

Notes on meeting with Richard Burgess / Debby Redding 5th July 04

Present David Emery, John Sutherland

Object – to ensure that W&PBC were aware of the continued interest of the SPS in the protection of SP – and to ascertain the policy towards the village of W&PBC.

DE outlined the interest of the village – maintaining the village, restoring the orchard, clearing the pond etc. In addition other activities like the biennial Fayre illustrated the continued interest of the residents in their village. DE introduced the village survey from 1999, expressed concern on the gradual filling of all spaces, changing the look of the village. Approval of 97 Sutton Road (which seems in contradiction to previous rejected request to build behind the mission hall) was the last of a line of current approvals which caused concern on planning policy.

RB noted that the survey was a general walk around the village illustrating the prettiness but not identifying specific green spaces that should be protected. He thought it missed out by looking at generalities.

Of recent developments, he thought the replacement for Smiths body works was very successful as were several of the developments along Sutton Road – the bungalow along Plaisters where 3 dormers are being added looked a positive improvement.

He indicated that current policies are to infill or build in brownfield sites – and back gardens are considered developed areas. Gaps are almost development waiting to happen – old buildings (eg the prefab bungalow in MHL) were also potential development areas. Pointed out that the old village centre has a very high density of housing. There needs to be a balance of spaces and building – the spaces perhaps need defining clearer; (mentioned green space facing pond several times!).

Advised that the site visits were to allow the committee to see at first hand the implications of a proposed application and were not an opportunity for discussion – the committee meeting is that forum. Indicated his general support for the pub accommodation – suggesting a possible alternative to a failed pub could be to replace the site with housing development.

Suggested he could offer meetings on planning (with Simon Williams), or traffic (with Martin Gallivan / Richard Penney). He also indicated that they hope to undertake a study on flood alleviation on the Jordon in the near future. Also a survey of trees covered by TPO is planned to be undertaken soon.

Also indicated that if work is required on the trees around the pond – he was sure funds could be found for essential work.

Meeting ended with DE/JS to consider offer of future meetings on planning or traffic and report back.

cc S Emblen
Planning sub group