

**Notes taken at meeting held at 9.30 am on 17 May 2023
At DHA Offices, Maidstone.**

Present: Roz Cheesman (DPC), Kevin Hipkins (OPC) / David Hatcher/Ian Saker (CAARA), Teresa Irving (Clerk - OPC/DPC), Chris Moore/Julian Goodban/Derren Bishop/Darrell Wilson – Bellway Homes & Paul Lulham (DHA)

Chris Moore opened the meeting by stating how disappointed he was with all the negativity. He is very concerned that a campaign has been launched against them as a result of the work. Under the circumstances, there is some doubt whether this forum is working and whether BH wish to continue with the meetings. It was stated that Cllr Cooke's comments at a recent DPC meeting regarding the Willington Street traffic lights are of great concern to BH.

Visiting groups feel that the meetings are 'invaluable'. It was agreed that to make them as conducive as possible in the future, when an issue arises BH will be contacted first to discuss/resolve, rather than going to the media.

- The **Section 278 works** have been extremely drawn out and it is unclear why KCC has come up with the issue of the Willington St/Deringwood Drive traffic lights at this late stage. To request an alternative scheme without traffic lights is highly unusual at this stage; why wasn't this addressed at the original planning stage?

BH are seeking clarity as they wish to deliver the site as quickly and as safely as possible.

Problems are also being experienced at Bicknor Wood with regards to the closure of White Horse Lane. BH has been trying to get the closure booked in but has not been able to do so, due to other closures in the area. They hope it will go ahead sometime during 2023.

The current situation is that 421 Homes can be built, but only 100 homes can be built and occupied.

- **Piling.** Due to a world shortage of steel, it is unclear when piling will restart. However, the piling contractor believes that he has sourced a supply and should be able to continue next week. BH to confirm when the work will restart.

The current piling has used 2/3rd more steel than originally anticipated. There is approximately 10 weeks piling left and it is hoped that once restarted, it will continue until it is completely finished.

A shroud has been sourced for the hammer - at great expense - as this will reduce the noise. However, noise will still depend on the wind. Vibration monitoring will continue; Sue Skipp's garden/the Church/The Old Rectory. It was reported that the previous piling was 'miles within the permitted tolerances'.

Problems with dust are likely to be easier to deal with as a water is now connected to the site and damping down will be more straightforward.

- Public Rights of Way KM88. This is currently shut and whilst the work is only 5 weeks into the original 6-month closure, a lot of the work on the actual PROW is nearly complete. Unfortunately, some of the trees will need to be removed as the banking and filling work will kill them overtime and they will become unsafe. Replacement trees are planned. A licence has been granted and work will continue.

The trees that have Heras fencing around them will not be touched until the nesting birds have left the nest (this will depend on the species of birds). It was confirmed that the old Hornbeam at the top of the slope will be staying.

- CAARA stated that the plan to mount a defibrillator (donated by BH) on a lamppost will not be possible, due to the excessive height that it would have to be mounted. Consideration to be given to a new site near the Foxden ramp, The new Plaza/Public Art work.

OPC were advised that it might be possible to site the defibrillator they are hoping to purchase for White Horse Lane/Bicknor Wood near the Play Park or perhaps the cycle lane, once White Horse Lane has been closed?

- Church Road is expected to reopen mid-July. The possibility of pushing back the 30-mph speed limit was again addressed, but it is uncertain if this is possible due to streetlighting being required for 30 mph. To be revisited when the current scheme has been completed.

Church Road will be tarmacked and white lines painted in the next 4 weeks. Instead of the original localised widening, it has been widened in its entirety at an additional cost of £600,000.

BH to discuss the white line on the edge of the carriageway with Highways.

5,200 Plants and 100 trees are due to be planted. More will be available from the funding that has already been provided by BH.

The possibility of revisiting Woolley Road as an access road to Parsonage Place was discounted. A footpath to/from the site will be installed.

Once Church Road has reopened, BH confirmed that they will display the 30-mph banner (as provided to the Clerk by KCC).

Occupation of homes is expected to start in the second half of June.

- The artistic designers have been working with local schools to make projects. Bat boxes will be installed shortly and there are plans for a ground mosaic.
- Drawings have been submitted for a replacement wall at St Nicholas Church. This will also need to be approved by the faculty.

The church car park will be officially finished at the end of July. The top gate was damaged and a replacement is awaited (likely to be 10 weeks). The area will be landscaped and completed as soon as possible.

- The drainage verification report has to be determined and submitted by the end of June. MBC refused the report on Monday with no discussion. This will be revamped and resubmitted ASAP

Southern Water are obligated to upgrade the capacity at Foxden Drive within 2 years. This should be summer 2024. (Thrust boring is much less disruptive than open trenching).

Southern Gas will also need to carry out improvements at the Willington Street/Deringwood Drive and Church Road junctions as the infrastructure is not what they said it was. The implications of the work are not known but it is expected to be about 1 year away.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 am.