

Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

From: Keith Sandle <keith.sandle@gmail.com>
Sent: 04 August 2019 18:27
To: Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council
Subject: FW: RE: FW: Update.
Attachments: Issues concerning Northwell Pool area.odt

From: e.mash1@btinternet.com <e.mash1@btinternet.com>
Sent: 17 July 2019 09:44
To: Shirley.Matthews@breckland.gov.uk
Cc: keith.sandle@gmail.com
Subject: Re: RE: FW: Update.

Dear Shirley

I thought I had better try this again as you have been having trouble with your emails. See above attachment. It's some time now since I sent it .

Thought as you originally asked me I would send to you to read before passing over to Richard. We can now add to the list an upsurge of RATS yet again. They are large and prolific. Not sure who is dealing with them now? They used to come yearly and fill the rat bait boxes. This hasn't been happening for some time.

Can you let me know if you get this one. Many thanks.

PS. I had passingly talked to Keith about this and he was interested to see a copy so have included him in this email; so if you are still having problems he may be able to pass this onto Richard for me.

Best wishes
 Elaine

----- Original Message -----

From: "E MASH" <e.mash1@btinternet.com>
To: Shirley.Matthews@breckland.gov.uk
Sent: Tuesday, 21 May, 2019 At 17:20
Subject: Re: RE: FW: Update.

Dear Shirley

Thanks for the call today. Have returned from a lovely lunch at The Bell Langham.

On my way back it suddenly occurred to me that although I wrote the attached letter two weeks ago!! I had waited to give my neighbour a chance to read it in case I had missed something. However, That's where it has remained. So sorry. I must have presumed I had sorted it. It's a bit like dreaming one's got all the housework and washing and ironing done ; only to wake up and find it still unfulfilled.

So I have attached for you to give to Richard whenever.

Best wishes Elaine

-----Original message-----

From : Shirley.Matthews@breckland.gov.uk
Date : 02/05/2019 - 05:42 (BST)
To : e.mash1@btinternet.com
Subject : RE: FW: Update.

Hi Elaine,

So pleased to hear the police are doing you proud up there; they are very good. Yes, the council is fully aware of the traffic problem your way and what it needs is a overall look at the area but NCC is really extremely short of money to do so. It would be no good doing just one little bit as it would only move the problem; we shall have to wait until the country becomes more wealthy to get back to more of the spending days and that certainly will not be in my time!! It is not funny. Really.

After I sent the last email, I was thinking it would be a good idea if you could send me an account of your problems so that I can give it to Richard who wil then have a full picture of what he needs to say to Anglian Water. You could give a better account (more detail) than I can to ensure his letter is important enough for them to take notice.

We've a big day today and tomorrow....it's not looking too good for our 3 councillors at Breckland which is the most important one. Can't wait to find out!!!!

Best wishes, Shirley

From: [E MASH](#)
Sent: 01 May 2019 12:00
To: [Matthews, Shirley](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Update.

Thanks Shirley

Things are a little quieter round here at present. The police have kept up a steady presence and are here in seconds for any problems. We had a visit with three officers last week to give us the full picture. Really appreciate your email .
We mentioned traffic from Northwell Road and Couhey Close. Is the council aware that this is a common by- pass for loads of traffic avoiding New Sporle Road because of the hospital and convent parking? Thats what makes the traffic so heavy and fast. So that it becomes a main thoroughfare?

Best wishes
Elaine

-----Original message-----
From : Shirley.Matthews@breckland.gov.uk
Date : 30/04/2019 - 20:20 (BST)
To : e.mash1@btinternet.com
Subject : FW: Update.

Hi Elaine,

I put a dot too many in the first email. Sorry!!

From: [Matthews, Shirley](#)
Sent: 30 April 2019 18:44
To: e.mash1@btinternet.com
Subject: Update.

Hi Elaine,

I promised to keep in touch as far as the Town Council part of the problem is concerned, meaning asking the Clerk to write to Anglian Water re the pool problem.

I didn't realise when we had the meeting that he was away that week and of course, when he came back on Monday of last week, there was work to catch up with and a quarterly Finance Meeting this week on Monday so he could not look at our problem.

Now, of course, there is the election this week and our town Council meeting next week with inevitably new councillors (and could be many new ones at that) so his mind is on greater things but I promise that after next Wednesday, 8th May, I will hone in on him to get that letter to Anglian Water written and sent.

The police tell me they are awaiting the go-ahead to charge 6 individuals and are pursuing several others with their parents with the idea of Anti-

Social Contracts and that sort of thing being imposed. As you have a close working relationship with the police you probably know all this.

However, I promise I will do my very best with Richard to get that letter off re the signs around the pond, but I know full well it won't be just yet.

Best wishes, Shirley

Email disclaimer:

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Ongoing issues of concern for the area of Northwell Pool

Traffic and roads:-

The roads and side thoroughfare (slip road) surrounding the pool carry a constant stream of traffic.

- It is used frequently to by-pass the congestion along Sporle Road created by the Community Hospital and Convent School parking. Many vehicles do not adhere to any speed limits or common sense.
- It is used by residents, obviously.
- It seems to be a popular turn around at the junction of Northwell Pool Road and Couhe Close. Probably because people do not realise the one way restriction to Northwell Pool Road
- It is used frequently by people and families visiting the pool/pond.
- It is well used by our substance abuse population for handovers and drop offs.
- The slip road is in constant use by vehicles using it as a short cut even though there is a clear no through sign at the corner.
- In winter the gritters do not include the area of Northwell Pool Road or Couhe Close. This is often lethal sheet ice at times. The road up to town is a long gradual incline and our elderly population in this area find it impossible to get out. It's bad enough for the rest of us. There have been a few times when we have requested that the gritters include us and, to their credit they have, but I can only recall two occasions in the last 25 years that we have been here.
- It is a well known flood risk around the pool. The drains are old and completely root bound. There has not been a sump truck down here for years. When the rain is heavy the roads are full of fountains, spewing springs, at each drain cover.
- In the past there have been requests to speed bump this area.
- There have been several requests for something to prevent vehicles from using the unadopted pond slip road. Bollards being one of them. It would need to be something which would be accessible for fire engines and council maintenance vehicles.

The Pond :-

- The Pool/or pond as know by general public is the property of Anglian Water and they do not recognise it to be a duck pond or a family friendly attraction.
- Its purpose is to be a collection point and dispersment centre for all the excess water in the surrounding areas.
- It is a functional and a vitally important community commodity for Swaffham.
- It is however a much loved area for folk to visit. It is an aesthetically pleasing and inviting space if well maintained. Sadly this is not the case.
- There are plans to dredge and clear some of the growth again.
- Maintenance of its surrounding area, the railings and overgrowth is a constant dispute between the council and Anglian water. Who does what and who pays?
- The railings are in poor state and not high enough to stop the youngsters from getting over into the pond and messing about. Which they do frequently.
- Anlian Water did come and put warning notices up at our request, many years ago, but they are filthy and not easily legible. The water is very deep in parts and there is all kinds of rubbish tossed in periodically. Fly tipping was seen and reported last year.

The Ducks:-

- Most of the local residents don't mind the ducks and have taken sensible steps to prevent them from getting into their gardens.

- We have a great council worker who road sweeps frequently and washes down the pavements on a regular basis.
- In general, if the ducks are not fed anywhere other than the pond area they do not wander for long. They will only be bothersome in their mating season looking for nesting areas.
- We have often put notices at the pond about feeding the ducks. Some people come with foul waste food and chuck it down for them. This includes garlic potatoes and chocolate cake!! This only serves to feed the rats.
- Feeding ducks white bread and rotten food makes their droppings acid. This kills the grass and the algae in the pond.
- It would be great if there were some proper signage to educate the folk that visit to feed them.
- The ducks are frequently run over by speeding and uncaring drivers.
- The ducks suffer some abuse from visiting children and local unsavoury characters.

Antisocial Behaviour:-

- It is the families from Orford Place, Manor Way and Splashes who use the pond area as a play area and a route to town. It is therefore only natural to see a proportion of these youngsters misbehaving as they grow up. Some however make a nuisance of themselves by mindless destruction of property. Cruelty to ducks. Foul language and drinking.
- This area is well known as a 'drug run' with frequent pick ups and drop offs.
- Some residents work closely with the police and it does make a difference for a while.

We are currently experiencing a quieter time in reference to drug runs and Antisocial Behaviour due to concerted efforts by the police and some vigilant residents. Long may this continue.

Mrs Elaine Mash May 21st 2019