

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21 October 2015 in the Reading Room at 8.00pm.

Apologies: Mr Sole - domestic emergency, Mr Brown - on holiday

Present: Mr Martin, Mr Wheeler, Mrs Slator, 35 members of public, 2 guest speakers and the Clerk.

Minutes: of the September meeting, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None received.

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Queen Adelaide: The refurbishment is well underway, and the exterior lighting is not being installed. Mr Wenman was unable to confirm the date for the pub's opening.

CLP: The Launch meeting is scheduled for Saturday 14 November from 10 - 12 noon, with refreshments and bacon butties.

Dog Bin: Heidi Duffett from SCDC has visited Croydon and met with parishioners regarding the erection of the new bin. Her suggestion is over the road from the footpath by the letter box. Council want to hear the comments from residents of Clopton Close before confirming the site for the bin - Clerk to action.

Transparency Code and Costs: A NALC report has indicated that funding for legislation that became statutory in April 2015 may be applied for in November 2015 - Clerk has been unable to download the information that has been sent about this.

Community Benefit Fund: Barclays has informed the Clerk that Council may take up any of the deposit accounts available and Councillors have been asked to look at the Barclays website to make their decision.

Modern Day Slavery: Mrs Slator attended a meeting on behalf of the Council and gave the following report:-

On the 17th October I attended Modern Day Slavery Summit organised by Chief Inspector James Sutherland who is the Area Commander for South Cambs. Participants included the Police, The Police & Crime commissioner, Sir Graham Bright, a Charity Hope for Justice and the Salvation army.

The Theme was "What do you see" and aimed to inform local people on how to identify potential slavery in the community. Sadly Modern day Slavery is found all over the UK, including in South Cambridgeshire. It is estimated that there are at least 10,000 slaves in the UK, with up to 30% being under 18.

Modern Slaves can be found working in agriculture, as casual labourers, in the sex trade, drug production and in domestic work, the trade is closely linked to organised crime. They could be working anywhere such as in a car wash or on a building site. Modern slavery is not closely linked to illegal immigration, with 78% having the right to work in the UK. The largest numbers coming from Romania, Poland and the UK. The victims are tempted to move for attractive sounding jobs. Sadly they then find they are saddled with large transport, accommodation and food debts which they have no hope of repaying and become subject to both personal and family threats.

Using the eyes of the wider community is vital in helping to rescue these victims. There are some simple things we can all look out for:

- a person may be dishevelled, malnourished and not wearing appropriate clothes for the weather.
- shows signs of physical/ sexual abuse
- Is not allowed to speak for themselves, a third party may insist on being present
- Is not in control of their own money / bank account
- may not have control of their own identity documents
- may show fear and anxiety and not make eye contact
- may be living in inappropriate multi occupancy housing

If you believe you may have encountered a victim of Modern Day Slavery do get in touch with one of the agencies below.

Give as much information as possible, you may be saving someone's life.

Police 101

Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

Hope for Justice 0845 519 7402

If you believe someone is in immediate danger call 999

Housing in Croydon: The Chairman welcomed Adam Halford from Bidwells and James Thomas from Hill residential to the meeting. They came to speak about a potential housing development in the village in response to the Community Led Plan.

Mr Halford said that from an ACRE survey, which included Arrington and Hatley, there is a need for up to 30 houses for these villages. Unfortunately this survey was incorrect and inadmissible. The Community Led Plan (CLP) has also identified a need for housing in the village but the viability of a development and the number the village would like is at odds. In order to be viable a development would need to be of 12 or more houses, whilst the village wants no more than 4 houses at a time. The Farrer family have offered a site in the centre of the village opposite the entrance to the Queen Adelaide for development.

James Thomas said that Hill Residential built the new development of houses at Hurdleditch Road in Orwell. Unfortunately they have not all been occupied as there are not enough people to meet the residency requirements for them. As yet there is no delivery partner for affordable housing, due to budget cuts. Any development would most likely be mixed i.e some private and some affordable/shared equity homes. There would have to be a public consultation to see what the village wants, but in reality the minimum number of homes would be 10. Councillor Kindersley stated that a Rural Exception Site (which is what this would be) is for 100% affordable homes. However, it is likely that SCDC would accept mixed housing for viability, and Section 106 benefits. Councillor Smith said that as the Local Plan is in disarray, it is probable that any application to build is likely to be accepted, and the best thing for the village to do is work with the developers to obtain the best possible outcome for the site. The meeting felt that a development of 10 or more houses would not be sustainable as there are no facilities in Croydon and a very limited bus service. The meeting also felt it would be a good idea to see what the actual current requirement for housing in the village is. It was mentioned by a resident of Clopton Close that there are already problems with the sewerage there and so it may not be possible to connect any more houses to it.

There was a lot of lively discussion in the meeting and the Chairman thanked Mr Halford and Mr Thomas for attending to speak, and they left the meeting.

Correspondence:

CCC: There have been some small changes to the 75 timetable - please check the CCC website for further information.

Precept and Tax Base: A helpful document has been sent from SCDC in order to assist Council with setting the precept.

Air Ambulance: The Air Ambulance asked if Council could support them with a grant towards their work. Whilst Council appreciates that the Air Ambulance does vital work, the budget does not allow for donations.

Timebanking: CCC has organised a Timebanking event entitled Exchanging Time- Connecting Lives on Tuesday 27 October from 7-9pm at Newnham College. It is an old idea recycled and expanded.

Cat: On Wednesday 7th October, a little black and white cat who lives in the village was shot by an airgun and sustained a significant injury. The extent of the injuries required two emergency operations and an extended stay at the vets. The pellet had penetrated her intestines and punctured her stomach, lodging under the skin on the opposite side. The vet confirmed that peritonitis had already set in. Luckily, the injured cat was able to get home and is improving now, but please be aware that there is someone in the locality shooting indiscriminately, and if you see this please report it to the Police.

Electronic Correspondence: All circulated - nothing raised.

Subsequent receipts: Notification of a planning application was received - Clerk awaiting documentation.

Verbal report - Cllr Smith:-

- The Green Deal provider that SCDC has been using has gone bust.
- Please be aware that if Council objects to a planning application and does not send anyone to put their case at Planning Committee meetings, their comments will be disregarded.

Verbal report - Cllr Kindersley

- CCC is in the process of setting it's budget. Please go to the CCC website and complete the survey on the Challenge page, which will let the Council know where services should be cut in order to save £41m, on top of the £100m already saved. Services that are not statutory and may therefore under threat are:
road gritting, street lighting, and a possible 25% reduction in the Highways budget. Central Government is reducing all settlements by 27%, in spite of the fact that Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing county in the country.
- CCC has 610,00 children in care and urgently needs at least 30 foster families to reduce the number and help save £500,00 per year.
- If everyone could reduce the amount of waste in their bin by 1kg this would save the Council £1m.

Finance:

Audit Completion: Notification that the audit has been successfully completed was received. The required notice has been put onto the notice board and financial information will be put onto the village website.

CLP: Mr Ralph presented an invoice for £343-09, for printing and postage costs for the CLP brochure. Council had already resolved to fund this expenditure and a cheque for this amount was raised and signed.

Items for the next agenda: Solar Farm planting - as yet no planting has taken place in order to mitigate to impact the solar farm has on the landscape. This is supposed to have happened in the autumn.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 November 2015 in the Reading Room, starting at 8.00pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 9.31pm.

Signed

Date