

**Notes of the Meeting of the
Lower Henlade and Stoke Road Residents' Association
held on 24 April 2014 at The Mount Somerset Hotel**



Present: Gill Ellis (Chair)
Mike Westlake (Treasurer)
John Ashbaugh (Committee Member)
8 Members

Apologies: Paul Stroner (Vice Chair)
Shirley Cozens (Committee Member)

1. PLANNING: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Taunton Deane Council has refused the Reserved Matters planning application for the affordable housing due to drainage issues.

We believe the applicants are seeking a solution to the drainage problem and would then look to putting in another planning application. If the revised drainage scheme is acceptable a new application would almost certainly be granted.

If they cannot find a better drainage scheme they could appeal the decision of refusal but TDBC would defend it. If they appeal, everyone who has commented on the application would be notified and given a chance to comment, and the Planning Inspector would be given all existing documents relating to the application.

2. PLANNING: PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT SITE BY JUNCTION 25

Taunton Deane have acknowledged comments made on this subject and have published their responses in their "Report of Public Consultation - Site Allocations and Development Management Plan (Preferred Options)", available on their web site. Although the process has to go through further stages, it is likely that they will favour development on this site.

3. FLOOD PLANING

Gill thanked Ross Henley, our Somerset County Councillor, and Karen Goldstone, Parish Councillor and Chairman of the Flood Committee, for being very helpful on this matter, and also thanked Mike and Gloria for re-directing traffic in inclement weather.

Flood advice booklets and leaflets have been distributed in Lower Henlade and Ruishton to vulnerable properties and the Flood Action Plan is on Ruishton Parish Council's web site.

Parish Councillors also arranged for our MP, Jeremy Browne, and the Leader of Somerset County Council, John Osman, to visit Lower Henlade on separate occasions to see the area for themselves and to meet the people worst affected.

We are still waiting for a community road closure scheme to be put in place. This is being arranged by the Police in conjunction with Somerset County Council but there are ongoing issues of public liability insurance and training to be resolved.

We have been informed that the roadside railings will be repaired and that SCC are working with landowners with a view to desilting the ditch on the farm side. We have not been given a time scale for this.

Funds have been agreed by the Fire Brigade and paid to the Parish Council for flood alleviation equipment (other than for road closures). Accordingly, hi-vis jackets and waders have now been bought and partially distributed to Flood Committee members.

4. FINANCE AND SUBSCRIPTION

Following discussion it was agreed to leave the membership subscription at the current rate of £3 per year.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There have recently been a number of vehicles broken into in Creech St Michael and the surrounding area. Residents are advised to ensure vehicles are locked and no valuables are on display.

There has been a significant reduction in the number of doorstep salesmen since the 'no cold callers' signs were put in place.

6. SOCIAL

The annual barbecue will take place on Saturday 21 June 2014.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23 October 2014 at 7.30 pm at the Mount Somerset Hotel.