

Hello All!

At the time of writing this, we have had some very mixed weather. It seems to go from bright sunshine to hailstones all in one day – not good for drying laundry outside!

We had our Annual Meeting before our last Parish Council meeting and we were so pleased to see several residents turn out to discuss any issues they had. It was wonderful to get some feedback from the villagers.

The key point raised was about parking on the Waste Ground, now that The Cock Inn is being converted into 3 houses. We understand that residents feel that MKCC acted unlawfully in allowing the planning application for The Cock Inn to go ahead with the possibility of new residents having rights to park on the Waste Ground. There was discussion that the PC should have engaged legal advice regarding the decision. However, as explained by our Chair: the PC had objected and attended the planning meeting, explaining the importance of the Waste Ground to the village and how residents would have no legal rights to park on the Waste Ground. The Chair also stated that there had been no objections from the village residents at the time of the planning permission being submitted. As a PC we had considered Judicial Review but due to the high cost and small chances of success, this was not taken up.

Residents asked us to seek further legal advice, which we have now done. Our clerk has received some legal advice through the Society of Local Council Professionals who have replied with the following statement:

“There is no action that the Parish Council can take in respect of the planning application that has been permitted. The only action would have been a judicial review and this would only have succeeded if the decision had been one which could not have reasonably been made. On the basis of what you have stated, an application would have been unlikely to succeed. “

They also recommended we contact the developers of the Cock Inn to advise them of the situation regarding the Waste Ground, which our clerk has done – hopefully we will get a response from the developers very soon.

One of the other issues raised was regarding the 20 mile an hour speed limit, so I thought it would be good to give everyone an update on that. The PC have submitted our application, which is expected to be reviewed in the autumn so hopefully we will hear something by the end of the year – fingers crossed.

A question was raised about the SIDS (Speed Indicator Devices). We are aware that one of them has been down and unfortunately, is now out of warranty (warranty of one year). The cost of having someone out from the suppliers just to review them is around £360 and that’s before they even determine how to fix them. Our clerk is looking into other options and contacting other villages to see how they manage the maintenance of SIDS.

There were also some general concerns about the state of the roads and the number of potholes. The PC is not in control of when potholes are filled nor can we do anything to speed up the process. If anyone is concerned about a pothole or damage to the road, please submit a report via the MK Council portal.

I realise this report has been quite heavy going but I wanted to give a thorough update on the situation and particularly where the PC stands in regard to the parking on the Waste Ground.

Plans are continuing for the Fun Day and I am hoping to book some really exciting new events! Details to be shared in the next bulletin.

As always, our PC meetings are open to the general public so please feel free to come along to our next meeting if there is anything you would like to discuss. Our next meeting will be held on Monday 1st June at 7:30pm in the Institute Club Room.