

## **Status Report – Newlands Parish Council**

Both Newlands parish and the Forum have suffered a sad loss with the death of Councillor Mike Read, who, in addition to his long service as a Winchester City Councillor, Mayor of Winchester, Chairman for many years of Denmead Parish Council and mainstay of the local Scouting movement, was one of the longest-standing members of the Forum and a Newlands Councillor since its inception seven years ago. May I ask all members of the Forum and officers involved to pay tribute to his unmatched contribution to both the development and the wider area.

The decision as part of the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation to include Newlands in the South East Unitary rather than with the remainder of Winchester presents both opportunities and new challenges, as does the decision by Havant Borough Council not to adopt any assets within their part of the MDA.

The following matters reported previously are in the process of being resolved:

1. Snagging issues related to the original part of the open space in Wellington Park within Winchester are being addressed by the City Council in preparation of transfer to the Parish.
2. The transfer directly to the Parish Council of the open space to either side of Tamworth Road adjacent to the Old Park Farm stream in the Southern part of Wellington Park is still under consideration and is dependent on staffing resources

being available. This will complete the transfer of all public open space in the Winchester part of Wellington Park to Newlands Parish Council.

3. In preparation for the transfer of the commuted sums that will come with these transfers, the RFO is still examining investment opportunities to optimise the use of these sums.
4. The two cultivation plot areas are not yet complete or ready to transfer to Winchester City Council prior to further transfer to Newlands Parish as they require digging over and weeding, and grassed areas need to be treated. Also, a number of issues regarding the car park adjacent to the Southern one have still to be resolved.
5. The dog exercise areas are due for completion and again will be transferred to Newlands Parish using the same process as noted above.

The following matters reported previously have not yet been resolved:

1. An initial proposal for the Community Centre has been received by the Parish Council but a number of issues regarding its layout are still to be resolved and the proposal from Grainger which will be made at this session of the Forum also does not resolve the use of the contribution made by Taylor Wimpey in lieu of a separate facility within their area.
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 still not yet taken place. However, the Director of Place and Planning at Havant has agreed to meet the Chairman of the Parish Council to address this and a number of other matters related to the decision by HBC regarding open space, including management of Newlands Town Park which lies partially within both boroughs.

A number of matters are still outstanding since the previous report:

1. Open space within the Havant part of Wellington Park has not yet been adopted and Havant Borough Council has now indicated that they will not do so. Failure by HBC to adopt will present an issue regarding future maintenance as transfer to a management company is virtually impossible as residents could not be charged retrospectively for this. As reported at the last meeting of the Forum, possible solution suggested by Taylor Wimpey's Implementation Manager would be for the remaining unadopted areas to be transferred directly to Newlands Parish despite being outside the Parish boundary but this would require further consideration. The issue of the one plot already adopted by HBC which contained the now-removed play area, and also the Southern Water sewer manhole which has blown out yet again after heavy rain, needs to be resolved.
2. The bed of the Old Park Farm Stream is overgrown and still in need of remedial work by Taylor Wimpey. This needs to be addressed before any action can be taken on the previous item.
3. Clarification is needed urgently on the reported wish of Grainger to transfer all of their open space and related assets to the Land Trust, something which would require consent from Winchester City Council as per the requirements of the S106 agreement. Such a transfer would be opposed totally by the Parish Council as making its future essentially unviable.
4. The S104 agreement between Southern Water and Taylor Wimpey is still outstanding, preventing any adoption of roads. This was raised publicly at the recent Water Conference and a response has still not been received from Southern Water.
5. The proposed closure of Sickie Way to through traffic after adoption has not yet been resolved despite confirmation

from Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue that they will not allow such closure to take place, and given the likely time frame will be resubmitted to the new Highway Authority when the South East Unitary has been established.

However, a number of activities are still planned for the next few months as previously reported in most cases:

1. 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.
2. The Parish Council has acquired equipment and training for Speedwatch volunteers has been organised by the Community Group as a first step towards managing the significant speeding problems in the estate.
3. 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 this 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.
4. Negotiations are underway with the Coal Pension Fund for the Parish to maintain the open space and SuDS in the western part of Plot 500 at Proxima Park. This will depend on agreement on funding for ongoing maintenance and inclusion in the overall open space management plan.