

**MINUTES OF THE TARPORLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT, TARPORLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY 25TH JULY 2019**

Parish Council

Chairman – Cllr Gill Clough

Cllr Toni Burke Cllr Elaine Chapman Cllr Jeremy Mills Cllr Mark Ravenscroft

Cllr Nigel Taylor Cllr Andrew Wallace

Clerk Ann Wright

Other

CW&C Cllr Eveleigh Moore Dutton

Public 16

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and explained that this was the Annual Parish Meeting of meeting of electors rather than a Parish Council Meeting.

Drug Awareness – PC Monks & PCSO Williamson

PC Philip Monks and PCSO Kenneth Williamson gave a talk on drug awareness which included the following information:

Drugs are chemical substances which are designed to affect the mind or body of the taker.

Drugs are classified:

Class A – Heroin, Cocaine and Ecstasy.

Class B – Amphetamines and Cannabis.

Class C – Steroids.

Cannabis comes in many forms and is often regarded as harmless but can have serious long-term effects on the user including reduced mental capacity, memory loss and anxiety.

Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas) is currently being taken by young people and is resulting in small silver cannisters being discard around the area. It is not illegal to have or sell nitrous oxide other than for human consumption.

The taking of nitrous oxide can cause death by flooding the lungs and cause choking. It has also resulted in one user having a heart attached and caused brain damage. It can also cause serious nerve damage and reduce the user's immune system.

Signs that someone is using cannabis include hunger, weight loss, dilated pupils, distinct smell.

The Police undertake regular drug awareness sessions at Tarporley High School.

The public were encouraged to report any suspicious activity or if they believe there are areas where drugs are being taken to the police on 101 or by email. PCSO Williamson confirmed he and PC Monks would be happy to discuss any concerns with residents directly.

The Police are aware that illegal drug taking does happen in Tarporley, even though a local drug dealer has been charged and is currently serving a custodial sentence.

A member of the public thanked the police for their visible presence on the High Street and around Tarporley.

The Chairman thanked PC Monks and PCSO Williamson for attending the meeting.

Affordable Housing in Tarporley – Weaver Vale Housing Trust (WVHT)

Judith Burbidge, Director of Neighbourhoods & Customer Services, stated WVHT had been in discussions with CW&C and the Parish Council for around a year and had made the difficult decisions to close the Oathills Lea complex.

WVHT was formed in 2002 and took over housing previously managed by Vale Royal Borough Council. It currently owns 6200 properties including bungalows, apartments and houses. WVHT have been trying to establish what housing is needed by the people of Tarporley.

Toni Reed, Head of Neighbourhoods reported on the findings of the Housing Needs Survey which was commissioned by the Parish Council, CW&C and WVHT and was carried out by Cheshire Community Action. The survey had had a 19% response rate which was regarded as a good return. The survey had concluded there is a demand from older people looking to downsize and also young people looking for their first home.

She also reported on the Housing Register which is the list of people registered for affordable housing who in this case have a local connection with Tarporley. As of July 2019, there are 175 registered, the majority of which (126) need a 1 bed property, 29 need a 2 bed property with only 17 needing a 3 bed property and only 4 need a 4 bed or more property. It was noted that the number of bedrooms 'needed' was not always the same as the number of bedrooms a person might want, i.e. an individual or couple only need 1 bedroom.

Gareth Rigby, Director of Property stated that WVHT had establish the following key principles for the development of the site:

1 and 2 bed apartments

Accessibility regardless of age and disability is crucial

Parking

Space for storage of bicycles and mobility scooters

Quality open space

Local Lettings policy which gives priority to local people – noting allocation will be through the CW&C lettings process.

Timescales

July 2019 – December 2019 – consultation, financial feasibility study and design of scheme

January 2020 – June 2020 – internal and external funding applications

July 2020– December 2020 – Tendering and pre-constructions works

January 2021 – March 2022 – Construction through to completion.

It was noted that these timescales are a guide and may change.

It was noted the scheme will be for 1 and 2 bed apartments for independent living and will be for a mix of older and young people.

A resident suggested that given the location of the site it should be for older people so they can access the centre of Tarporley easily while younger people can walk further.

It was noted that WVHT recognised the need for the properties to be affordable in terms of rental, service charges and other bills.

It was noted the development will be predominantly for rent although there may be some shared ownership properties.

The development will be a quality build which meets space standards.

WVHT confirmed they had not taken the decision to close Oathills lightly and had endeavoured to talk to and support residents and their families but that it had not been feasible to retain the property.

It was confirmed WVHT had met with existing residents and their families and gone through different housing options. A number had been allocated bungalows in Tarporley, others had moved to other areas to be close to friends or family and WVHT had worked with other housing associations to achieve this. The site is not due to close until March 2020 unless the last residents leave before that date.

It was noted that WVHT had a number of similar schemes in the Borough, Grange Court in Winsford which has been renovated, Oakwood House in Barnton which has closed and Springfields in Helsby which is to be replaced by 16 houses and WVHT are in discussions with Helsby Parish Council there.

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

It was noted that Tarporley has been hit by developers over a number of years with developments on Nantwich Road, the Daffodil Field and Royal British Legion site that have been driven by profit and that Tarporley needs affordable homes for younger and older people.

Mr Rigby confirmed that WVHT would not sell the site to private developers and that was 100% not an option and that the site was not going to be used for the sale of 3 or 4 bed properties.

CW&C Cllr. Moore Dutton requested that 'local connections' include people from the surrounding parishes in Tarporley Ward.

It was noted the site is a challenging site to develop with restricted access. As such the demolition and construction will be phased and a traffic management plan will be developed with the community to avoid peak times etc. The scheme may also be a modular design with construction taking place off site.

It was noted that the existing vehicle access is the only vehicle access to the site and that this will be taken into account when the works are planned noting the residential road into the site cannot accommodate large vehicles. WVHT confirmed they had worked on other sites with limited access and although there will be disruption, they would work to minimise it as much as possible.

It was stated the scheme has not be finalised but could include around 20 apartments.

It was noted the site includes a number of trees, it was stated a number of these have tree preservation orders on them. It was noted that WVHT are hoping to retain these and they want to create really good open space. They are not planning a high-density scheme.

WVHT note the footpath which runs along the site and is well used including by children walking to school, and they hoped the path could remain open during construction.

It was noted the Parish Council will consider the planning application when it is submitted and will take on board comments made during this meeting.

A resident of Oathills Lea said the public should not worry about the residents as the majority have now got new properties arranged and those that haven't yet are waiting for accommodation to become available.

WVHT agreed they would be mindful of the need for some form of communal area on the site to combat isolation.

The Chairman thanked WVHT and residents for attending the meeting and for all their comments.

Meeting closed: 8.07pm

Signed:

Dated:

Ann Wright
26-07-19

DRAFT