

Residents Group Newsletter – June 2018

Acacia Avenue, Brook Vale, Sandbourne Drive, Sandstone Road, Stourport Road.

Overview

Our last Newsletter (dated February) was delivered to you in March. Besides the ongoing discussions and deliberations about traffic problems in Stourport Road and the recent sale of the field at the junction of Stourport Road and Bewdley bypass, the future role and effectiveness of this Committee was put to residents for discussion by way of a questionnaire. The results of this consultation are given below.

Residents Questionnaire

Firstly, your Committee would like to thank all of you who took time to complete the questionnaire that we sent to you. Many of the returns also included additional comments which are certainly 'food for thought' and are much appreciated. Our thanks also go to Brian Llewellyn who collated the results and presented a report to the Committee at a recent meeting.

All the residents in Brook Vale, Sandstone Road, Sandbourne Drive, Acacia Avenue and Stourport Road (as far as Station Road) received a questionnaire. This was 168 addresses in total. 45 questionnaires were returned with over 95% agreeing or strongly agreeing that the current Residents' Group performs a valuable function with regard to parking and traffic.

Additional comments made on almost half the returns show that "traffic and parking" continues to be a major issue with the possible housing development on the 'field' being a matter of equal concern.

Responses also encourage the group to consider expanding its brief so that it can more effectively ensure that the views of residents are taken into account.

Your Committee is giving further thought to an expanded role and the way in which the additional workload could be managed. In the short term we are actively pursuing the following:

- An experimental Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Seeking expert advice on matters such as planning consents, objections to planning applications and the protection of green belt land. We have the field at the end of Stourport Road particularly in mind here.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Whilst crime and anti-social behaviour in the area is a relatively small problem your Committee believes that support for one another through a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is worthwhile. We propose to introduce a limited scheme in the near future for Sandstone Road and Brook Vale households. These two roads have been chosen because there are relatively few houses involved. This will give an opportunity to gain experience with operating the scheme before widening its remit to the other roads in the group.

Contact by email is essential in order to keep you informed about any issues that arise. Jude Deakin has agreed to act as Coordinator for the Scheme which is already running for Sandstone Road and will shortly be expanded to include Brook Vale.

If you would like to join the scheme which potentially can have benefits such as reduced household insurance premiums and special offers on security items please let us know.

The Schools

The Head of the Primary School wrote to parents in March on the subject of road safety with particular emphasis on thoughtful parking and safe driving. Your Committee is grateful to the Head Teacher for her support. If you would like to read this item it is freely available at the Bewdley Primary School website.

Stourport Road Traffic Congestion

Despite the fact that we have submitted a five point plan to your Councillors for changes to road layout, parking and traffic calming measures in Stourport Road we have had little contact recently from local Councillors indicating that positive progress is being made in this regard.

A very limited scheme for a bus bay outside the High School entrance appears to have Councillor support and has recently been implemented. We doubt that this development will make any difference to the traffic problems that we all suffer during school term time as enforcement is so appalling. The idea for the bus bay did not come from your Committee!

Whilst receiving general support, our proposal to move the drop off and pick point for school coaches to the Leisure Centre car park has made NO progress. It would appear that neither Wyre Forest District Council and/or Worcestershire County Council want to provide funds for work necessary to progress this idea.

The cynics amongst us tend to think that this proposal has been 'kicked into the long grass' until such time as up to 100 houses are built on the field (creating a new source of congestion). At this time the developer, as part of the planning consent, may be required to fund such items as alterations to the road layout and possibly the Leisure Centre car park. This is known as 'Section 106 Funding'.

Your committee is opposed to any building work on this green belt land.

Traffic Enforcement

Our observations suggest that NO regular enforcement of the traffic regulations that currently exist is taking place in the area at the start and end of the school day. We have raised this issue with local Councillors and await developments.

Bewdley Neighbourhood Plan and 'The Field'

Committee Member, Graham Luxford has looked at this with the relevant points highlighted below.

To see the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and to take part in the survey go visit: www.beinbewdley.org

Open 'Draft Neighbourhood Plan-Consultation April 2018' to access the 'Draft Neighbourhood Plan April 2018' and the 'Survey'. Consultation was open until 4th June 2018.

COMMENT

The land on the Bewdley side of the By-Pass is currently Green Belt land and serves an important function of physical and perceived separation of Bewdley from Kidderminster. This is not, however, what is shown on Map 6. It only shows Green Belt on the Kidderminster, i.e. Safari Park side of the By-Pass. The inference is that all of the land on the Bewdley side, not just the two sites but the land in between could be available for development in the future. With the proposed Water Park and outline proposals for Hotel and Conference Centre on the Safari Park side this will all present a radical change in the perceived rural setting of our town, a much more urban feel and thereby a significant weakening of the Green Belt and its key function of separating town from town.

Keeping in Touch

Many thanks to those of you who agreed to receive this Newsletter by email. This helps us to help you more effectively. If you live in any of the roads listed above and would like to be added to our e-newsletter listing, rather than receiving a paper copy through the letterbox, please contact David Mee at - tigrish@btinternet.com

When doing this please include the first line of your address so that you can be deleted from the 'hand delivery' list. Using email is an efficient way to keep in touch and saves your Committee, which is self-funding, time and money!

In line with recent changes to legislation we would like to confirm the following:

- All email addresses that we currently use have been freely supplied by residents.
- Email addresses that we hold will not be passed to any third party organisation but may be shared within our Residents Group e.g. for use with the proposed Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Your email address will not be shared with any other resident without your permission.
- If you no longer wish the Residents Group to use your email address you may **unsubscribe** at any time by contacting one of the committee.

The current committee is:

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