

Parish Clerk's Monthly Report to the Council Meeting 20th July 2026

- 1 I circulated to Councillors the latest update on the Elmswell-Woolpit Community path which seems to have gained a genuine new impetus under the most recent change of management personnel. I suggest that a watching brief is appropriate in relation to this, as to any initiative which may impinge on the re-drafting of Elmswell's Neighbourhood Development Plan, given that the scheme might benefit from tangible community support and / or there might well be ancillary issues which the Plan might address.
- 2 As Resolved at 26.05.15, along with Cllrs Schofield & Pallett and our RFO Ann Brett, I met with Jane Williams of JW Employment Law to review the Council's contracts of employment already in place and advise on those needed in light of the increase in the number of employees consequent upon the operation of the Elmswell Tavern. In wide-ranging open discussion the different challenges of employment in licensed hospitality premises were noted, including such as the allocation of tips, working from home, split shifts and the possibility of clashes with any other employment undertaken concurrently. Jane's Report and Contract templates are expected soon.
- 3 I copied to Councillors the presentation made at a Teams meeting I joined on Friday 10th July regarding the preparation of the BMSDC Joint Local Plan. The very early indications as to the immediate effect on Elmswell suggested some 700+ houses in the village within the 25 year Plan period. Whatever final site allocations are in the final document, it is clearly something which will impinge dramatically on the village and which will require mitigation / accommodation policies which accord with the all-important revised Elmswell Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Any discrepancies can weaken the NDP influence on future planning decisions. This highlights the importance of our beginning the NDP Review process and I welcome feedback regarding the possibility of re-engaging with Ian Poole of Places 4 People who advised on the original or any other way forward.
Clear front-runners in the list of key issues to be addressed would seem to be the formulation of a 25 year strategy towards ensuring across-the board play and recreation provision for our youngsters including the location of and acquisition of land which this may well involve, together with mitigation of the ever-increasing traffic issues at Shop Corner and at the railway crossing.
In the meantime, I have had no suggestions towards a response to the Survey regarding the Scoping Consultation as circulated on 5th June. Such surveys are very difficult to answer by consensus - ie proffering an opinion based on the views of 11 individuals - and might better be tackled on an individual basis? I shall seek guidance at the Meeting.

Peter Dow
19.07.2026