

Beckley Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, 8th March, 2017.

District Councillors Report.

Neighbourhood plans.

Members will remember a joint meeting that included Northiam and Peasmarsh parish councils. Seddlescombe is about to put forward their plans. I have no doubt that this procedure does make available the opportunity to secure village assets, it also reflects on planning issues.

Community Grants.

Again, I draw members attention to Rothers grant facility, in terms of product it does not offer to replace old for new, the clock outside the school was the result of a grant application.

Tree Preservation Orders.

I am fully aware of concerns that parish councils have when developments take place, or indeed when trees are taken down when council offices are closed. It is important that the parish council considers which trees be retained and approach the tree preservation officer at RDC for advice or action to be taken.

Car Parking issues.

I am contacted on a regular basis by residents who live in Rye and surrounding areas where this is becoming a real issue. As members would be aware this has/is the responsibility of the police. However, they say they have not the money to carry out that duty. They want authorities to take on that responsibility, but like them we at District council are having our rate support grants continually reduced. This issue will be presented again at the next Scrutiny meeting at RDC on the 20th March. Whatever the outcome the final decision from the Minister of State may take about two Years. It is therefore important that funding issues are sorted, and responsibilities accepted for that gestation period.

Northlands Farm.

This issue illustrates very well the thought process that is sometimes used by individuals. I was first contacted on Thursday evening, as soon as was possible contact was made the following day with the enforcement department at Rother, officers visited site. For information, a temporary stop notice was not appropriate as this does not allow the authority to require reinstatement works. The best result was to get the works to cease, which was achieved. The visit on the 20th of February assessed the impact of the development. The detail on your agenda details that outcome. This last Monday morning, I was further contacted by residents, informing me of further works going on. It transpired that officers were aware over the weekend. This is a separate further action and will be treated accordingly. I understand a planning application has now been submitted to RDC for consideration.

Planning issues.

Upon reading through the minutes of the last parish meeting, I feel I would like to clarify several points mentioned. If the proposed 16 houses were built on Buddens Green their number would be included within the number required for Beckley in the recent consultation which indicates 20. That means a balance of 4. In order for developments to be included a minimum of 6 properties have to be built. It is my understanding that the Manroy site which was mentioned in the last minutes, and was mentioned in the SHLAA publication as a result of an interest in development would provide at least that balance, again, all details mentioned in the SHLAA publication under Beckley.

The Community Investment Levy which individuals and developers have to pay indicates that the Buddens Green proposed development, which is based on the sq. metre area/land value in area of the development, in this case that is 1322x£135, that money goes to RDC. I understand that affordable housing is not charged.

I have recently spoken to Rother's Housing and Asset Development Officer, and as requested a housing needs report for Beckley was prepared. The report indicates that there are currently 11 applicants on the housing register for affordable rent housing who have a direct connection to Beckley, by either current residency family, or from employment in the village. The majority of this need (10 out of 11 cases) require a one bedroom property.

Points worth noting.

Applicants on the housing register who are in a Band A (urgent housing need) or who have a connection to the RYE AND RURAL PARISH CLUSTER will be prioritised first for social housing vacancies that become available in the village of Beckley. This is in accordance with Rothers current allocations policy. Allocation restricted to residents of Beckley only (or those with a connection to Beckley) can only be assisted on where there is an exception site scheme, or if the housing scheme has been delivered by a community land trust/cooperate, other community led housing group. The above housing needs data does not take into account those residents who may be interested in other forms of affordable housing tenure, such as shared ownership. Rother is currently in the process of undertaking a district wide housing needs survey that will determine the housing needs of the district. This we should know from this survey in May/June of this Year.

I referred to the Rye and Rye rural parish cluster, I hope to report on that at our next meeting. This involves about 15 villages/towns.

Many thanks for your attention.

Cllr.Ian Jenkins, District Councillor.
Northiam, Beckley, Peasmarsh, Rye Foreign.

