

MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

William Helen

The Parish Council hope that you find this free copy of the Dever informative and a useful update on the Council's activities and support across the Parish. I would like to thank the Parish Councillors, City Councillors and Hampshire County Councillor for their support and efforts to maintain an active and living community, safe for us to live in.

Southbrook Cottages Development

The Parish Council were asked, at very short notice, to suggest a name for the new block of flats at Southbrook Cottages. Due to the proximity of the flats to the allotments, the councillors decided upon Hobbs View which has been accepted by the Post Office.

There was not time to carry out a consultation with residents but those whom Councillors O'Keefe and Drury were able to speak with were supportive of the choice made and we hope that you will be too.

Ernie Hobbs (1921-2014) lived in Micheldever from the age of 2. He had an allotment throughout his adult life and assisted the Parish Council with the management of the allotments for a large part of that time. Ernie was described at his funeral as a true gentleman who never had a bad

word to say about anyone and about whom nothing bad was ever said.

The development, by Winchester City Council, of the former garage area at Southbrook Cottages will help Winchester with some additional low cost rental housing for persons on their waiting list. This development is not an exception site and is therefore not limited to those with a local connection to the Parish but can be offered (by WCC) to anyone on their waiting list.

The development was not meant to start until the additional parking spaces for existing residents were excavated and surfaced.

The Parish Council made this very clear when they agreed to support the planning application and have been very annoyed by the delay in the completion of the parking

We have also been seeking to have the reinstatement of the allotment ground completed in a sensible way and have tried to work with the contractor to get this done more promptly but to no avail.

The contractors have been requested to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 6th December to address these issues and any others that residents may have so please come along to raise your questions directly to them.

New Affordable Housing Proposals

As longer-term residents in the community will be aware, the land on which Dever Close and Barron Close have been built, together with some adjoining land, was gifted to the community by Lord Rank specifically for low cost housing for local people. At the time of the gift no funds were available to carry out development but this has subsequently been done in stages. Dever Close was first, 30 years ago, and is mainly managed by Winchester Housing Trust. Ten years later a further 4 houses were added and 10 years after this Barron Close which is a joint venture between Winchester Housing Trust and Winchester City Council. The properties were all allocated to those with a local connection. It was thought that they would act as a stepping stone for residents to then move on to open market properties but, for various reasons, this has not happened whilst the demand from younger members of the community for affordable properties in their home parish remains high. The next stage of the development was tabled a number of years ago at the Parish Assembly held in Micheldever Station. It has taken longer than expected to reach a point where proposals are available to present to residents but in October Winchester City Council held a consultation event at Northbrook Hall to show plans for a possible development. I'm sure all current residents of Dever Close and Barron Close would be more than supportive of seeing the type of development that allowed them to reside in the village move forward in a positive way. This development has provided homes for people from all areas in the Parish and been generally well managed to date.

The Half Moon & Spread Eagle

Five years ago the Parish Council applied to have the Half Moon and Spread Eagle public house listed as an Asset of Community Value. This application was successful and meant that when the owner notified their intention to sell the property a six week moratorium period was triggered during which eligible community interest groups could submit an expression of interest to become potential bidders for the community asset. When a community group did become a bidder, this triggered a six month moratorium period to enable them to prepare their bid. The listing has now expired and, although it is hoped that the continuation of a public house in the village is more secure, the Parish Council have decided to apply again for a further five year listing.

Fireworks, Thatched Roofs & Animals

With fireworks no longer confined to the 5th November but used at celebrations throughout the year please be conscious of any neighbouring thatched properties, take sensible precautions and warn the occupants if you intend to use fireworks. If a thatched roof does ignite the results are rapid and devastating. Similarly, please show consideration for dogs, horses and other animals which may become distressed by the noise of fireworks and warn neighbours in advance if you are planning an event.

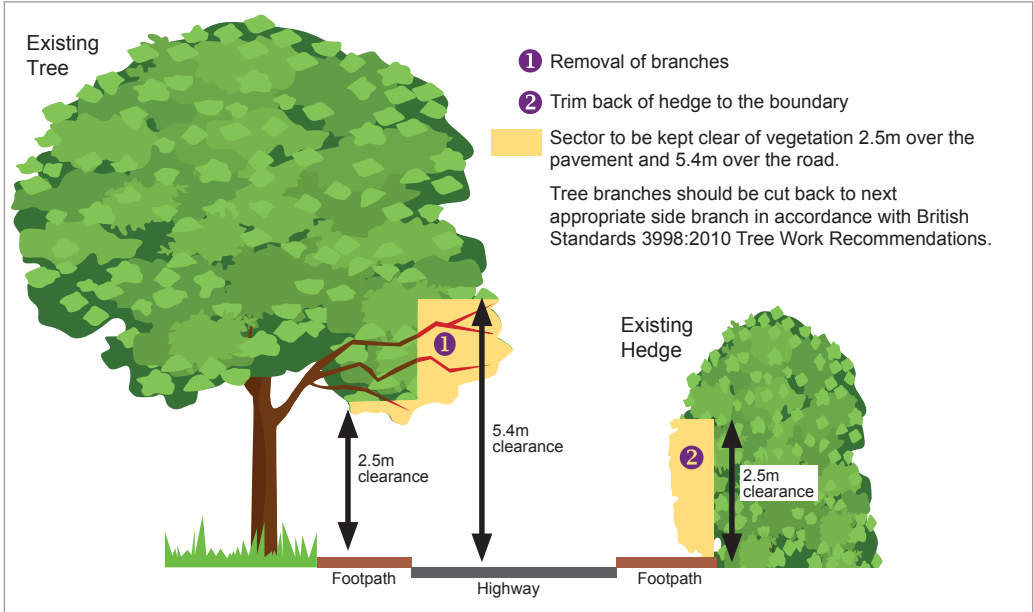
DOG FOULING – AGAIN!

This issue has been raised many times before but the problem persists and is particularly dangerous where children play and take part in sports activities.

The open space areas in our parish are for recreational purposes and are not public toilets for dogs. It is an offence punishable by a fixed penalty notice of £50 to allow your dog to foul in a public area. If the fixed penalty is ignored a £1000 fine can be imposed by the court. Ignorance of your dog's actions is not a permissible defence so, if necessary, please consider keeping your dog on a lead until they have completed their business. Around the country, and closer to home, pitches are being fenced off, bye laws enacted and CCTV installed due to the scourge of dog waste, please do not make any of these actions necessary in your community. If you witness a dog owner not clearing up after their pet please call 01962 848350 during office hours or e-mail ehealth@winchester.gov.uk. Further detail is available on the village website.

Hedges and Overhanging Trees

A few years ago, a longer article outlining residents' legal responsibilities in respect of hedges and trees was published in the Dever. These responsibilities are set out in the Highways Act 1980 and are enforceable by HCC who are the Highways Authority. In the first instance, HCC ask Parish Councils to write to residents to remind them of their responsibilities. If residents fail to take action, HCC may serve a notice upon the landowner and have the authority, where necessary, to carry out the work themselves and recover the cost. Now is the time to look at any parts of your property boundary which meet the road edge. All growth of hedges and trees should be cut back behind the road edge, allowing room for growth next season. Growth should be clear to a height of sixteen feet vertically. The diagram below shows how cutting should be carried out. If this was enforced fully throughout the Parish major tree and hedge work would be required, so please do your



utmost to comply with this requirement. If you have any questions or concerns or would like a copy of the longer article, please contact the Clerk.

Road Signs

In the past HCC has had adequate funds to go above and beyond their responsibilities and clear many areas of foliage, including hedges obscuring signs. With increased pressure on funds this cannot continue and any signs obscured with foliage are the responsibility of the owner or manager of such a hedge and need to be trimmed back to allow clear vision for road users. Again, your vigilance in this would be appreciated.

Grit Bins

Grit bins around the Parish should now have been refilled. If you know of any that have been missed please note the number (inside the lid) and contact the Clerk who can ask for it to be refilled. As many of our roads are not gritted by HCC, they have supplied these bins to help keep the roads clear of ice. Please remember the grit is for highways use and not private use. If the grit is found to be being used for private paths and drives HCC may refuse to refill the bin.

Vandalism

It is sad to report that there has been more vandalism in and around the new play area in Micheldever. Repairs are expensive and a drain on resources which are not then available to spend on other services. It is understood that there will be maintenance required on well used equipment, and it is a delight to see the equipment so well

used, but it is frustrating to be paying for repairs which should not be needed.

Carousel Park Inquiry

Planning Contravention Notices and subsequent Enforcement Notices were issued by Winchester City Council to residents of Carousel Park who were not considered to be travelling showmen. A number of appeals have been received against these notices and a Public Inquiry has convened to consider these appeals and is scheduled to run until 30th November 2023. It is estimated that the Inspector's Report, following the Inquiry, will be published in March 2024.

Standing Water at Northbrook

In the summer it was noted that there was standing water at Northbrook. This was stagnant and causing concern to residents. Councillor Bramley contacted Southern Water who advised that it was not caused by a water leak and Hampshire Highways and Environmental Health were therefore also contacted. However, following repairs by Southern Water of leaks near Sunset Farm, the issue of the standing water appears to have been resolved.

Micheldever Noticeboard

Safety concerns have been raised over the access to the Parish Council noticeboard at the shop. In view of this, two steps are to be installed which will be treated with an anti-slip solution. Please can we remind you that whilst community events can be advertised on the noticeboards (space permitting), permission should first be sought from the Clerk. Business notices or adverts are not permitted.