

Report of the Parish Assembly 2018

Wednesday 16th May 2018, from 8pm, Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Lorna Cuthill (Chairman), Robin Best, David Ellison, Alan Hutton **Clerk** Susan Turner **Guests** PC Andy Reid, Ward Councillor Onnalee Cubit, Revd Linda Scard§ **Members of the public** 12

1 **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Chairman Lorna Cuthill welcomed everyone to the Assembly. Apologies received from Tom Horsey and County Councillor Elaine Still.

2 **PC REID'S REPORT**

2.1 **Mapledurwell 2017 – reported crime**

REPORTED CRIME 2015 = 15

REPORTED CRIME 2016 = 17

REPORTED CRIME 2017 = 18

Sadly a further slight increase in reported crime in 2017 comprising:

- Three non-dwelling burglaries, one of a farm workshop and two at the Garden Centre
- Three thefts reported including of railway sleepers from the Village Hall and Christmas trees from the Garden Centre
- One domestic incident was reported, an historical assault
- Two thefts of motorcycles and four thefts from vehicles – part of a series and occurred across the northern area of the county and Basingstoke
- Two public order offences reported, and two criminal damage crimes where padlocks were cut at gates at East Moors off the Greywell Road.

2.2 **Mapledurwell 2017 – reported incidents**

Other incidents in the parish included:

- Two injury and two damage-only road traffic incidents
- three concern for welfare including a distressed female looking over M3 bridge
- two fallen trees across roads, a false burglar alarm activation, a car parked in the village hall with handbag and telephone visible
- two suspicious vehicles and poachers seen by a police dog handler at East Moors, made off at speed
- a report of an illegal trap being used which when examined was found to be a legal snare
- three reports of fly-tipped rubbish again at East Moors
- an unlawful pedlar seen on a Sunday afternoon being abusive to residents, who I reported and was later convicted at court.

'I also had the privilege of attending both the annual Mapledurwell regatta and the annual fire works display, both excellent as usual.'

2.3 Up Nately 2017 – reported crime

REPORTED CRIME 2015 = 2

REPORTED CRIME 2016 = 10

REPORTED CRIME 2017 = 4

A good reduction in reported crime in this parish on the previous year.

The four crimes comprised:

- Two offences deemed as 'other', including an allegation of assault and a religion-based offensive letter received by a resident.
- Reported criminal damage to a wheelie bin which was shot at
- An assault reported between two staff members of a local home.

2.4 Up Nately 2017 – reported incidents

Other incidents in the Parish included a domestic dispute, an abandoned 999 call which was found to be in order, a concern for a female looking over the M3 motorway bridge and a drone seen flying over a house.

2.5 2018 to datei Reported incidents – Mapledurwell

Concern for welfare at the Hollies, two domestic disputes at The Hollies, an injury road traffic incident (accident) Greywell Road, a dangerous driving allegation of a 4 x 4 being driven at speed through the village, an abandoned car (snow) and another at The Hollies, four poachers reported for summons to court, a suspicious man seen with several lurchers near Grays Farm, a suspicious van seen at Oak Tree Cottages and an abandoned 999 call from a mobile in a pocket.

ii Reported crime – Mapledurwell

- 3 x Thefts – a wildlife camera, car batteries from Conkers Garden Centre and scrap metal from a house
- 1 x Theft from a vehicle at The Hollies
- 1 x Drugs – car stopped near The Hatch containing class A drugs
- 2 x Harassment allegations both at The Hollies
- 1 x Assault at The Hollies.

iii Reported incidents – Up Nately

Concern for welfare for an elderly female with mental health issues. A false burglar alarm activation, a brick fell on a builder's head, and eight horse and carts being raced in Blackstocks Lane.

ii Up Nately – No reported crime.

'I wish to thank the Parish Council for the support given, Sue Turner for all she does and the excellent NHW Co-ordinators of Rod Warner and Gilly Radcliffe.'

PC Reid left the meeting with thanks of the Chairman and the Assembly.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Lorna continued her thanks PC Andy Reid and Neighbourhood Watch, plus Councillors and Clerk, for their work throughout the year, notably:

- David Elison organised and oversaw the refurbishment of the sports pavillion with a grant from the BDBC Local Infrastructure Fund.
- Robin Best has made intensive efforts to investigate the possibility of a bund along the M3 bordering the Parish.

The Parish now owns the allotments, the title deeds having been transferred from Corpus Christy.

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FINANCE REPORT

Robin Best explained the Parish Council income – comprising the Parish Precept which is part of the Council Tax – and various Grants and donations.

The Parish continues to receive a grass cutting grant from BDBC for the recreation ground, but other BDBC grants are being phased out, in particular the General Grant £1,100 previously received annually (in 2017/18 reduced to £550 and for 2018/19 is zero). The tax base grant (rebate) is also discontinued.

The Precept request for 2017/18 (and this year 2018/19) covers this lost grant funding plus 3% increase – overall 11.87% increase for 17/18 and 11.18% for 2018/19. Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council has historically received a low Precept without increases. In recent years the Parish Council has sought regular increases to bring the Precept in line with similar parishes.

Grants / Donations Robin thanked the Friends of St Mary's and Nigel McNair-Scott for their contributions to the noise / bund impact studies which reduced the costs to the Parish Council to £3,726.

The total grant from the Local Infrastructure Fund – for Pavilion refurbishment – was £8,400 with thanks to BDBC. Thank to Chineham Tigers for their contribution of £750. The total refurbishment cost was £9,809.58 .

Financial year 2017/18 was budgeted for an annual deficit of £1,183.34, in fact ending with a deficit of £3,079.52 reflecting in the main additional agreed expenditure on the noise studies. Leaving £8,773.50 to take over to 2018/19.

Allotment grant funds remaining (£860.28) continue to be ringfenced.

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BUND AND NOISE STUDIES

Report by Robin Best

The Parish Council's investigations have included...

- reviewing the requirements and possibilities of achieving planning permission
- commissioning an independent professional noise study and modelling
- cost and potential funding arrangements
- understanding the practicalities and challenges of construction.

The noise impact studies have mapped present noise levels at locations across the Parish and produced maps of projected future scenarios with the bunds in place. Overall projected noise level reduction for the Parish is disappointing with in general only low moderate to minor improvements projected. However at the Village Hall and nearby properties the benefit would be dramatic, with considerable benefit at Kembers Lane. Large amount of bund is needed to secure /protect a small area.

Existing bunds at the end of Frog Lane and by Huish Farm have substantial beneficial effects on local properties. Walking either side the bund, the difference is evident.

Pre-application enquiry response from BDBC outlines

- the challenges a planning application would face, ie potential grounds for refusal
- evidence requirements and associated costs of preparing an application.

Planning is likely to be via BDBC if submitted as a community benefit rather than a minerals and waste application. Report from a Principle Planning Officer suggests that a BDBC Planning Officer would be unlikely to support the application. The Parish Council considers many of the arguments against can be challenged, but the response isn't encouraging.

Acoustic fencing The Planning Officer’s report indicated Highways England favour acoustic fencing. This is expensive and would require funding by Highways England. In the Parish Council’s proposed model, bund construction will fund lengths of acoustic fencing where needed. It is also understood that acoustic fencing is effective immediately behind the fence but rapidly less so with distance.

Conclusions so far. Robin said...

- the Parish Council has fulfilled its agreed remit of investigating and establishing what the potential benefits could be.
- Parish Council does not have the resources to fund the application and the studies and evidence-base required – landscape impact, environmental impact assessment etc.
- Parish Council is willing to continue to pursue, but for this project to continue, landowners and / or a commercial company will need to provide this funding.

6 M3 QUIET SURFACE

A resident’s question re the effectiveness of a quiet surface on the M3:

M3 resurfacing with quiet surface is now underway – lane-by-lane from J5 to 12, beginning with the hard shoulder, but the outside lane not yet resurfaced so the overall impact is incomplete.

7 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

Chameleon Consultancy (on behalf of Radian Housing) has collated the questionnaire responses saying: ‘The draft report is to be presented to Radian this week [w/c 14th May] and once approved, the information can be circulated. Total response was 89 (eight online, 81 paper) a response rate of 33%.’

Chameleon has released a summary of general topic responses in advance of the housing survey data. Responses regarding Parish improvements include – Improvements for Highways and Pavements (potholes/road maintenance, maintenance of hedges/pathways); Improvements to amenities with requests for a local shop and a pub in Nately Scures; plus requests for bus service. General comments on housing include in particular that existing homes are allowed to extend so they no longer fit the village needs or characteristics

Lorna said that re Highways and paths, the Parish Council would seek to address these issues insofar as possible; but twice a bus service had been tried through Mapledurwell and each time found to be financially unviable. Smaller houses being extended is recognised as an issue but extensions are permitted in the planning process. An application can’t be refused when so many others have been allowed (unless there are particular circumstances against it).

8 MAPLEDURWELL POND

Alan Hutton said what is now Mapledurwell Pond used to be a splash ford. The pond was created using a liner some 25-30 years ago. So it is collecting silt washed down from the roads and roadside ditches. This is all Highways run-off, not from neighbouring land. But there are silt traps where the ditches enter the ponds and these need digging out. Lengthman is to hire a digger and clear these – likely to need doing every three years. Clearing the pond itself will be a different matter – to avoid tearing the liner.

9 TENNIS COURTS

Resident's question raised as to when the tennis courts would be swept? Lorna said this is a job for this month. A comment also received that willing tennis players are needed to help sweep.

10 CLLR CUBITT REPORTSHELAA and housing land supply

Onnalee said the assessment of BDBC's latest (2017) call for sites had been circulated to Ward Councillors prior to publication. The SHLAA – strategic housing land availability assessment – is now a SHELAA – strategic housing and environmental land availability assessment. The Parish needs to be aware of the imminent publication of this most recent SHELAA for Mapledurwell & Up Nately which will soon be available on line.

The current Local Plan housing requirement is 850 dwellings per annum up to 2029. The borough currently has a 5-year deliverable housing land supply and Manydown – which is jointly owned by the borough and county – has large housing potential but is currently at application stage. New Government proposals for calculating housing need, if confirmed in the revised National Planning Policy Framework, will increase the housing requirement, so it is likely that additional sites will need to be considered in the Local Plan five-year review (2021).

Motorway service areas

Onnalee said she strongly supported Maria Miller's petition. Development south of the M3 is an unwanted precedent. There are many particular reasons for objection – the impact on traffic flow at J6, the sewage system at overcapacity, environmental impact particularly on the source of Loddon, landscape impact and particularly on nearby grade II listed Hackwood Park and Crabtree plantation.

Transport and Infrastructure

A question was raised about sufficient infrastructure being in place to accommodate the new housing. Alan Hutton commented that there is insufficient emphasis on how to get all these people in and out of Basingstoke.

It was noted the Community Infrastructure Levy is soon to be introduced in BDBC which requires £200 per m² to be put to infrastructure projects (15% of which goes to the Parish, 25% if the Parish has a Neighbourhood Plan).

In response to a resident's question Onnalee said trains were a huge issue. But it was noted there is no longer to be a reduction in South West Trains peak London services from Hook and Winchfield (reference Ranil Jayawardena's petition).

Playground at the Hollies

At the request of a resident and then the Parish Council, Onnalee has taken Sovereign Housing to task over the upkeep, or lack of upkeep, of the children's playground at the Hollies. Sovereign says maintenance is contracted to Ground Control but maintenance has been absent until Onnalee recently succeeded in achieving some cleaning work to be done. A means is needed to stop birds perching on the bars across the top of the swings – David Ellison recommended plastic ties with the ties pointing upwards as used in the Mapledurwell playground. It transpires there is no safety inspection requirement for privately (housing association) owned playgrounds.

11 THANKS AND CLOSE

With no further questions the Chairman closed the Assembly at 9.15 with thanks to all for attending and participating.