

HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL CLERK'S REPORT (Information only) NOVEMBER 2008

- An amount of bulbs have been received from SRBC free of charge. These have been planted by Peter the lengthsman on Lindle Lane so as to extend existing planting and also on a small area around the pond by the Village Hall.
- LALC are considering providing a free of charge Conference day next year. Members are asked to let the Clerk know if they would be interested in attending such an event.
- A PUBLIC consultation document has been issued by the dept for Communities and Local Government in respect of an update to the 2007 Code of Conduct and the introduction of a Code of Conduct for government employees. This consultation is open to anyone to respond however views sought **from local authority members and local government employees in particular**. Any parish council member who wishes to respond may locate the document on the web site www.communities.gov.uk or where they are unable to access the internet by contacting the Clerk who will be able to supply a hard copy.
- The National Salary Scales relating to local government employees have been agreed on a temporary basis at a level of 2.45% backdated to April 2008 pending the outcome of further negotiations to settle this long outstanding dispute. In accordance with the Clerks contract the rise will be applied at the earliest opportunity.
- Below is a short summary of a recent meeting held with regard to traffic issues on Ratten Lane. Since the meeting an update has been received from LCC with regard to the items referred back to them. This response is copied below the meeting report for information purposes.

MEETING AT TEG ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICES MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: 2 Representatives from TEG, 3 Residents of Ratten Lane, Clerk to Hutton PC, Representative from LCC Planning and Representative LCC Highways.

The meeting opened with a short update from TEG who explained their operating process, confirmed that works were being undertaken to establish a fully covered conveyance system which would further reduce any odour and also confirmed that there were no plans to extend the site further.

It was established that the planning permission for the site does have vehicle movement restrictions in terms of the number of outgoing vehicles carrying waste to four per day. There are no ingoing restrictions. It was also stated that the end product is not classified as waste and therefore is not subject to any restrictions although in practice the amount of end product produced is only requires 14 outgoing trailers per week.

- It was confirmed by LCC Planning that checks on the site with regard to vehicle movements have been undertaken and that there is no breach of planning permissions.

The issue of 'odour' was mentioned and discussed and further explanation given concerning the new covered conveyance system.

- It was reiterated that any resident concerns with regard to odorous smells emanating from the site should be reported direct to the Environment Agency so that appropriate investigation could take place.

Issues were then discussed concerning general vehicle movements along Ratten Lane. A resident stated that perhaps TEG had taken the blame for much of the traffic whereas in point of fact much of it emanated from other sources. Issues of general concern were the quality of the road (pot holes) which caused vibration and noise particularly when lorries moved at speed, the number of vehicles and their weight and size.

A request to consider a weight restriction on Ratten Lane was made all be it that it was pointed out that such a proposal would probably receive objections from many of the business users in the area and would if granted probably simply increase the number of vehicles all be it they might not be as big or heavy. Issues might also exist with regard to priorities and funding.

- The LCC representative agreed to discuss the matter with Rachel Crompton

Speed issues were of concern. It was felt that heavy vehicles should drive at a lower speed than the speed limit due to the vibration they cause. It was not felt appropriate to consider a general speed reduction below the existing 30 mph. TEG mentioned that they have a 'guide' which is provided to all drivers using their premises to assist with vehicle movements in the area all be it this is not meant to cover the highway in general.

- TEG will incorporate a request within this 'guide' that drivers do not drive above 15/20 miles per hour along Ratten Lane in the interests of local resident amenity.

The LCC representative agreed that the state of the road in Ratten Lane needed some attention due to pot holes and the like.

- It was agreed that he would arrange for an engineer to visit and look at what repairs are needed prior to discussing the issue with Rachel Crompton.

Issues were raised concerning traffic into and works being undertaken at Orchard Farm. It was confirmed that SRBC Planning Dept were in discussion with the owners with regard to the submission of a formal planning application for consideration which would give residents a clear opportunity to have their concerns considered prior to determination.

RESPONSE FROM LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO ACTIONS AGREED ABOVE

Ratten Lane and Skip Lane are only used by local traffic and they do not form a rat run or alternative route to any other destination. The concerned roads form a cul de sac for local traffic with little benefit for other road users (other road users would typically be dog walkers and leisure walkers)

The highway authority is only supporting weight restriction orders where the structure of the highway is a concern, since the structure of Ratten Lane and Skip Lane are not a concern the highway authority would not prioritise the introduction of a potential weight restriction order. A weighting restriction order would probably not be supported by the police and if such an order was introduced the police would probably not enforce it and as such there would not be any benefit for the local residents and businesses. A weight restriction order could affect the operation of many of the farms and local businesses with access off Ratten Lane and Skip

Lane which might then be overcome by making relaxations for local residents and businesses and once again resulting in no beneficial gain to existing local residents and businesses.

Three areas of Ratten Lane have been identified for remedial works however due to financing issues these will not be carried out within the current financial year. Works orders will be issued in April next year. In the mean time monitoring will take place over the winter months.

WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM TEG

Signs have been ordered for erection opposite the site entrance to remind drivers when leaving to keep to the TEG advised 15/20mph speed limit and give due consideration to local residents. The signs will be installed shortly.

The card which is given to drivers on arrival and which sets out TEG's own code of conduct has been amended as suggested at the meeting.

The entrance to their facility will be resurfaced to aid with limiting the carriage of dirt off site onto the public highway

The covered conveyor to carry material between buildings is currently being designed and discussed with suppliers so that implementation can be done as soon as possible.

W V McEnnerney-Whittle