

Notes of the Open Public Meeting held on Friday 21st September 2018 at 7:30pm in Wickham Market Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Dick Jenkinson (Chairman)
Julia Stratford-Wright
Colin Owens
Bryan Hall

In attendance Jo Peters, Clerk to the Parish Council

Apologies received: Ray Lewis

There were 20 members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed and thanked members of the public for attending.

The Chairman gave details regarding parking within the village and stated the village was built for horse and cart rather than cars.

The Chairman reported during April last year SC Highways attended an open meeting regarding traffic and parking within the village whereby he stated it had been confirmed that to set up a residents parking scheme there would need to be at least 100 residents interested to make this scheme financially viable.

The Chairman gave details regarding the recent survey distributed in respect of this matter and provided information regarding another survey carried out by WM Town Team and the findings of this survey and its outcome. He provided information regarding the Chapel Lane and Village Hall car parks and their uses and also provided details regarding both the short and long stay car parks. He confirmed a Parking Permits Scheme is now available within the Long Stay car park and a maximum of 50 £10.00 monthly permits are sold.

He confirmed at the meeting last April a vote had been taken and it was in the view of those present that Wickham Market was unsafe for pedestrians and it was felt a Community Speed Watch scheme could be carried to which he provided clarification and gave reasons as to why this scheme did not go ahead.

The Chairman gave details regarding the choke points within the village and advised the Neighbourhood Plan Committee had agreed a new car park is needed within the village and should include some residents parking. He stated the Committee were looking for land to site a new car park and provided information regarding possible suitable sites.

The Chairman gave information regarding results of the recent survey carried out and confirmed 1200 questionnaires were sent out, 150 (12.5%) were returned. It was assumed that those that did not respond did not do so because they had no need for a residents parking permit and hence it was likely that nearly all who wished to have a residents parking permit would have responded. The results were 87 were not in favour, 63 were in favour. Of those in favour some believed the principle to be right, but did not need a space. Only 24 residents were prepared to pay for a residents parking permit. He confirmed therefore local residents would prefer not to have a residents parking scheme and those who were in favour were not willing to pay enough.

There was a discussion and the Chairman stated the residents in favour were mainly from High St, Broad Road and Chapel Lane.

A member of the public suggested a scheme which could prove to be cost effective and could be implemented to which he gave details and the Chairman provided clarification. The Chairman confirmed in order to mark out a white parking box on the road a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be required and the legal costs alone would be around £5K.

Cllr Sanders gave details regarding the row of cottages in which she lived in and stated due to parking she was now the only resident living there as there are no parking facilities. She gave details regarding possible suitable options for these residents to park within the Village Hall car park.

Colin Owens stated that any land on public highway would require a TRO, but any land owned by the Parish Council could prove to be more flexible and would not require such an order.

A member of the public stated that Cllr Sanders idea to make some residents parking within the Village Hall car park and also some sort of scheme to be allocated to Border Cot Lane and areas of the High St in his view could be implemented.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the parking bay on the High St and stated this box caused problems already so therefore no further parking boxes should be added to the High St.

A member of the public raised concerns that there was no correspondence address provided within the recent survey and as a result it was unclear whom had sent it.

The Chairman provided details regarding the on-going flooding problems between the land at the Village Hall car park and the Bowls Green. He gave information regarding investigation carried out in respect of this on-going flooding problem and confirmed this drainage issue could only be solved as part of the VH New Build.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the Village Hall car park in respect of safety, access onto the High St, overflow issues to the Co-op and stated more parking would only cause more problems.

A member of the public suggested the Parish Council could liaise with the Co-op to suggest sharing a car park. The Chairman provided clarification and stated this suggestion could be followed up with the Co-op.

A member of the public asked could the original site for the proposed car park not be worked on in order to take this matter forward in respect of assessing the access problems to the site. Colin Owens stated he thought this was a good idea and advised he felt the T & P WG should take this matter up with SCC.

Cllr Sanders volunteered to join the T & P WG.

A member of the public stated the Parish Council needed to lobby SCDC in respect of lack of parking within the village.

A member of the public advised he felt it would be better if the Parish Council utilised and improved the car parking allocations already in place.

A member of the public advised that SCC needed to be informed that some yellow and white lines throughout the village cannot be seen. The Chairman confirmed that SCC were going to re-paint these.

Lisa Sanders suggested that residents parking could be provided at the Village Hall in the area between the Coop and the Bowls Club. David Howland suggested a one-way system on the High St would be a good idea. Colin Owens stated that both these proposals should be examined in more detail to see if they were feasible. **Action: David, Lisa and Colin to look into.**

It was suggested that the Co-op needed to be contacted regarding the whole area and look at options to have the Village Hall and Co-Op car park amalgamated.

Cllr Sanders asked would the T & P WG be interested in suggestions to alleviate some local residents parking issues. It was agreed yes this would be beneficial.

The Chairman thanked all those whom had attended and formally closed the meeting at
8:50pm