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Clerk's report to the council 17/08/21

1. Don't tell Boris, but the district council has obtained an EU grant to help communities move out of the Covid lockdown. Fressingfield will get a new litter bin and dog waste bin. Discussing it with Cathy Tooley and a resident, I have arranged for the dog bin to be installed where Post mill Lane meets new Street and the litter bin to go near the glass recycling bins on the Sports and Social club carpark.
2. Bus shelter tidy up. Fressingfield Fairies have been up to their best again. This time the FF (aka Garry Deeks and Nick Stolls) have cleared the area around the bus shelter of overgrown grass, weeds and shrubs.

3. MSDC Planning decisions:

- a. Wakelyns: decision to be made at committee on Wednesday. Officer report can be read here

<https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s23876/DC2101735%20-%20Committee%20Report.pdf>

In recommending support for the application, the officer dealt quickly with matters raised by people opposing the application that had nothing to do with planning. This distinction between planning and non-planning matters played a role in your discussions when you recommended approval, earlier in the year

- b. New homes off John Shepherd Road – refused
- c. New homes and a shop off Stradbroke Road – refused
- d. The accuracy of recent information circulated by SAFE has been challenged. I was asked to check the claims that both the school and the medical centre are over-subscribed.

As has been pointed out previously these claims are not accurate. The school has a capacity of about 140 pupils. Numbers in September are likely to be in the mid-120s. The medical centre position has not changed since it was clear in 2017. For clarity it is,

*“... the nationwide picture for primary care services is a challenging one, there is a health professional recruitment crisis. We are in a fortunate position that the number of patients per GP for us is less than the national average and we have a full strength clinical team, many Practices in the locality have struggled to recruit.*

*We will always try to provide the best possible service to our patients, and if patients numbers grew we would need to have a plan as to how we would manage these increases in patient numbers. Our current premises would need expanding as we could not currently accommodate any further clinicians and staff, we would indeed need further car parking. It is very unlikely that we would be able to source NHS funding for expanding our Premises so funding for our expansion could possibly form part of the developers proposals?*

*NHS Funding is per patient, so Practices are unable to recruit new staff resources until patient numbers have reached a point where appropriate funding is in place, and of course there is the potential that within this challenging primary care environment we could struggle to recruit”.*

4. New Street road closure. I have placed this info on the two websites:

Di discovered that the work is a drainage improvement scheme comprising of the installation of new gullies and catchpits connected by 175m of new underground pipe. 130m in the carriageway. 45m in a non-attributed footway linking New Street with B1116 Harleston Road. It is advertised as lasting for 9 weeks. This allows for encountering

problems. It is hoped to be less than that.

Also:

- a. During the working day, 8.30am - 5pm, access and exit for residents in cars will be 'supervised' by the workers. However, there may be times when they must use the alternative route to gain access to the village.
  - b. A temporary walkway will be provided so that pedestrians can move around freely.
  - c. During the evening and at night-time the works will be left safe and movement up and down New Street may be controlled by temporary traffic lights
  - d. The medical centre lies outside the working area. It is likely that access from most parts of the village will be via the diversion. Unrestricted access will be available from the Wingfield side of the road closure only.
  - e. The workers know Monday is bin collection day. The team will work with bin collection staff to get them away as quickly as possible.
5. RA completed. You have received your copy of the risk assessment for the meeting. It is thorough. However, I shall review it before the agenda is posted for each meeting to make sure it still holds good. Any comments you have to make after a meeting to do with keeping safe at the meetings, will also be taken into account,
  6. Harleston draft NDP. You may want to comment on this draft plan - item 11.2
  7. The sports and social club committee thinks it would be a good idea if a councillor joined the committee.
  8. I have had confirmation that the playing field has been registered with the Land Registry. This is two years since the process was begun. Perhaps Rachael can tell us if this is a record.