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LOCAL NEWS

Planning Roundup

ERA planning subcommittee

Interbridges (East)

The land known as the Interbridges East site which was in the news in autumn 2004 returned to the planning news last October with yet another revised application, this time for 10 units. The traffic lights are still in and the basic structure is the same, albeit with fewer units than last year's application. The scheme for this area has been around since 2001 in various versions and the owner, Viv Williams of Hollybank House, already has permission for 7 units, granted in 2002. The current application for 10 industrial units has now been granted.

Interbridges (West)

There are as yet no applications to develop this green area between the railway and the A27. Although it is now classified in the Local Plan as suitable for light industrial use, the problems of access make this doubtful. There have been some signs of activity, with the access track behind the railway station being cleared of undergrowth. If you see or hear about any developments on this site, please get in touch with the ERA which will be examining any applications for development on this site very carefully.

Mobile Mast

AWA Telecommunications have now applied for planning permission for their proposed Hutchinson 3G Ltd Base Station at the junction of New Brighton Road and Westbourne Road. A large number of complaints have been received from local residents who have collected written protests. The ERA totally opposes the installation of such a large and powerful mast with the dangers to health that the radiation from it produces, so close to houses and in the middle of a green area which has been a children's play area for at least 20 years.

The application was refused at the meeting of the Development Control Committee of Havant Borough Council on 15th December 2005 with two deputations against it and one for it.

94 New Brighton Road

The number of proposed dwellings on this site continues to rise. In the latest application they proposed 33 houses. Whilst the ERA is happy to see the site developed, we now consider the current proposal to be a gross over-development of this suburban area. The application has, however, been passed by HBC on the grounds that it is still within government guidelines.

Hermitage

The Hermitage development is growing daily and many of the houses are nearly finished and up for sale. In the meantime, the developers are applying to increase the density even further. The total number has now increased to 77 in a proposal to build flats above the garages.

The EMS has had correspondence from several potential purchasers who are concerned about run-off from the development worsening flooding in Lumley Road. A sophisticated Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) is designed to cope with this problem. However, there is concern about the effectiveness of arrangements for the long-term maintenance of the SUDS system, which would be the responsibility of a maintenance company. There is also a complex requirement regarding surface water drainage and driveways. Whilst potential purchasers are glad that such measures are being taken seriously, they are concerned that they hadn't been told about some aspects by the Kings Oak Sales Office and would have to wait to see the contract before they found out about it.



*A pond at the Hermitage development
linked to the SUDS system*

It seems that developers these days consider that the permissions they get for the number of dwellings in a development is but a first offer which can be increased at a later date, and ever increasing government guidelines on densities reinforce this. The case of both New Brighton Road and Hermitage developments are examples of this.

Firewood

John Briggs

For the benefit of anyone who has open fires: I often have a supply of free firewood, which people can collect by arrangement, or I may be able to deliver if necessary.

Telephone: 01243 373987

LIVEABILITY SCHEME

Work begins on A259 crossing improvements

Tony Cailes

WORK has now started on a £200,000 Liveability project that will make life easier, safer and more pleasant for everyone who has to cross the busy main road that runs through the centre of Emsworth.

This is the first part of a package of works funded by Havant Borough Council's Liveability project, which was awarded £3.7m by the Government to make improvements to the outdoor environment. The scheme has been developed after consulting the local community and includes everything from better footpaths to artwork.

The current work is being carried out by Caraway Contractors who will remove the small set of steps on the path linking Palmers Road car park to the North Street subway. The path will be re-graded to a gentle ramp making access easier for people with mobility difficulties. New street lighting will also be provided along the length of the path. The current phase of work will include improvements to the path leading from the car park towards Brook Meadow and to the wooden walkway and bridge.

During the works, the path will have to be closed but an alternative route will be clearly signed and any disruption will be kept to a minimum.

This phase of the work should be completed in January and will be followed by improvements to the subway, which will provide new handrails, security mirrors and non slip paving to the ramps. Artwork will also be included to brighten the look of the subway, along with light-reflecting paint.

Improvements will also be made at street level, where railings will be replaced. In addition, improvements are planned for pedestrians crossing North Street and the roundabout will be given a face-lift, most of the work should be completed by April.

The artist, Michael Johnson, has been selected to create Emsworth Memorial Trail

Gerry Wall

On Tuesday 13 December the Task and Finish Group made up of members of the Community Board voted unanimously in favour of artist, Michael Johnson's interpretation for the Emsworth Memorial Trail.

Michael has proposed four waymarkers in the shape of a sail with individual bronze plaques at the foot of each which shows images of Emsworth's heritage. Images on these plaques include oysters and fish, a coil of rope, fruit and vegetables, and tools all of which have strong identities with the Emsworth's past industries. The main memorial piece will be installed on the corner of Horndean Recreation Ground where a memorial garden is planned. This piece will stand around 8-9 feet in height and depicts an outline sail with a figure within it, head bowed, in respect to all those local people who lost their lives through conflict or in the name of peace and justice. The piece, like the four smaller waymarkers, will be placed on a circular stone plinth with a bronze inscription plate. The sail and smaller waymarkers will all be constructed from hardwearing stainless steel.



*A small-scale model of the
proposed main memorial piece*

Five sites have been carefully selected in agreement with the Council and Emsworth Community Board. The first is on the Mill Pond wall by the Slipper Sailing Club, the second is within St Peter's Square, the third is on the northern side of the underpass near the Baptist Church, the fourth is the main memorial on the corner of Horndean Recreation Ground. The fifth waymarker will be at the western end of Southleigh Road. This is just a beginning!

During January and February 2006, Michael Johnson will work on creating the pieces and installation is expected by the end of March.

Michael Johnson is one of three artists chosen by the Task and Finish Group to create initial designs for the project. The work of the artists as well as the site selection was shown at a public Community Board meeting in October 2005. The three artists visited Emsworth and were given a guided tour to learn more about the heritage of Emsworth as well as to get a feel for modern day Emsworth.

To see the model and find out more about this and other projects come to the next Emsworth Community Board meeting on Thursday 12 January.

We are in the process of building a website for the Memorial Trail at www.emsworthmemorialtrail.org.uk

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