

**Notes of the Meeting of the
Lower Henlade and Stoke Road Residents' Association
held on 22 April 2013 at The Mount Somerset Hotel**



Present: Gill Ellis (Chair)
Mike Westlake (Treasurer)
Paul Stroner (Vice Chair)
John Ashbaugh (Committee Member)
5 Members

Apologies: 2 members

1. PLANNING

A number of committee members had attended the recent exhibition relating to affordable housing on Stoke Road. The consensus of those attending was:

- 26 houses;
- The layout has changed;
- No water was to be routed towards Lower Henlade;
- A degree of scepticism remained about how definite the current plans were;
- Car parking may be an issue as only 3 visitor spaces planned.

Gill reported that a planning application had been made for the construction of a yurt in Stoke Woods; the Parish Council have objected.

The Taunton Core Strategy was discussed briefly. It mentions employment land near the park and ride but plans are not imminent for this development. There is also mention of a proposal for an employment site east of the former Tarmac site.

2. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mike Westlake reported that crime rates remain reassuringly low, but reminded all to be vigilant with regard to outside buildings and ensuring cars are locked on driveways.

It was noted that the area has been designated as a No Cold Calling Zone and that many households had made use of their "no uninvited sales people" window stickers.

3. FLOODING AND FLOOD PLANNING

Gill welcomed Robert Powell to the meeting. Robert reported that following the floods of this last winter a number of things have happened to alleviate some of the difficulties encountered should floods occur in the future. These are:

- Certain residents will have the right to close the road to traffic should flooding occur;

- A fund of £150K has been made available by the local Fire Service for equipment to help in the event of flooding in the future. Application has been made to secure a number of key items of equipment;
- Gill and Roger have agreed to store the equipment.

Gill further reported that a group of residents had agreed to set up a Flood Action Team, these are:

- Jacqueline Cairns (flood co-ordinator);
- Gill Ellis and Roger Pullen;
- Mike Westlake;
- Shirley Cozens;
- Roger Mycock;
- Andy Childs;
- Martin Garbutt.

The issue of ditch clearance was discussed. It has been pointed out to us that landowners are responsible for ditches/watercourses on their land and furthermore have “riparian ownership” of (ie responsibility for) ditches/watercourses adjacent to their land. It was agreed, however, that the whole community would benefit from ditch clearance and that there would be a clear economy of scale to arrange for all the work to be done at the same time, with the costs being shared amongst all concerned. Mike Westlake undertook to investigate who would have the equipment to do such work and at what price.

4. SPEED WATCH

Gill reported that this had not been done for a while and undertook to organise further sessions.

All agreed that despite the Police not acting on previous reports a visible deterrent was still useful.

Regarding Speed Indicator Devices (“SIDs”), Gill informed the meeting of the current status, which is best summarised in the Parish Council Minutes from 3 April 2013:

“A letter has been received from Dave Grabham (SCC Traffic Management Group) stating that assessments were carried out in Stoke Road and Greenway Lane (near the Mount Somerset entrance) 1 March 2013 covering a period of one hour during the day.

The results did not meet not meet the current policy criteria required to be included in the Speed Indicator Device programme, the average speeds recorded were 32mph at Stoke Road and 33mph at Greenway Lane. However in order to provide a fair representation of the speed at these locations Somerset County Council are intending to install a temporary SID at both locations for a period of two weeks, starting 28 October 2013 and will operate 24/7 while they are in position.

The results will be sent to the Parish Council, County Councillor and other interested parties and the figures produced will determine whether or not either or both of these locations will qualify for inclusion in the SID programme, to qualify the resultant average speed must equal or exceed 36mph in a 30mph limit."

5. SOCIAL

- The Spring walk on 20 April was poorly attended.
- It was proposed to move the date of the Summer Barbecue to 15 June 2013 (*Post-meeting note: this date has since been confirmed.*)
- An Autumn walk is planned for 14 September.
- There was uncertainty regarding the tea party provisionally planned for 18 May.

6. AOB

According to the Parish Council Minutes from the 3 April 2013 meeting, conditional approval has been granted for a road "from the Tarmac site to the A358", though we wondered whether this was in fact a road from the sewage works at Ham. (*Post meeting note: Somerset County Council has definitely given permission for a road from the sewage works at Ham which will emerge onto the A358 at the entrance to the Tarmac site.*)

Mike Westlake was informed by Somerset Highways that the broken railings by the watercourse in Lower Henlade are to be repaired.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 October 2013.