

EASTNOR AND DONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs J Chester, Mapleside, Ashperton, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 2RZ

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Minutes of The Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Eastnor & Donnington

held at Eastnor Cricket Club Pavillion on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: 7 residents of the parishes

Janet Chester – parish clerk

1. Welcome by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman of the parish council Caroline Layton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To Accept any Apologies for Absence

Robin Smith

3. To Consider Approval of Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings held 23rd May 2023

The minutes of the meeting were approved and duly signed by the chairman.

4. To Receive Annual Report from Chairman of the Parish Council

My second year as chair has been good. There have been a few planning applications, 1 was declined and the others granted by Herefordshire Council. The roads remain in a state of disrepair despite the best efforts of our parish clerk and localities steward plus councillors and members of our community. We continue to pursue a depth gauge for the ford in Clenchers Mill Lane and repairs to a broken drain culvert opposite Home Farm entrance. We are in the process of purchasing a new noticeboard which will be put up this year at The Woodshed. The Woodshed is attracting more and more people all the time as they keep introducing more for the visitors, such as Foodie Friday and are aiming to install a childrens playground. We have discussed speed reductions in the village particularly reducing the speed on the main road for the safety of everyone. We are in discussion with Herefordshire Council, Highways Management and local police. We have asked the head teacher at the school to send letters of support to help our case. Eastnor Park continues to host Lakefest and other events which bring in tourists and income to the area with little or no trouble. We had the car rally through the village which didn't cause too much disturbance. Bronsil House has become a residential home for 4/6 children aged from 10 to 17, a great place for children to grow up in. May I thank my fellow councillors and clerk for their help and participation through the year, and also thank our Ward Councillor Stef Simmons for keeping us informed in Herefordshire Council business and supporting our voice on issues.

5. To Receive Annual Report from Ledbury South Ward Councillor Stef Simmons

Eastnor and Donnington May 2024 Ward Report – Cllr Stef Simmons

Herefordshire Council Update

Budget

The annual budget for Herefordshire Council was set at the February Full Council meeting with the March Full Council meeting confirming the precepts for Parish and Town Councils, Fire and Police. Various concerns were raised at the continued squeeze on local authority finances, the lack of multi-year settlements from Government and the unsustainable pressure from increasing demands for adult and child social care. Nearly 70% of Herefordshire Council's revenue budget is allocated to adult and child social care, with only 17% allocated for other statutory provision such as refuse and recycling, drainage and highway maintenance.

Local Spatial Plan, Local Transport Plan and Minerals and Waste Plan

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan for the County has been approved and adopted following examination by the inspector and approval by Full Council. This sets the policy and spatial strategy for minerals and waste in the county.

The Local Transport Plan review is now underway following a delay whilst awaiting DfT Guidance, which has now been shelved. The objectives are being set and although the official consultation period on this closed on Tuesday 21st May I

urge anyone with concerns about difficulties of rural travel, bus travel, accessibility to school, college or place of work etc to email ltpf@herefordshire.gov.uk

The Local Spatial Plan review is also underway with draft Local Plan 2021-2041 undergoing its Regulation 18 Consultation. This will set out the housing and employment land allocation for Ledbury. The official consultation period closed on the 20th May but emails can still be sent to ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk

I am deeply concerned at the proposed allocation of an **additional 450 houses in a strategic land allocation** off the Gloucester Rd between Leadon Way and Parkway and have responded that I do not support this level of growth within the plan period to 2041 given recent allocations and developments in the area. The policy sets out:

Policy LEDB2: Land to the south of Ledbury

Land to the south of Ledbury will bring forward a master-planned sustainable development on 25 hectares of land and will be expected to deliver:

Housing requirement:

1. A minimum of 450 new homes at an average minimum density of 30-35 dwellings per hectare which includes a mix of market and affordable house sizes and types in accordance with Policy BC1 and reflect the latest Herefordshire Housing Market Needs Assessment;
2. An affordable housing target of 35% of the dwelling total must be affordable housing to meet local needs;
3. A minimum of 5% of the dwellings being made available as dedicated serviced plots for self or custom build housing in accordance with Policy BC3;

Access:

4. Provide important linkages to the town at an early stage. This is expected to be in the form of an attractive, easily accessible, safe and direct crossing on Leadon Way to connect with the town;
5. Transport Assessments, Travel Plans, Environmental Statements and other supporting documents must be provided to ensure that the impact on the existing strategic road network and its junctions will not result in any detrimental impact to its safe operation. Suitable junction capacity assessments and appropriate levels of mitigation will be required;
6. And look to future-proof sustainable transport modes and accessible links to support housing growth within and beyond the plan period;

Community:

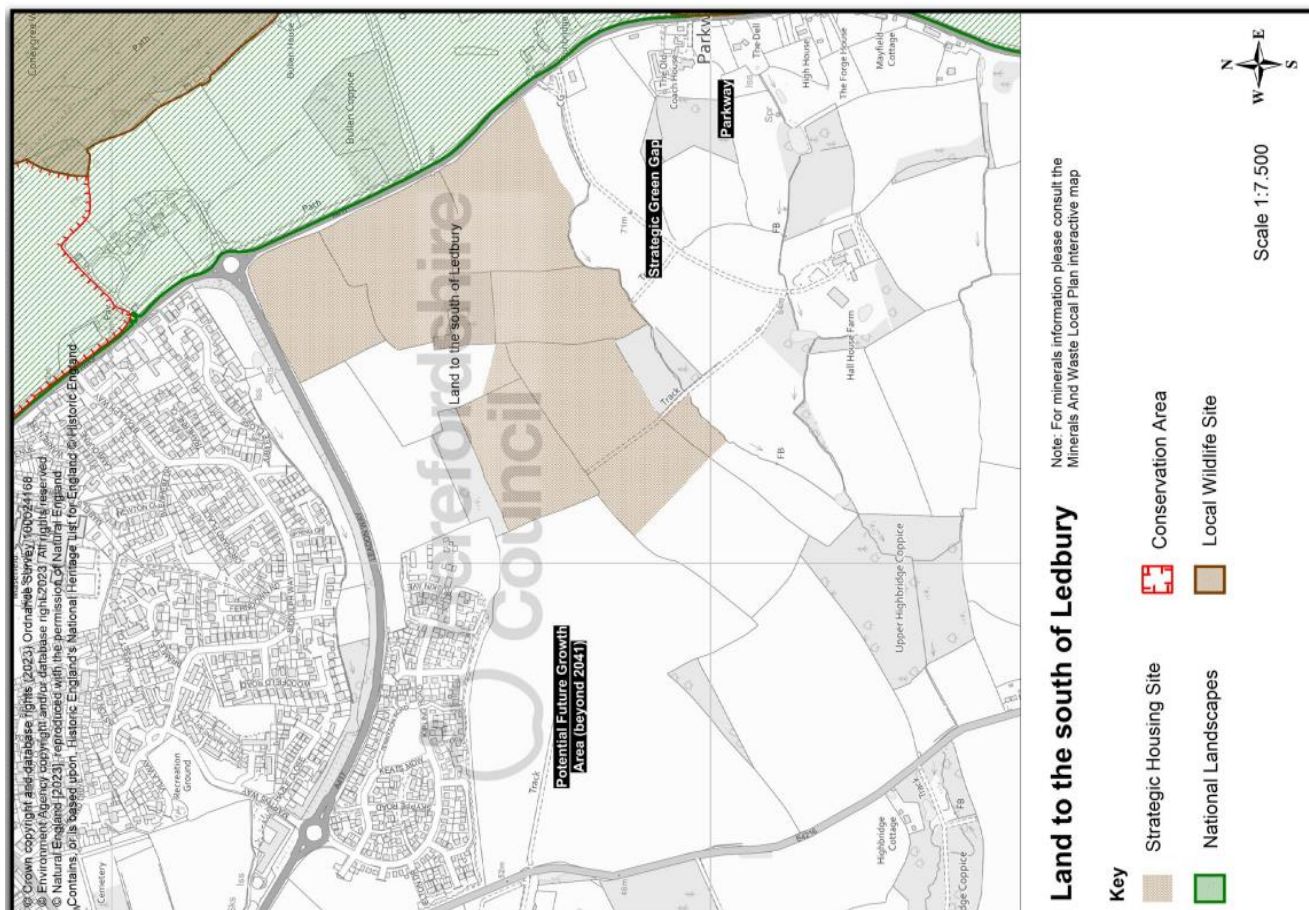
7. An appropriate, distinctive, new sustainable community facility;
8. A small scale neighbourhood retail facility to enable easy, active and safe access to day to day needs;
9. Provide a Health Impact Assessment, to ensure that the health and wellbeing of future residents is maximised;
10. Financial contribution towards education provision;

Design and open space:

11. A development proposal which respects the landscape setting, including minimising any impact to the distinctive and unique nature of the Malvern Hills National Landscape;
12. Green infrastructure corridors that give structure to the development, maximise connectivity by providing attractive routes to walk, wheel and cycle, and provide a strong natural edge to the development to maintain the separation from Parkway;
13. On-site delivery of an appropriate level of multi-functional open space which should include semi-natural green space together with measures for its on-going maintenance, and provision for allotments or community garden;
14. A comprehensive Sustainable urban Drainage System (SuDS) which includes measures such as rain gardens and swales to manage ground and surface water drainage and safeguard against any flood risk;
15. Siting, scale, massing and layout and materials that are sympathetic to the character and distinctiveness of Ledbury and align with the requirements of the Ledbury Design Code;
16. Proposals for biodiversity net gain (BNG) must be provided as part of the development. The layout and siting of the scheme should avoid any negative impact on biodiversity. The site must deliver 20% BNG, as measured by the statutory biodiversity metric, and which should preferably be located within or adjacent to the development site. If demonstrably not practical to deliver the required level of BNG on-site, details of a suitable and appropriate off-site solution for the remaining net gain should be provided, or, as a last resort, statutory biodiversity credits should be purchased. For significant on-site gains, and all off-site gains, BNG must be maintained for at least 30 years after completion; and

Heritage assets:

17. Assess the archaeological significance of the area to safeguard heritage assets and inform development proposals.



Ledbury Youth

Dymock Road Flood



Leadon Way Road Closure

The construction of the Vistry/Bovis development on land south of Leadon Way is ongoing. The roundabout and highways works to narrow the road (to reduce speeds) and install a footpath, cycleway and toucan crossing are now complete. The road will be closed overnight (8pm-6am) between 28th May and 3rd June to allow for resurfacing of the stretch between Hawk Rise and Southend roundabout to be brought up to correct profile. I have requested official diversion signs to be placed to direct HGVs along the A449 and via M50 and to avoid use of B4216. However if residents experience any issues with increased HGV traffic please contact me or BBLP Streetworks Team on 01432 261800 and quote URSN 23200691.

Eastnor Speed Reduction

Whilst I am pleased to see that the Annual Plan Maps for highways this year have works scheduled for A438 resurfacing at Hollybush and at the School junction I am having limited success in getting action on reducing speed limits from 50mph to 30mph on the A438 in Eastnor in proximity to the school. The following response was received from Highways that I have responded to with regard to inaccuracy of reference to no accidents.

As per the DfT guidance this would not be considered appropriate for a small individual bend speed limit on the A438, and in its current guise, the road side development / character is extremely unlikely to support a lower limit (café or not) as it is extremely sparse. Existing speeds would need to be taken to inform any further considerations.

I suspect that in order to achieve any degree of compliance with future change, it would need (as an absolute minimum) a full edgeline / no centre line / carriageway roundels and (given it has prohibitory centreline system at present) a No Overtaking TRO to support.

Even with this amount of expenditure it still stands a very real chance of failing to deliver any discernible change, and then we have to consider cost / justification as it has no recorded collisions in the last 5 years. If the PC had the funds it could be explored.

I have requested automatic traffic count monitors to be installed but I would appreciate any information or letter of support for measures from councillors or residents in support of speed reduction here.

Planning Committee

My work on the Planning and Regulatory Committee continues. I have been scrutinising all local planning applications, holding discussions with planning and enforcement officers, s106 and highways officers.

Vistry/Bovis - Land South of Leadon Way - A revised planning application was submitted for the development including amendments and details of landscaping, boundary treatment for the proposed cyclepath/footway connection into Shepherd's Close amongst other elements. Revisions have been made to the plans following consultation responses and the application is awaiting determination. I have raised additional concerns regarding the phasing of elements of the proposals (Herefordshire Planning Search – application number 233023).

Following a decision taken by Planning Committee to refuse consent for the proposed **McCarthy Stone retirement complex at The Knapp** an appeal hearing is scheduled for 29th May 2024. The Planning Inspector denied a request from the appellant for a Public Inquiry. Interested groups and individuals have submitted responses to the Planning Inspector and details can be viewed using application number 223248 at [Planning Search – Herefordshire Council](#)

Contact details

I am holding a Ward Surgery monthly at Ledbury Rugby Club on Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30pm by appointment, or I can visit individuals if mobility an issue.

I am contactable via email stef.simmons@herefordshire.gov.uk or phone 07792881706

6. To Note the Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

EASTNOR & DONNINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE RECORD

2023-2024

Name		MAY	JULY	OCT	JAN	TOTAL
MICHAEL HALL		N/A	CO-OP	Y	Y	3 OF 3
SHANE HOWELLS		Y	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 4
CAROLINE LAYTON		Y	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 4

SHIRLEY ROBERTS		Y	APOL	Y	Y	3 OF 4
JIM SANDFORD		APOL	N	APOL	Y	1 OF 4
ROBIN SMITH		Y	Y	Y	Y	4 OF 4
JANET STIRZAKER		N/A	CO-OP	Y	Y	3 OF 4
BEN TANDY		Y	N	Y	APOL	2 OF 4
WARD CLLR STEF SIMMONS		Y	Y	Y	Y	4 of 4

7. To Receive the Financial Report from the Parish Council (figures quoted are provisional and subject to audit)

Opening balance – £4681.39

Income – £8100.00

Expenditure – £5426.56

Closing Balance – £7354.83 (excess in reserves for new noticeboard)

8. Open Forum - to raise matters relevant to Eastnor & Donnington parishes -*This item to be limited at the discretion of the chairman*

Meeting declared closed at 19.25pm.

Signed

Dated:.....