

Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council Report 8th February 2021 – Malvern Hills District Council

I would imagine for sometime that our reports will start with talking about Coronavirus and as we've been in a National Lockdown since our last Parish Council meeting that remains the case.

Whilst generally figures have dipped, infections are still high and the key is ensuring that all people, tired and frustrated as they may be, continue to abide by the lockdown rules. We, unfortunately, have a long way to go and if we do not want to put pressure on the NHS and save lives it is everyone's responsibility to stay indoors and act responsibly when out and about.

A lot of our messaging from now on will be about keeping up people's motivation to stick with the rules.

The most up to date figures are available via the Worcestershire County Council website.

Elections are now confirmed as on In May 2021 – with both the County Council Elections and the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections. Leafletting and door to door political campaigning will not be allowed so it is likely to be a vastly different campaign. The main forms of communication will involve spending money which will mean the way in which people get information may be different. As a district council we will be running campaigns to remind people the Elections are happening and encouraging people to vote.

The recent Parish and Town Council Forum was well supported with 39 district and parish councillors and clerks joining the event. I know several District Councillors attended as well.

Away from Covid I have dealt with, as I'm sure David has, an increasing number of calls over drainage and flooding issues, away from Church Lane.

Since our last meeting I have attended Overview and Scrutiny, A Northern Area Planning Committee and Full Council.

At both Overview and Scrutiny, we reviewed the revised 5-year plan before it went to both Executive Committee and then to Full Council to be voted on.

The full meeting pack for Overview and Scrutiny can be found here, which includes the revised 5-year plan.

<http://modern.gov.malvern hills.gov.uk/documents/g2772/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Jan-2021%2017.00%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10&J=5>

It will replace the current 2020/21 plan online in the coming week.

This plan is a revision on last years to give some focus to some areas of work that were brought up in the Covid Recovery CPG, so specifically putting Covid into the 5-year plan. Other than that, there is little change to it. At Overview and Scrutiny, we did run through the changes and then it was voted on at Full Council where it passed with Independents, Greens and One Lib Dem voting for it and all other Lib Dems and Conservatives voting against it.

The business plan was voted through unanimously and for the second month running we have a local application at Northern Area Planning Committee this coming week.

The majority of council officers are working from home, but services have continued uninterrupted.

At Northern Area planning last week were asked to consider an application to build 120 houses in Rushwick. It was unanimously rejected.

On Planning I have passed on the details reference Broad Green to our enforcement team.

New sites to provide accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and Travellers are being put forward by councils in South Worcestershire.

Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon councils need to provide 59 Traveller pitches and 8 Travelling Showpeople plots by 2030 to meet demand.

Wychavon needs to provide 37 of these but has already approved 21 since January 2019. Malvern Hills District needs to provide 19 Traveller pitches and 8 Travelling Showpeople plots and Worcester City 2 pitches.

The Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Allocations Development Plan: Preferred Options document, sets out where some of these sites are proposed to be developed.

The first for Malvern is Hillbee Farm, Welland Road, Upton-upon-Severn - 3 pitches

In regard to Zourka, since our last meeting, Aaron has carried out a lengthy site visit.

I have circulated site level plans carried out by one of Aaron's colleagues. There are no significant changes to plan – which I think will be a surprise to most given the amount of water coming from one side of the site. So, the next stage – as we said at the last meeting – is for me, Aaron and Jack (From Worcestershire Land Drain Partnership) – along with Richard – to meet at Church Lane and to put together the plans for what is happening from now in reference to drainage on Church Lane.

We obviously have a good idea but want to make sure that everyone knows what is to be done to ensure that water onto the lane is limited from all sources and that it has somewhere to go.

We'd hoped the meeting to take place last week but Jack wasn't available so it will happen this week and I've said I'll move things around in my diary to make sure it will happen. I'll report back as soon as this is done but it will be a short, medium and long term plan of what will be done and will include the County Council, who have said they can't make any meeting due to Covid, but want us to report back to them.

As part of Aaron's inspections, the Bat Barn has been inspected with the ecologist. Some amendments have been suggested which are being carried out but overall it accords with planning permission. Aaron has recommended that they also put in place guttering as we've recommended.

The final point is in regard to plot one. From inspection the internal space of the top floor, which should be a loft, appears to be integral to the rest of the house and so not to plan. The conversation continues on this, but I have stuck to the point that the windows need removing. This isn't a case that it's just the window – the developer as made the top floor as if it's integral to the building.

I have made my points again on this and I am waiting on a response from enforcement which Aaron has said will be in time for the meeting so I will forward any updates from Aaron.

In regard to Tack Farm – From Aaron last week:

It would appear that the Enforcement Notice requiring the dogs to be removed from the stables has been complied with. We inspected the interior of the stables where the dogs were previously kept which was empty and were advised that it was no longer used. We were however surprised at the temporary location the dogs have been moved too. Temporary runs have been set up in the field

opposite the stables slightly further away from your property, however this would make little difference to the noise nuisance that you have reported. On the advice of their representatives the landowners are seeking to rely on Permitted Development rights for this temporary location, however as you have identified this period expires today.

I have mentioned previously a new application that has been submitted which is due to be validated shortly which amongst other things includes a new kennel building further up the field and away from residential properties. This is currently under construction and the landowners are seeking to complete this as soon as possible to move the dogs into from their current temporary location. Notwithstanding this is what we have been told the Council has advised that this is done at the landowner's own risk as albeit planning permission is being applied for no decision has been issued.

I also visited another neighbouring property yesterday afternoon to experience the noise for myself.

We also noted the partially constructed ménage in light of the recently refused application which is being addressed.

As I say, this is what we observed and were told during our visit and I will advise you of the Council's position as soon as possible. There will be an update on this this week.

Finally, we are continuing to see an increase in enforcement cases. There are currently 324 live cases as during lockdown this has been increasing due to more people carrying out work at home – and more people noticing it.

We also had 5 s78 appeals in January of which all were dismissed.

As we should have Aaron's update on Zourka at the meeting I'll make sure that's forwarded on and my onsite meeting with him and Jack – I'll forward a report of that as soon as available which I am sure will be useful.