

Hermitage Parish Council Update

- Firstly, planning applications; WBC Planning Department are just dotting the is and crossing the ts for the CALA Homes development of 15 houses to be built on land at the end of Charlotte Close. It is therefore likely that building will start this year but when any developer will start to build is unknown.

The application to build four homes at the rear of the White Horse pub was discussed at the February meeting of the parish council. Unsurprisingly the council was very concerned about this and raised several issues including the entrance and exit, the impact on Newbury Road and likelihood of accidents and the number of properties proposed. A letter of objection was sent to the planning department at WBC.

It would seem that the Co-op is behind schedule, probably due to weather and Covid 19, as the hand over for fitting out in January would appear to have not happened.

- Every household in Hermitage should have received, and hopefully completed, a copy of the Housing Needs Survey which is a crucial part of gathering evidence for the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Thank you to everyone who has done this as it's important that the NDP reflects what Hermitage residents need and want.
- The Coronavirus pandemic is still with us though, hopefully, for not too much longer. But Hermitage Support Group is continuing its magnificent work, delivering food and good will wherever its needed. Also, by arrangement with the support group, Meals on Wheels are now being served from Fair Close Day Centre.
- It is planned to hold the Annual Parish Assembly on Thursday April 29th. At the moment it is looking unlikely that this will be held in the village hall as an event to attend in person. Plans will be published as soon as they are definite. A zoom meeting is likely to be the alternative.
- You may have noticed that the broken shelter at the bus stop opposite the school has been removed. A decision on replacing it will be made at this month's (March) meeting of the council. If you have an opinion of whether the shelter should be replaced, please email the parish clerk.
- The date of the next parish council meeting is Thursday March 18th and then Thursday April 15th. All meetings are still being held electronically but still begin at 7.30pm. Agendas, minutes and information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and www.hermitage.org.uk. Any member of the public wishing to attend should contact the parish clerk who will send an email with joining instructions on the afternoon of the meeting.
- Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce by emailing hermitagepc@outlook.com.