

## **Berkswell Parish Council Annual Meeting, 6 May 2021**

### **Agenda papers by Cllr Lloyd**

#### **15a Grant Awarding Policy**

Proposal to re-word section 1 "Policy" to read:

1.1 Berkswell Parish Council has a limited budget for the award of grants that will bring direct benefit to all or some of the Parish or its inhabitants.

1.2 The Council will favour awarding grants intended to improve the quality of life of residents, or to assist organisations serving residents.

1.3 The Council expects that any grant will be only a portion of the funding required for a project or defined purpose, and that the grant will encourage donations from other sources.

1.4 The Council cannot award a grant for the direct benefit of an individual applicant, and expects any funding granted to an organisation to be apportioned equitably to recipients.

1.5 The Council would not normally award grants for purposes funded by central Government, or falling within the remit of local charities, such as education, health services, and the relief of need. Exceptional circumstances would include situations where there is an urgent or unusual need, or where the availability of funding is abnormally restricted.

1.6 The Council will only normally consider grant applications in June and November each year, except for nominal amounts or in exceptional circumstances, to ensure fairness to all applicants irrespective of the timing of grant applications.

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**33g Forecast of CIL money**

The proposed enquiry to SMBC about the likely level of CIL payments would duplicate the enquiry made by Geoff Wheeler, which did not gain a useful insight. I propose we try to establish historic averages that we can apply to the forecast build rate.

I suggest we write -

"Dear Mr Andrews,

I've been asked by my Council to ask you for information that would help us predict the likely level of CIL receipts in the coming years. We are aware of the housing proposals in the draft Local Plan, but have no information on the proposed floor areas.

For our planning purposes, it would be helpful if you could let us have data for the last few years of CIL payments, preferably split down by ward. Please could you provide annual figures for the number of properties considered to be under construction, the number that trigger CIL payments, the average areas of the eligible properties, and the applicable CIL charging rates.

Yours sincerely."

### 39a HS2

***ii Council to agree to start discussions with Solihull MBC and HS2 Ltd with a view to establishing an open air museum of key relics from the Kenilworth and Berkswell Branch Line, including the bridge spans from the iron bridges no 12 and 14, lineside signage, and examples of painted chainage markings on brickwork, and with a view to preserving some of the Victorian bricks for use in restoring the ambience of the Greenway when it is reinstated. Council to agree to make Burton Green Parish Council and the Greenway Trust aware of this initiative.***

Despite asking at the SMBC IAG 2 months ago that the heritage structures be protected, there has now been substantial destruction. This is contrary to the NPPF, Local Plan, HS2 Code of Construction Practice, HS2 Environmental Minimum Requirements, and the HS2 Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy. I've appealed to WM Mayor and our MP to prevent any further heritage loss.

There is a high risk of a major unnecessary loss of cultural heritage assets, which are described in the NPPF as "an irreplaceable resource, and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations." The Local Plan specifically mentions disused railway lines, and requires preservation.



***iii. Council to agree to make representations to Solihull Council and HS2 Ltd about the proposed simultaneous closure of all footpaths across the line-of-route for the next three years without consultation or the provision of safe and convenient diversions.***

Due to the absence of any consultation, it's hard to know the full extent of the proposed closures, but it looks as if HS2 Ltd is proposing to close every footpath crossing the HS2 route 24 h a day for the next 3½ years, except (at the moment) the paths near the Fishery. In addition, there are periodic closures of Park La, Lavender Hall La, Truggist La, and Waste La.

SMBC is obliged by the Local Council Charter to consult with us, but hasn't.

Under the provisions of Schedule 4, Rights of Way can only be closed in the interests of safety, and Solihull has to be consulted to reduce inconvenience to users. HS2 Ltd has to balance these requirements.

HS2 Information Paper E5 says, where neighbouring Rights of Way are affected, closures would be phased.

Again, HS2 are not proposing to provide alternative diverted routes.

We should seek to have the paths open out of working hours, supervised crossings of the line-of-route, segregated walkways along the country lanes, controlled pedestrian crossings, warning signs for drivers, and - of course - detailed information maps on websites and at points on the paths where users can change their route.

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**39b. Airport Consultative Committee**

***Council to receive a report from Cllr Lloyd on the Airport Noise Sub Group meeting on 15 April, and to note that a consultation has started on revised Airport Byelaws which will close on 27 May.***

The meeting discussed a response to the Government's consultation. Topics included: dispensations from Night Flying Policy, review period, Quota Count options and alternatives, Night Flying period, movements vs QC limits, balance of health and economics, impact of pandemic on noise' and affects of the Airport of being "designated" for national noise policy.

A draft ACC response to the consultation questions has now been prepared for discussion at the next meeting of the Sub-group.

Copies of the proposed byelaws are available for inspection at

<https://www.birminghamairport.co.uk/media/6582/birmingham-airport-byelaws-2020-revision-90-final-19042021-v2.pdf>

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#### **39d. WALC**

***Council to receive a report from Cllr Lloyd on the meeting of the Solihull Area Committee on 20 April.***

Paul Tovey gave a presentation on Road safety (already circulated) and the HS2 RS fund.

As required by RTA 1988 s39 - SMBC has programmes in place to reduce accidents. The strategy 2017-22 is a "5 pillar approach" and there's a downward trend in Killed/ Seriously Injured (KSIs).

Every location where 4 or more accidents in 3 years receives attention.

38 KSI with 3K last year, 350-400 accidents - There are 9 "damage only" for 1 causing injury - national data published on web

List of priorities ready for when funding available. Published for the cabinet. Schemes total £13M. This includes the traffic calming in Hampton and Berkswell

50% of normal funding provision has gone.

David Keeney is Traffic Manager. HS2 funds provide £40M along whole line, Solihull £2.435M by 2026.

Predictive approach from DfT. Aim to engage with on-line meetings. Web portal "Commonplace" to be launched mid May. We can feed in where improvements wanted. 100 km affected by HS2 are the main target (mainly A and B roads).

Calming and other ideas can be fed in. Not A45 - a trunk road. RSF doesn't deal with construction route damage

Confirmed - Nailcote junction to have vehicle-actuated signs.

Decision by SMBC, but justified to HS2

How to get speed monitoring? Can be ping pong between SMBC and police. 3 types of cameras available, 10 sites possible.

Any changes to make roads suitable for HS2 haul usage would be outside the HS2 RSF.

Liz McD asked about the Sch17 applications and how speed would be monitor. PT said GPS monitoring was in place.

Euro 6? Confirmed.

How would the 60T vehicles to be used on-site be delivered? Moved on low loader only.

Meriden had 2 complaints of HGVs cutting through from Corley services today on Fillongley Rd at high speed. PT said details would be needed, but a chicane was now in place at the school.

Could CCTV go on highway light poles? PT says could do, but need info governance approval.

Can we influence speeding by JLR employees? PT says we could contact the employer, but unlikely to get much change.

Charging points for EVs - no consultation with residents or PCs. 20 schemes so far.

Steve Wilkinson. Senior Dev Officer, gave a presentation on planning enforcement. He'd handled 3200 cases so far. There is a Local enforcement plan. Discretionary power - 500 cases per year. Expedience. Proportionate. Confidential while in progress. Anonymous complaints handled carefully. Internal time targets.

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Typical cases: Physical developments - not in accordance with plans; not in accordance with conditions; (very) untidy land. Only becomes criminal at end of process. Except TPOs, adverts, listed bldgs.

Contact centre takes many complaints - but cannot handle covenants, boundary disputes, private RoW etc.

SW encouraged local councillors to phone him.

Alternatively use the Connect Centre or email. Need details photos names etc. They have aerial photos. Site visits needed. Retrospective applications have a bad press - it's a right, but no additional chance of success.

Prosecution: Evidential test. Public interest test. Notify early! Proceeds of Crime Act can be applied to increase penalty. Time limits - 4 yr limit for buildings

There are only 2 enforcement officers, looking after 3000 planning applications

Light pollution? - environmental issue.

Alison McGrory - reported Covid numbers were well down, but there will be individual outbreaks - test and monitor. Any events - ask SMBC for check of arrangements 50+ people, next 12 months - contact Alison.

Heart of England fund, 2nd tranche of £200k coming out to community groups - push it out, same criteria but they ran out of money with first tranche. Form to complete.

Austin Rodriguez. Commonwealth Games team looking for volunteers - must apply soon. Can sign up for alerts on CWG website.

Refreshing Locality Working, to set priorities - public spaces and broader social impact/ Road Safety/ Crime

The MySolihull Map is to be updated, in the near future, work in progress, feed in improvements.

Community-lead housing - 19 May event.

Info on further Grant opportunities is coming soon.

WALC AGM - one question is whether WALC should become a company limited by guarantee.

Dave Cuthbert asked councillors how CIL distribution was decided by local councils -

Cheswick Green, Dickens Heath, Meriden decide at full council. Evidence has to be fed back to SMBC. Hampton has a committee with delegated powers.

Is there someone at SMBC who can give good practice advice? It was hoped to invite someone to the next meeting - 20 July, also being the AGM.