut end of the Recreation Ground and it was RESOLVED that a length of soil bund and relocation of gate should be undertaken as a matter of urgency. It was also agreed that it may be practical to either change the gate or have a better lock system on it.
- Cllr Black raised concern separately about the splits in the wood of the assault course and that some rails were loose and Cllr Mills raised concern over the damage to the surface of the table tennis table. The Clerk advised that it would be refurbished once moved, and had tried repeatedly reminding the company who agreed to move it. She agreed to give one last go, or would instruct another company.

#### **17.105 CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman began by thanking Cllr Davis for chairing the Open Space meeting in her and Cllr Tomlinson's absence, and all Councillors for stepping up and staying to ensure that the Open Space committee meeting could go ahead. She also added her thanks to all Councillors who were out in force helping and supporting Festiwell, and was proud to currently have such a proactive team of Councillors.

The Chairman attended the recent Community Forum and updated members on the main topics of discussion.

There was a detailed discussion on enforcement of parking, littering and fly tipping. She also confirmed, interestingly that despite the introduction of charges at recycling centres, fly tipping incidences had not worsened since charging began, and that all legitimate waste carriers should have a licence. It was reiterated that the Alton recycling centre is definitely not closing.

Following several concerns raised on the delayed payment of S106 monies, it was confirmed that the Communities team will be taking over the S106 developers' contributions allocations and payments to help with the considerable back log.

#### 17.106 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Neither District Councillor was in attendance, but Cllr Ingrid Thomas had issued her report prior to the meeting and asked for any questions to be sent by email. Report attached as Appendix 1.

#### 17.107 FINANCIAL ISSUES

17.107.1 It was RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Brake, to approve June 2017 list of payments, as **detailed below.**

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
01/06/2017	British Gas	DD	-0.46		Credit - amount in new bill
05/06/2017	Talk Talk Business	DD	27.49		Phone/broadband -May/June
05/06/2017	Office Outlet	2049	80.76		Printer Cartridges/Stationery
05/06/2017	Tozers Solicitors	2050	360.00		Benians Legal Agreement
12/06/2017	Semrah Landscape Management	2051	1,590.00		May grass cutting
12/06/2017	Playsafety Limited	2052	163.80		Annual RoSPA Insp. - Rec.
12/06/2017	Four Marks Village Hall	2053	36.00		May Village Hall hire
12/06/2017	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	2054	139.20		Annual support charge
14/06/2017	Eddie Hodkin	2055	96.00		May Oak Green cleaning
14/06/2017	St John Ambulance	2056	326.50		First Aid - 10K & Festiwell
14/06/2017	N W Read	2057	120.00		Office rental - one year
14/06/2017	Cato Computers	2058	282.49		Cato - Portable projector
18/06/2017	Biffa Waste Services	DD	144.14		Benians Pav. trade waste
20/06/2017	East Hants District Council	2059	18.60		Flyers for 10K & Festiwell
20/06/2017	Classic Miniatures	2060	176.40		Special Medals joint 10ks
20/06/2017	Downie & Gadban	2061	480.00		Land Transfer - Badger Cl.
20/06/2017	Aveling Adventure Ltd	2062	785.80	DC Grant	Climbing Wall for Festiwell
23/06/2017	British Gas	DD	91.07		Mar-May gas - Pavilion
30/06/2017	Four Marks Streetwatch	2063	250.00	Minute 17.93.2	Annual Grant
30/06/2017	Victim Support	2064	100.00	Minute 17.93.3	Annual Grant
30/06/2017	Downie & Gadban	2065	55.00		Badger Close-Completion
30/06/2017	Idverde Limited	2066	676.80		Bin waste collection
30/06/2017	Authorn Limited	2067	4,488.00		Drainage and layby repairs
30/06/2017	FM01	2068	58.05		Travel costs FM01 - June
30/06/2017	Veronica Lockey	2068	24.00		V Lockey - office cleaning
30/06/2017	Net World Sports Ltd	2068	14.93		Basketball nets, Net World
30/06/2017	FM02 - LC	2069	196.08		June Net Salary - FM02
30/06/2017	HM Revenue & Customs	2070	447.14		June PAYE/NI
30/06/2017	TJays Fun 4 All	2071	600.00		Bouncy Castle - Festiwell
30/06/2017	FM01	SO	1,422.79		June net salary - FM01
30/06/2017	Hampshire Pension Fund	SO	377.01		June Pension Contribs FM01
		<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>13,627.59</b>		

The clerk presented the July payments schedule to date, which would be formally approved at the next meeting.

17.107.2 It was RESOLVED, following proposal by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Foster to approve the bank reconciliation and trial balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, previously circulated.

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Davis was coming in to the office the next day to carry out the first quarter's bank reconciliation check, as per Standing Orders and Finance Regulations.

### **17.108 INTERNAL COUNCIL MATTERS**

17.108.1 The request for a contribution towards a project at Heydeys pre-school was discussed in detail following their presentation. It was RESOLVED to agree to support the application in principle, and the amount of £250 was proposed to go towards the playhouse, and it was agreed to assist them with details of other sources that may be able to assist with some matched funding. Suggestions such as an EHDC Cabinet Grant, or District or County Councillor grant, Four Marks & Medstead Rotary, and even other local parish councils. Clerk to respond and send grant application form.

17.108.2 It was agreed to prepare and circulate a social media and communications policy for discussion at the Finance & General Purposes committee, together with drones policy and hire of recreation ground policy, carried over from the Open Space meeting.

17.108.3 The Clerk advised members that Mr Reg Pullen had attended the recent transport forum at EHDC and reported that all 64 and 65 buses were to be upgraded. The Clerk advised members that the Medstead Horticultural Club had asked if they could put their signs on lamp posts for next year's show as their boards had been repeatedly vandalised this year. It was agreed that this perhaps should be revisited next year in the light of the issues with developers's signs. The Clerk also advised she had received a thank you letter from Victim Support, following receipt of their grant, and reminded all members of two emails circulated detailing events that would need to be responded to if they wished to attend.

### **17.109 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:**

- **Allotments**; Cllr Davis advised that the waiting list was now up to 12. The Committee were regularly inspecting plots, with a few weeds notices being served, although overall the plots were now very well tended. Although still troubled by stray balls over the hedge from the MUGA.
- **Benians Committee**; Cllr Davis confirmed the meeting had been postponed until 3 August, although the signed accounts had been received. They were solely reliant on bar takings. He was concerned that the agreed donation of £2,000 to the Parish Council did not appear to be shown, the Clerk agreed to check.
- **Festival Committee**, Cllr Hammond, no meeting had taken place.
- **Community Buildings Committee**. Cllr Thomas confirmed a meeting had been held last week, although was concerned that they had not heard from Shaun McCarthy and asked the Clerk to check his email address. Lots of ideas were put forward, but it was felt that a basic building could be erected for less than £500,000. Location had not been discussed in detail, but rather getting the design agreed first. Although it had been noted that it would have to be funded by bridging finance initially. Funding options had been discussed, but if the Village Hall was to be replaced, the new building must be built first, due to trust stipulations. It was agreed the first step was to build a 'straw man', and hoped to have further information after their next meeting.
- **Village Hall**; Cllr Mills confirmed a maintenance Sub-committee had been formed, but did express concern that club hirings are very low and they were trying to ascertain why. Ad hoc hirings were still the same.
- **Footpaths**; Cllr Mills confirmed that Paul Bridges, the new maintenance man had been busy strimming footpaths, but it was agreed that this should not be regular and perhaps, now that funding was in place, we could apply for a parish lengthsman, and this together with asking volunteers, such as ramblers and walking for health, to help where possible by trimming back when walking.
- **School Governor**. Cllr Black confirmed she had joined, but would be a month behind reporting back until the minutes were signed off.
- **EHAPTC**. The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting was to be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September, venue to be confirmed, and a representative would be required, but again the meeting clashed with committee meetings. Clerk would remind Councillors nearer the time.

### **17.110 OAK GREEN**

The works had now been signed off, with a final site meeting with the Clerk and Malcolm Seal. A retention would be held for snagging issues for six months. The Clerk advised that Mr Seal's input had been invaluable and it was agreed that a formal letter of thanks should be sent.

No further details had been submitted to the Parish Council on a proposed opening event, and the suggestion of a promotional sign to advertise the shops was discounted.

The Clerk then advised members of an email that had been received from one of the shopkeepers expressing their discontent over the alleged loss of business and disruption their businesses had experienced, asking the Parish Council to address their concerns. They were of the opinion that the Parish Council had not done enough to help them or give them enough notice of the car park closure.

The accusations were discussed in detail and it was agreed that the Parish Council could not be held responsible, nor blamed, for any possible failings, or the alleged loss of earnings. It was questioned whether the Parish Council could have done anything further, but all agreed that they did all they could. It was also suggested that the shops could have promoted the fact that they were still open, and should benefit considerably from the works that have enhanced the area.

It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to contact the Alton Herald, and prepare a press release building on all the positives of the works; that the area is more aesthetically pleasing, by enlarging the car park it is easier to park, that materials have been chosen that will last much longer, and that it was all paid for by developers contributions. It was also suggested that Alton Herald may be able to send a photographer and capture a ceremonial cutting of ribbon.

#### **17.111 VILLAGE SIGN**

The clerk summarised the issues with reference to the planning application for the village sign and reasons for deferral to full council.

The application is for the display of a non-illuminated pictorial village sign. The development of the sign has been well documented both at Parish Council meetings and in the Four Marks News. After due consideration, the location of the Village Green was chosen as the most appropriate location. Oak Green, as a central village point was initially considered, however is a bustling area with lamp posts, telegraph poles, flag poles and illuminated signs at the garage, the detail of the sign would be lost, and Oak Green was subsequently discounted. The green at Lymington Bottom has been significantly improved over the last couple of years, new colourful shrub beds, the war memorial, two new benches and regular grass cutting, hedge pruning, and tree maintenance all adding to its appeal. An application for village green status has been made, but could be years before decided, however for all intents and purposes it is a village green, an area of green open space, it was agreed that the addition of a village sign would only enhance the area.

It has been funded entirely by donations, raised by the Festival Committee with Parish Council support by applying for the application on their behalf.

This application had to be deferred from the planning committee due to the number of public objections, although primarily based on lack of knowledge, and the fact that no decision could be made as the meeting was not quorate.

It was noted that whilst planning applications are decided on policy, this application does not appear to contravene policy, either in loss of amenity nor safety issues, confirmed by no objection from Highways. It was therefore agreed to submit a comment supporting the application both on policy and amenity grounds, as follows:

*This application for a display of a non-illuminated pictorial village sign, was submitted by the Parish Council on behalf of the Festival Committee, following its design and preparation in consultation with the local community over the last two years. This location was deemed to be the most appropriate. It was agreed that as the nearest house is some 50m away from the proposed location of the sign, and all nearby properties are partially screened by the abundance of trees, hedges and other foliage in and around the green, there is no perceivable loss of amenity but instead should further enhance the area. There are no health or safety issues with the proposed location, as confirmed by Highways, and therefore, there does not appear to be any planning policy reason for refusal. The Parish Council fully support this application.*

#### **17.112 EAST HAMPSHIRE WARD BOUNDARY COMMISSION CONSULTATION 2017**

Cllr Thomas updated the Councillors on the discussions to date on this issue and confirmed that he was now in possession of the parish population figures. He is liaising with Medstead Parish Council

and both District Councillors and all are in agreement with proposing that the area should have three district councillors, pointing out that on current figures, Four Marks on its own justifies two councillors. The consultation submission needs to be put forward by 14<sup>th</sup> August and it is vital that the two parish councils are aligned in their submissions. He also questioned is it also time to request that the Shrove is encompassed within the Four Marks parish boundary, the residents are keen? Cllr Thomas will be preparing the response, and will circulate for approval prior to submission. Following the consultation, the Boundary Commission will come back with their proposals.

**17.113 NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 7.30pm, Village Hall. There is no meeting in August.

**17.114 The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.45pm.**

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**CHAIRMAN**

## APPENDIX 1

District Councillor report June/July 2017

Ingrid Thomas

This month started with Four Marks Village Picnic which is always a lovely place to meet many friends and talk about local issues. We have been regular attendees of this annual event for many years now and it is so interesting to notice each year how our village has grown and diversified. We enjoyed Howard's band and the classic car show along with my usual haul of plants from the horti stall and cake from the WI.....Well done Helena and the Festival Committee for organising another great picnic.

We are once again into road closures on Boyneswood Road, great consternation was caused by South East Water sending a letter to many residents telling them of their proposed road closure to do works on laying better sweet water pipes. This was followed by notices from EhdC's Traffic department telling of the road closure by Thames Water who needed to close the road to bring a sewer pipe over Boyneswood Bridge. This would have left lots of people stranded in the middle, I went to speak to Traffic who told me that SE Water had not actually applied for the closure that they had notified people of. So when they finally applied they were told they would have to wait until Thames had finished their work..... It would be so great if everyone concerned could just talk to each other. It was good to see a comment from one resident who was enjoying the lack of traffic in Boyneswood Road.

The other notable incident in Boyneswood Road were the 24 lorries who turned up at the same time for the Bellway development unfortunately, it was an error as the company had asked for 6 lorries for 4 days not all at once. However as the site moves into full scale development the problems with dust and mud have begun. The compliance team have been on site several times already, trying to help and have involved their colleagues in environmental health who are checking and monitoring dust problems I will continue to work with the compliance teams and developer to try to ensure problems are kept to a minimum, the next residents liaison meeting with Bellway is on Monday 7th August at 7pm in Four Marks village hall.

As part of my cabinet portfolio I have been learning a lot more about affordable housing and developing ideas to help increase the numbers of affordable homes in the district. We are working on a project to try to build affordable homes for disabled people who have particular needs that will need adaptations to the home.

It is pleasing that the affordable homes so far released on the Miller site in Lymington Bottom Road have all been allocated to very local families without any false rumours of new residents coming from elsewhere. EhdC's policy is very strongly that all new affordable homes should be allocated to local families and only offered to people with no direct local connection to our villages if nobody with a connection comes forward. Affordable homes will not be offered to anybody from outside of the District, this is to ensure that affordable homes are built for local people.

I spent a lot of time this month preparing for Festiwell, our new healthy living festival. On July 9th at Four Marks Recreation ground the day started early with about 100 runners setting off on a 10K run. The Chairman of East Hants Lynn Evans started the races and later gave out the prizes. There were shorter runs for all ages too with goodie bags supplied by Alton Sports and Shine Dental Clinic.

The sports represented at the event were very varied from archery, tennis and netball to cycling - including the chance to try electric bikes, hockey, climbing wall and bowls all offering a chance to try out their sport. Lets hope lots of new members signed up to join in with the clubs that made a huge effort to showcase their sports.

Many hobbies and pastimes stalls offered ideas to help find new friends and be involved in the community. The problem of loneliness can be tackled in many ways and all of the clubs offered good ideas and opportunities to join in for all ages.

One of the highlights for many children was the smoothie bike, the recipe is, pour some apple juice into a cup add all sorts of different fruit put it into the blender fixed to the front of a fixed bike and peddle to create your own power to make your smoothie.

Ehdc's Animal Welfare team were busy offering advice on a variety of subjects and HCC has their driver training scheme offering older drivers the opportunity to have a driving assessment and offering tips on staying safe on the roads.

The whole event was a great example of the community volunteers, parish and district councils working together to create a really good day out packed with ideas to benefit everyone. It was good to see Damian Hinds and his family enjoying the day and also our County Councillor Mark Kemp Gee.

Sarah Goudie and Lesley Chandler together with several parish councillors, Lucy Whittle and her colleagues from East Hampshire community team worked very hard to organise, set up and work on the day ( Lucy was wearing her step counter on the day which reached 25,000 steps!) Volunteers from the Festival Committee, Rotary Club, Streetwatch and Scouts all helped to make a really successful day.

Days like this really help to create community I hope we will be able to have another Festiwell and encourage you all to come along when we do.

With Medstead Fete the day before Festiwell which also benefitted from great weather. it has defiantly been a month for great community days out. The Parish Council stall at Medstead Fete had lots of information available for residents on many aspects of village life including the proposed new walk around the village which was one of the projects identified by the neighbourhood plan.

The Boundaries Commission are currently looking at the Ward boundaries for District Councillors in East Hampshire. This is solely to look at democratic representation not to consider where Parish Boundaries are. The purpose of the boundaries commission is to ensure that there is equal representation for everyone . At the current moment Deborah and I represent about 28% more residents than the average for East Hampshire councillors. With so much house building this could amount to severe underrepresentation within a few years. So the number of residents each councillor represents needs to be evened out across the district so that representation is more equal. It has been decided that the number of councillors will remain at 44. For us to gain another councillor in this ward somewhere else in the district will have to loose one, this is a major issue that the Boundaries Commission will be trying to solve. Both Parish Councils are discussing possible options and will be putting forward their comments. There is a public consultation which offers lots of information and a chance to have your say. The web site address with information and to join in with the consultation is [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk) then follow the links to have your say.

As ever if I can be of assistance to you on any district council matter please contact me

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