

BENTWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Cllr Jane Costigan

Clerk: Ms Allison Spyer

5 Bronze Close, Beggarwood, Basingstoke RG22 4UF

Tel: 07786 063579 Email: clerk@bentworthparishcouncil.org

MINUTES OF PLANNING MEETING

Tuesday 6 August 2019, Jubilee Hall, 7pm

- 1. Councillors Present:** Jane Costigan (Chair), Veronica Parker (Vice Chair), Tony Costigan, Chris Hurley & Danny Green
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Callum Knight
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- 4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 2 April 2019:** Deferred
- 5. Meeting Open to the Public:** There were twenty-four members of the public present including representatives from Medstead and Beech. Comments from those attending pertained mostly to application 58352, Change of agricultural land to provide pitches for gypsy families. It was commonly felt that CP15 assertions were not fully supported within the application. This covers the size of the site (not big enough for suggested allocations of caravans), no adequate screening as the hedgerows are not tall enough and deciduous, and the pressure on local services greatly increased. Local residents already experience regular problems with water pressure; and the nearest local school is already oversubscribed. It was also felt traffic would be a problem as the access road to the site is very narrow and will struggle with larger vehicles associated with travelling families. There are no passing places on the Wivelrod road so traffic meeting in each direction would require reversing on to a busy main road. Twice a year diversions redirect traffic down the access road meaning an increase in traffic on an unsuitable road thus elevating safety issues. District Cllr Tony Costigan did confirm that if the application was approved at the next level, he will call for it to be a committee decision.

One member of the public raised the issue of application 37737/012 replace existing fence and hedge. It was felt that increasing the fence and hedge to a 1.7m wall of that height to be inappropriate and not in-keeping within an rural environment.

- 6. Planning Applications** – To consider the Parish Council’s response to the following planning applications:
- 7.** 58352, Land north of Lower Park Farm, Abbey Road, Medstead, Alton.
Change of use of agricultural land to provide 8 pitches for gypsy families incorporating 1 mobile home, 1 touring caravan and 1 utility/day room per pitch and formation of hardstanding and associated car parking. **OBJECTION citing the following reasons:**
 - Criteria in CP15 have not been met. The site is agricultural land and an important space between three settlements.**

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- The roads are unsuitable as they are far too narrow to support the types of vehicles that would use them, any oncoming traffic would have to reverse on to a busy main road which is unsafe. In addition, twice a year the access road is used as a diversion which would increase traffic on an already unsuitable road.
 - There is inadequate carparking and turning space given the size of vehicle. (CP15 c)
 - There will be too much pressure on water drainage soakaways. (CP15 f)
 - There is an over subscription of gypsy sites in the local area and this field has never been earmarked before. (CP15 a)
 - There are no nearby local amenities such as shops and doctors and the nearest local school is over-subscribed. (CP15 b)
 - Hedgerow around the site is not tall enough to screen and is deciduous so will only provide limited cover part of the time. (CP15 e)
 - There are no footways and streetlights which could be a safety hazard for children having to walk to school.
 - If approved the application would almost double Wivelrods housing supply and be overwhelming.
8. 37737/012, Wivelrod House, Wivelrod Road, Bentworth, Alton, GU34 4AS
Two 1.7m high brick and flint garden walls to front of dwelling to replace existing fence and hedge. **OBJECTION citing the following reason:**
- The height of the proposed wall is inappropriate and not in-keeping with a rural locality.
9. 20364/010, The Homestead, New Copse, Bentworth, Alton, GU34 5NR
Retention of chicken coop to house chickens to lay eggs for personal consumption.
OBJECTION citing the following reasons:
- It was felt there is not enough information in the application and that it is too ambiguous.
 - The size of the application is too big for six chickens to provide for personal consumption.
 - A concrete base for a chicken run is unsuitable as chickens need to scratch.