

Parish Clerk's Report to the Ordinary Meeting 17th November 2025

- 1 I am pleased to report that an unannounced Environmental Health Inspection at Wesley on 21st October found no problems and awarded a maximum 5 star certificate. This is testament to the work of our staff, both on and off site, which is reflected in so many different ways as the venue becomes, day by day, busier and more significant in the life of the village. This prevailing ethic and approach will be mirrored at the Tavern when the, 'Wesley Tavern – working together,' initiative takes off in Spring next year.
- 2 The well-deserved outcome of the recent Planning Appeal at School Road which found in favour of the community would seem to effectively stifle any approach in the near future for development on this land. The suggestion that a, 'view board', be installed to reinforce the value of the sweeping visual nature of the land against any future approach for Planning permission would seem to be a worthwhile step to take. Feedback from Members welcome.
- 3 A reminder that Cllrs Roots and Schofield will carry out their inspection of Council's paperwork, practices and procedures on 19th November for report back to our December meeting. Any specific concerns from Members which might direct their efforts are invited to them prior to their examination.
- 4 As per the Report from EAA as tabled to this meeting, the pressures which are common to many of our volunteer-led community organisations include the difficulty of finding responsible volunteers for regular tasks. One of the regular tasks which form part of the monthly Newsletter production is the organisation and facilitation of distribution of some 2,500 magazines through 47 volunteer distributors. Council already manages the advertising administration for the magazine, remunerated on a percentage of turnover. The proposal at agenda item 12 extends this service to the distribution tasks at a cost which reflects a 4 hour-per-month workload which practical experience suggests is a fair estimate.
- 5 The newly installed bike repair stations at Wesley and at Blackbourne have attracted users, including youngsters, and will probably feature in what is offered by the monthly Repair Café sessions due to start at Wesley in January.
- 6 The requirement for Change of Use Planning Permission on the newly acquired land at Turners' Field includes the need for a Bio Diversity Net Gain (BNG) Report informed by an Ecology Report. Accordingly, I instructed Connected Ecology who recently worked with us very effectively on a similar exercise as part of the Planning process for the Tavern. Their Report is to hand, copies on request, with the BNG conclusions to follow. I am working towards any BNG requirement to be met using the land holding available rather than having to make a payment to Natural England for mitigation elsewhere.
- 7 The main contractor effectively quits the Tavern site on or soon after 14th November. There are specified outstanding works which are agreed and will be accommodated around a formal Completion date. These are in abeyance pending certain work which Council will undertake through its own sub-contractors. The relationship with the main contractor, Stroods, has been and remains excellent. Their contribution has, effectively, been as members of the Project Management team and their considerable experience in working on similar projects throughout the leisure industry has helped produce excellent outcomes within a very reasonable budget. Most of the pending works are at some stage of progress with the determining factor remaining as the UKPN power switch-on fixed for 27th February. This will allow for an Easter opening.