

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT TO DORDON PARISH COUNCIL

Cllors Jacky Chambers and Pete Morson

Date: - 20th September 2021

ITEMS

- 1. Civil Parking Enforcement and Car Park Charges**
- 2. Hodgetts Estates –proposal for business park [lorries and warehouses]**
- 3. Local Plan.**
- 4. Demolition of 17 C Agricultural farm buildings**
- 5. COVID update**

1 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT [CPE] AND CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Borough Council has been consulting on proposals to introduce civil parking enforcement and car parking charges across the Borough.

Although we welcomed the proposal: -

- To keep car parking free of charge in Dordon
- To keep free car parking for blue badge holders across the Borough

We expressed our concerns that:

- a) The maximum period for which vehicles may wait” in the Long Street car park was 14 hours rather than 24 hours [ie same Derek Avenue].
https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/file/8750/parking_schedule_2021 We pointed out the historic nature of this restriction, and that the 2017 NWBC review identified that 58% of the total parking available in Dordon is on-street parking. Such heavy reliance on on -street car parking causes major problems for traffic flow and causes daily obstructions in Long Street and New Street. This review also showed that some Long Street residents and their visitors use this car park because no other on street parking is available to them
- b) free car parking in other parts of the Borough will only be available for one hour. Many of our families and elderly people use the Memorial Car Park outside the Atherstone leisure centre to go swimming, attend classes, go for blood tests, visit local shops / market or go to events in the town.

We said that Labour Councillors are opposed in principle to car parking charges to pay for CPE.

There has been a huge outcry against this proposal - from the public and local businesses across the Borough with more than 500 letters sent in from the general public and local businesses - many pointing to the likely negative impact on the high street and bad timing with respect to economic and social recovery post COVID.

At least 6 residents of Derek Avenue wrote about the need to protect this car park for residential use.

Rt Hon Craig Tracey MP has also written a letter asking for alternatives [eg 2 hour free minimum stay] to be considered . The Resources Board will determine next steps at a future meeting

2. Hodgetts proposal for a business park - lorry park and warehouses.

Hodgetts estate launched a 3 week on -line pre consultation about their proposal to develop part of the land in the Strategic gap [formerly known as the Meaningful Gap]. Councillor Chambers made a statement on behalf of the many Dordon residents who expressed their concerns which was published in the Tamworth Herald . https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/plans-build-greenest-business-park-21574085?fbclid=IwAR0q7WqN81Ppn6z5vjBID_T505UpwqcqFvsiSZJWtBi84hnLgSa1VKe6Pm3Y

“We don’t want these green fields and hedgerows to disappear under concrete. Hundreds of local people enjoy walking the footpaths across this land and really value the sense of freedom, space and living in a rural village.

For many years the Council has tried to protect this land from industrial development because it is part of the “Strategic Gap” which separates Tamworth from Dordon and Polesworth.

Let’s hope they continue to do so – otherwise in 10 years’ time , Dordon will be surrounded on all sides [north south, east and west] by housing estates, residential sprawl and industrial units.

North Warwickshire has already had more than its fair share of logistics sites. We don’t need or want any more and this development will bring harm rather than benefit

The last thing we need is a large lorry park emptying onto the A5 and clogging up Junction 10. More lorries stopping and starting along this road will add to the rising problems of air pollution, noise and light pollution. Enough is enough “

The Borough Council will lead the formal consultation on the full planning application when it is submitted – possibly December 2021 or early 2022. A programme of archaeological digs and evaluation is currently underway, and fencing has been erected between the working area and the Public Bridleway.

3 Local Plan

Discussion and decision on acceptance of the final version of the Local plan after modifications required by the Inspector will take place at **Full Council on September 29th**.

One significant modification LP 5 relates to the Strategic Gap which mean that protection is not as “absolute “as previously.

The following statement now describes policy with respect to use and development of this land: -

The purpose of policy LP5 is to retain and respect the separate identities and characters of the settlements of Tamworth and Polesworth with Dordon to avoid their coalescence. The Strategic Gap seeks to retain and maintain the sense of space, place and separation between these settlements so that when travelling through the strategic gap (by all modes of transport), a traveller should have a clear sense of having left the first settlement, having travelled through an undeveloped area and then entering the second settlement.

Dordon Borough Councillors will vote against adoption of this plan.

4 Demolition of 17 C Agricultural Farm buildings, Dordon Hall lane

We have contacted Fiona Wallace and Mr Peter White about what steps can be taken to protect what remains of these historic farm buildings following recent demolition and prevent construction traffic from causing further deterioration. In 2020 an application Historic England for listing failed. However, given the real threat of further demolition we have asked the councils Heritage Officer to use whatever powers are available to protect the remaining buildings

COVID UPDATE

National picture

Population studies by the Office for National Statistics shows that infection are high at around 1.28% in England (1 in 80 people), week ending 11th September compared with 1.38% (1 in 70 people) the previous week .

The most recent government figures show that around 8,000 people are currently in hospital with coronavirus ie a slight fall from a week earlier.

Vaccination of care home staff has now been made compulsory due to low uptake - but this requirement does not yet apply to vaccination by domiciliary care provider staff.

North Warwickshire

Current infection rates in the Borough are around 338 cases per 100,000 people in the latest week 7 Sep-13 Sep. The average area in England had 256*.

81% of people have now had both vaccinations [which is good compared with other areas in the Region] .

Several Borough Councillors have recently caught coronavirus despite having been doubly vaccinated.

One of these councillors [Cllor Andy Jenns] has made a public plea for people to remain cautious , wear face masks and continue to observe social distancing <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/kingsbury-councillors-covid-plea-after-21562377>