

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, July 2015

Core strategy & Neighbourhood Development Plan

We are awaiting the planning inspector's report which will be available by mid-July. Should the report be favourable, the Core Strategy then requires approval at cabinet for recommendation to Full Council.

At the time of writing we anticipate a full Council meeting to debate this before the end of July. This may change!

As soon as the Core Strategy is passed at full council it becomes the planning document for all applications to be judged against in tandem with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It also paves the way for adopting the Neighbourhood plans when they are accepted by local communities at local referendum.

Having a neighbourhood development plan is the best way for parishes to influence where new homes are to be built. There is a team at H.C.C headed by Samantha Banks who is there to help you - if you need any help from me then I will happily assist.

I met with Samantha on 22.06 and the file she has on Much Birch shows an estimation that the parish will need to build approx. 57 homes over the next 15 years to satisfy the targets (14 already committed. This figure may even increase as Much Birch has all the characteristics needed for a sustainable community (as discussed last meeting)

I can happily share the Welsh Newton NDP if you need help as it is a good thorough example.

I am appearing before the planning committee on 15.07 to speak on behalf of Dave Davies regarding his planning application on Wrigglebrook Lane. Mr Davies has many letters of support from local citizens and the proposed site is close to the A49.

The issue of parking around Fairview (near the school) is being sorted out by HCC and we are now in a 6 month consultation phase.

The drainage issue on the Thorn has been attended to.

Fastershire (taken from their web site)

Work has been going well across sector 11 (Little Birch, Much Birch) and we're on track to hit our target of making fibre broadband available to 20,000 homes and businesses across Herefordshire by the end of the summer. We now expect the majority of work to finish by December 2015. Further work to ensure all premises have the capability to access faster broadband with a minimum of 2Mbps is expected to be completed by December 2016

Herefordshire Council Budget Outturn 2014/15

The 2014/15 revenue budget, which included savings of £15millions, under-spent by £639k in the year.

Herefordshire Council 2016 – 2020 Budget Planning

Council approved the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in February 2015. This will be updated over the coming months, based on revised grant assumptions and savings plans, and extended to cover the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

The overall savings requirement in the period 2015/16 to 2019/20 is £42millions. This assumes the removal of central government formula grant funding from 2019/20 with the council becoming self sufficient from business rates; council tax and specific grant allocations from that date.

We will know more after the budget....

Community first responder scheme

I attended a presentation recently given by the West Midlands ambulance service and they are keen to push the community first responder scheme, particularly in rural areas such as ours. (Could we have a community emergency kit in the shop for example?)

Community First Responder Schemes are teams of volunteers who are trained by the Ambulance Service to a nationally recognised level and provide life saving treatment to people in their local communities. Community First Responders are always backed up with the nearest available emergency ambulance. Thorough training is given and having someone trained in first aid on the scene of an accident within a couple of minutes might make a crucial difference. I am going to try and organise some training locally and will be pushing this scheme with each of the parish councils on my ward. (This might be something that could be incorporated into the proposed new community shop on the A49)

Parish Councillor Training

There is a parish councillor training session on 9th July that will be of particular interest to new councillors".