

LOWER HENLADE AND STOKE ROAD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING HELD ON
29 April 2019, 7.30 pm
Mount Somerset Hotel



NOTES OF THE MEETING

IN ATTENDANCE

15 residents

APOLOGIES were received from:

5 residents

M5 JUNCTION 25 IMPROVEMENTS

The contractors, Griffiths, issue newsletters that anyone can sign up for, and they are intending to host a weekly public information centre where members of the public can visit and ask questions. The two newsletters so far have not been worth passing on but Gill will circulate future newsletters if they contain relevant information. In clearing the site, several smaller trees have been moved and larger ones have been cut down. Although work around the roundabout will be starting soon, they are not expecting to divert traffic yet.

NEXUS 25 EMPLOYMENT SITE

The developers, Henry Boot, expect to start work on site in 2020. The layout has been planned in conjunction with the Junction 25 improvements and a new roundabout will give access to both the M5 and the A358. Decisions concerning the A358 will not change plans for Nexus 25. The employment site may eventually include a school, hotel and health centre, as well as offices. Development will be gradual over several years.

A358

A number of residents have received letters from Highways England asking for permission to carry out wildlife surveys. The letters state that they do not infer where any new road will go but only that the properties are "within a 100m 'buffer zone' of the options presented at the 2018 consultation." Letters have been received as far apart as Arundells Farm and Lipe Lane, so no conclusions can be drawn as to HE's preferred route. It had been reported in the news that HE were 'pausing' 11 major road schemes because they do not offer value for money, but they have not revealed which ones and there was little expectation that the A358 would be one of them.

Further information on all of the above, updated whenever there is relevant news, can be found on the Issues page of the web site.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mike Westlake reported that our wider NHW area now includes parts of Taunton, and lately he had only received reports of crimes that are not as likely to happen in our more rural area.

PARISH COUNCIL

A few Parish Councillors have decided to retire, leaving 2 vacancies in the Ruishton and Henlade areas and 2 vacancies in the Thornfalcon ward, which is unrepresented at present. Anyone interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Parish Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISH PATHS LIAISON OFFICER

Gill has been carrying out this role, which entails walking all the footpaths within Ruishton's (not Thornfalcon's) boundaries at least once a year and producing an annual report. She asked whether anyone would be willing to take it on and one resident indicated an interest.

POTHOLES

A resident urged everyone to report potholes in the road to the Council. This can be done online or via the mobile app FixMyStreet, both of which seem to be effective.

RAILINGS BY THE WATERCOURSE IN LOWER HENLADE

Two of the concrete posts had been damaged some time ago and it was thought that Somerset County Council Highways should repair them.

HEAVY TRUCKS IN THE WEIGHT LIMIT ZONE

Mike Westlake reported seeing Coles trucks driving through the village on numerous occasions. He had complained to them but they were not helpful. It was thought that this should be a police matter but that the police were unlikely to act.

ROAD SALT

It was pointed out that the salt in the grit bin was low. Gill said she had asked on more than one occasion for it to be filled but it remains in need of a top-up.

WOODLAND TRUST CAR PARK

A resident reported that Steve Hill of Dairy House Farm has provided a bin at the Henlade Wood car park, which he empties regularly. He also opens the barrier to the car park each morning and locks it in the evenings. The meeting asked the resident to pass on our gratitude for his efforts.

BARBECUE

The residents' BBQ this year will be on Saturday 22 June 2019.

RU'S ANGELS

Gill told the meeting about a group of friends who will be doing the Thames Path Challenge on Saturday 7 September. This is a 100km run in aid of Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG). The group decided to support the charity when their friends' little boy Ruairi was diagnosed last year, at the age of 2, with an extremely rare form of cancer, Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma, ALK negative. Gill came across "Ru's Angels" at work and noticed that one of the runners was Jo Lowe. Jo is the Events Manager at the Mount Somerset, who very kindly provide us with a room and teas and coffees for our meetings, always completely free of charge. Gill felt it would be appropriate to make a donation 'in lieu of room hire' in recognition of Jo's help and the group's huge undertaking. The meeting voted unanimously to give £50 of our funds to the charity. Apparently little Ru is doing well.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

October 2019 – date TBC