

Report from Councillor Jim Carter

1. Neighbourhood Plan/Design Codes

This meeting makes the 4th anniversary of the Parish Council accepting the final plan, that had been put together by some 20 – 25 people across the entire Parish. That committee was stood down by the Chairman/Vice-chairman. At the onset of Covid 19, I agreed to look at/review the plan that had now been done annually. In August, the PC accepted the plan was still in conformity. I had talked to Clare James, CDE, Valerie List at Bicton Gardens and a representative of Bicton College (now part of the Cornish group of colleges). We all recognised there would be a need to review the land-use policies across the Parish, as and when we could safely meet. That position has been overtaken by events, notably HMG review of Planning Policy/housing needs, EDDC review of the East Devon Plan and how and when the Glover report, talk of “national landscapes” will affect the ED AONB.

2. LORP/Cricket Field

I attended the two final project meetings, before the formal stakeholder committee disbanded and the project went through the ED planning process. I am sure everyone is aware that the start of the site work has been delayed by the issue of “nesting birds”. Work on the cricket field seems to be back on track. I did meet the archaeologist(s) who had surveyed the site. His report will be sent to all stakeholders in due course. Likewise, an environmental person, who will be regularly checking water quality in Kersbrook, as well as other key sites on the River Otter itself.

FAB Project.

I noticed a compulsory purchase order on the entrance to a short track down to the estuary.

3. ELMS Project

I did have an exchange of emails with Same Bridgewater about the well, discovered at Astwood, Kersbrooke. It is the depth that is important as an indicator of saline water (sea water) getting into the lower levels of the ground water. Obviously, that would be worse than flooding, as it would “kill off” native trees and fauna in our eco-system. The next project meeting is likely to be in the Summer.

Kevin Quant did visit Kersbrook for a morning and together we walked the land/brook and noted a number of issues. Subsequently, I have spoken to John Wilding of CDE about a number of matters related to trees, notably:

- a. re-occurrence of Elm disease – it is some 20 years ago I spent a Summer helping the tenant farmer fell all the hedgerow trees.
- b. Ash die-back
- c. some other problem trees

Councillor Jim Carter 24th May 2021

P.S. Good to see tonight the signage and speed limit set for access to the cricket field.