

Report and Comments from Councillor Jim Carter

At the outset of Covid 19, I agreed to take on board the long term projects:-

1) Lower Otter Valley Project -which I took over from Kevin.

I listened to the zoom meeting on 15th September and if all goes well the project will proceed to the planning/consultation phase.

Cllr Tom Wright should be congratulated on his efforts over the last 5 years or so. The meeting concluded this now marked the end of the Technical/Stakeholder phase and each stakeholder will need to make their case/concerns/support in the 16 week consultation/ planning determination. It would seem unlikely that any public statement will be made before our next meeting. I will let you have background papers/ final minutes in due course.

2) New cricket field opposite Kersbrook- as I live the closest to the site.

The latest information I have is work will not start until next Spring, I have made contact with the cricket club committee..

3) Review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Prof Stan Roberts has offered his assistance and Sue Cooper has produced 44 page report/ templates, if we need to formally start the process again. Both Derek and myself have gone through the detail. My view (for what is worth) is our existing plan is in conformity but a number of facts need to be up-dated. The original was based on the 2011 census and involved a vision of the parish up to 2031. To say it has been overtaken by events would be an understatement with HMG review of planning and talk of local government changes. Until such time as we have filled all our vacancies and new Cllr's have training, I don't think we have the capacity to do the job properly. The key will be how we start the consultation, again something that cannot happen in the current circumstances. The usual suspects are filling the pages of the Journal.

It would seem the Otterton NP is on hold until next spring. I have made contact with a number of individuals, including Angela King EDDC, who promised to look at our plan. The initial plan took nearly 2 years and every councillor plus two volunteers drafted the initial chapters after a full parish wide questionnaire and consultation. Some of these are still very valid. The conflict was and will be housing needs.....

Generally the younger people feel the village needs to grow and the elder members/ retired people satisfied with facilities.

Those working from home highlight the need for homes which facilitate working from home.

At my age 68, I would like them all to come to fruition. Personally, I am happy to do EDUCATION, RELIGION (including Graveyard). The latter is filling up and given the time scale of any new plan will need to be addressed. It is also a significant mention in the revised Village Conservation Area Plan.

Additionally, BICTON/HERITAGE.: The areas of weakness are Road Safety, Traffic and Environment (ie Climate Emergency).

Finally Jacqui Best advised me that the Conservation Plan has still not been signed off by EDDC. Obviously it was pushed out by other matters but go to the EDDC October meeting. I have a few paper copies and was disappointed one individual continues to disagree with the efforts of all concerned. I would urge the DC's to get it signed off - so it is water under the bridge..

Hope to see you all soon.

James Carter

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