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Planning Roundup

The main feature on the planning front this quarter is the ebbing of the tide of development pressure. Developments at 26 New Brighton Road, 58 Horndean Road and 97 Havant Road, all of which have planning permission, have either been put on hold or totally abandoned. This follows on from Taylor-Wimpey's withdrawal from the Oak Tree Drive site reported last quarter. Especially encouraging is the application by Dr and Mrs Shand for a consulting room at 97 Havant Road. Welcome Dr Shand.

All these changes are, of course, caused by the economic downturn and the tide can be expected to rise once again as soon as the market improves, but at least the pressure is off for now. To ensure that possible later development at Hampshire Farm at least keeps some trees, HBC's tree officer has placed TPO's (at present temporary) on many trees on this proposed site and other possible sites identified in the draft Local Development Framework Allocations Plan.

The Bath Road saga continues with a new application to replace No. 48 being accepted (see picture) and that for No. 50 being withdrawn for alterations. The remaining applications are mostly small scale and either single houses or extensions. The exception being the re submitted application to convert and extend 64 Havant Road into a total of ten small flats. This has already been rejected once. The new application does not seem to be very different. Another rejected plan was for an extension to White Lodge Nursing Home on Havant Road on the grounds that the site would be overdeveloped and detrimental to the quality of life of the residents and neighbouring houses.



In the centre of Emsworth, I was sad to see the closing of Emsworth Bookshop but encouraged by the application at 13 High Street to create a new shop in part of the travel agents. More small shops can only increase the vitality of the town centre. I only hope that both premises will soon be occupied by independent traders.

Richard Jannaway

Houses, houses everywhere!

We face a huge expansion in housing in the Borough which is already one of the most densely populated areas outside the major towns and cities. Following wide consultations, officers are refining the options and bringing forward plans for the next stage of the Local Development Framework.

Here are a few facts and figures about housing waiting lists and empty homes. Havant has more than 4,000 people on their housing waiting list but it should be pointed out that this is not a homeless list but the number of people in less than satisfactory accommodation. Of that number, 533 are people in need of homes in Emsworth and most seek one or two bedroom accommodation. Those seeking four bedroom accommodation may have to wait up to eight years!

The total number of homes in Emsworth is 4,445, of this number just over 80 are second homes and 60 are empty. Of the second homes, more than half (46) are in the central part of the town and the road with most is Bridgefoot Path with nine. *Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray (Emsworth)*

ECB Rights of Way Group

Emsworth has a good network of footpaths for recreation and access to surrounding areas. However, they are not always well signposted or in a good condition. Some residents have achieved notable success in having paths cleared and difficult stiles replaced.

They have now come together under the leadership of Emsworth Community Board to establish a Rights of Way (ROW) Group. The aims of this group are the promotion of better signposting, easier access and improved maintenance of public rights of ways in and around Emsworth.

The activities of the ROW Group will include regular monitoring of footpaths and byways to identify issues such as: missing signposts, difficulties for less able-bodied people and also to identify other paths which do not have public right of way status. The Group will endeavour to promote better access for wheelchair users and for parents with pushchairs, where it is practical to do so. It will liaise with local conservation groups to ensure suggested improvements are in keeping with the natural environment. It aims to establish a close working relationship with county and borough council officers to achieve its objectives.

If you would like to become involved in this work, or would like to raise a particular concern about our footpaths and byways, please contact me by email steve.pearce@btinternet.com or phone 01243 431615.

Steve Pearce (ECB Chairman)

Emworth Design Statement



I have much pleasure in at last being able to report that the EDS received full and formal approval by Havant Borough Council on 23rd July. I want to express my gratitude to the many residents, who over the past five years have taken a detailed interest in the development of the EDS and especially to those who have spent an enormous amount of time working on innumerable drafts. We were not to know, when I started this project, (nor were HBC) that the government was about to under-take a total overhaul of the whole national planning process. To a significant degree, the ramifications for us have been more than just extensive revisions; at times we have been trying to hit a moving target.

Residents ratified the draft EDS a year ago, since then further refining has been necessary before HBC could give their approval. During this final process some of the content, which was considered to be important to Emsworth by the project team and by many residents during their ratification, was excluded and this now forms a supplement, not subject to HBC approval. This supplement will be published separately from the EDS.

The EDS and its Supplement will be available on the ERA website, with copies in the local libraries and personal copies for those who require one.

The final step will be the transfer of responsibility for the EDS and its Supplement to the ERA Committee so as to ensure that both documents take their place in the routine assessment of planning matters. There will also be a need to ensure that they remain 'current' and reflect the changing scene. Little imagination is needed to foresee that the development scene will continue to evolve in the future with significant pressures on Emsworth and the rest of the Borough.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to make use of these two documents when considering development or other changes, and in particular when corresponding with HBC or other bodies. Please contact me if you would like your own copy, Tel 01243 371499.

David Jones

Health Update

Congratulations to the West Sussex County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for rejecting the PCT plans to downgrade St Richard's Hospital, especially in terms of Accident and Emergency and consultant led maternity provision. We await the results of the judicial review with interest. The ERA, especially Tony Lowes, have played a substantial part in this campaign.

The cost of the 'fit for the future' fiasco has been shown to be over £2 million - money that could have been spent on clinical services. In itself this is grounds for insisting that the PCT should be subjected to democratic control.

Back in Hampshire, the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital steering group is continuing to liaise with the Hampshire PCT about what exactly will go into Oak Park Hospital and the wider issue of the Portsmouth Capacity Plan decision which has been deferred til November. Hopefully Hampshire PCT will learn from the West Sussex fiasco and produce some sensible plans which all can support.

We aim to report more fully on both of these issues in the next issue of The EMS.

Richard Jannaway

Business Link Clinics in Emsworth



Emsworth now has its own Business Advice Clinic, held once a month in the Pastoral Centre in Emsworth Square. The service is FREE and provided by Business Link Adviser, Jenny Oakley.

Business Advice Clinics provide the chance to have a one-to-one advice session with an experienced business professional, providing information and support to help you start up, grow and maintain your business, whatever the economy is doing!

A review of your business can look at your needs, aspirations and ideas and couple them with practical advice on managing finance, marketing and planning. Useful guides and tools are available to help you make the most of your time and run your business efficiently.

In the current economic climate emphasis is on costs and cashflow, here are five tips to help you weather the storm:

- Keep lean by reviewing costs and cutting out unnecessary expenditure.
- Work with suppliers to optimise stock levels and payment terms.
- Word-of-mouth recommendations are free marketing and really effective!
- Know your customer - assess the risk of doing business to help eliminate bad debts
- Invoice promptly and accurately, send it to the right person and keep on top of credit control.

Our series of free autumn seminars throughout Hampshire will continue the theme of growing your business in difficult economic times. If you would like to find out more about the seminars or make a Business Advice Clinic booking, please call the Business Link customer service team on 0845 600 9 006. You can also find out more on our website: www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast. Business Link provides the information, advice and support needed to start, maintain and grow a business.

Jenny Oakley

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