

Status Report – Newlands Parish Council

There has yet again been little progress since the previous report and a number of matters are still outstanding:

1. The issue regarding the tree planting over sewer easements in the southern part of Wellington Park has not yet been resolved. This has been raised again with the Implementation Manager.
2. Further action is awaited regarding the proposed foot and cycle path from Brambles Farm to Houghton Avenue. A proposed meeting between the Parish, Havant Councillors and Havant officers has not yet taken place.
3. Open space within the Havant part of Wellington Park has not yet been adopted but it is hoped to liaise with the Havant Cabinet member responsible for open spaces to agree a plan and timescale.
4. The bed of the Old Park Farm Stream is overgrown and in need of remedial work by Taylor Wimpey. This will be addressed as part of the previous item.
5. Agreement has not yet been reached over the ownership and management of the Town Park which needs agreement from both District authorities and Grainger plc and has become more urgent as a result of uncertainties arising from the possible proposals for Local Government Reorganisation.

However, a number of activities should occur over the next few months:

1. The two allotment areas will be completed and transferred to the Parish Council and a new member of staff employed to assist with both the management of these and other matters relating to open space. However, due to the failure to amend the S106 agreement to include Newlands as a party, initial transfer will be to Winchester City Council with a subsequent further transfer as and when agreed.
2. The dog exercise areas are due for completion and again will be transferred to the Parish Council using the same process as noted above.
3. Despite the continuing failure to complete the S104 agreement between Taylor Wimpey and Southern Water, Winchester City Council have proposed that the public open space in Wellington Park be now transferred to the Parish and the Parish Council has agreed subject to a number of conditions necessary to ensure that no exposure to the Parish arises as a result. A meeting with Winchester City Council is planned to agree this with possible staging to allow areas other than Newlands Walk to be transferred initially and the rest once remedial work has been completed.
4. In preparation for the transfer of the commuted sum that will come with each transfer the RFO is examining investment opportunities to optimise the use of these sums.
5. Once open space in Wellington Park has been transferred provision of additional waste bins will be considered to address the current shortage of such facilities. This has become more urgent as a result of the decision by Abri to remove the two public bins that were installed many years ago when they were Radian, and the decision by First Port to remove the bins installed in Phase 5 which had been installed without approval from residents.
6. The Parish Council has acquire equipment and organised training for Speedwatch volunteers as a first step towards managing the significant speeding problems in the estate.

7. Ongoing concerns exist regarding the use by Grainger of UKPC as a parking control company with a growing number of drivers ticketed incorrectly for stopping in controlled areas. The contract with UKPC is due to expire next year and in addition as roads in the Berewood section are adopted UKPC will no longer be the monitoring agency as this will pass to Hampshire Highways parking enforcement.
8. An ongoing issue still exists regarding the decision by Hampshire Highways to close Sickie Way to through traffic once Darnel Road has been adopted, despite confirmation from Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue that they will not allow such closure to take place. The matter has been referred to the planning department for a solution which will amend the original S38 justification for closure.