

County Councillor Shirley Webb
WCC Report / Fairfield May 2020

I have put together a few items we have discussed over the last year. I would like to thank you all for your support and cooperation and look forward to a continued partnership in the year ahead.

Yew Tree Lane dropped kerb, our specialist team has looked at this and come up with the solution attached. There is very limited visibility when crossing Yew Tree Lane from the direction of number 25 Stourbridge Road. The whole idea of a dropped kerb would be to accommodate the likes of a mobility buggy, bearing in mind that the occupant would be seated up to 800mm from the front of the buggy they would have to drive onto the road before they could see around the corner, which could result in them being hit by an oncoming vehicle. For this reason the specialist team have drawn up a scheme that crosses the Stourbridge Road. The cost of such a scheme will be in the region of £10,000.

Raised tables on both entrance to the village has been requested from FVCA. Due to noise and climate issues WCC will not consider this the correct thing to do.

Mini Island – due to be relined again soon (it was done last year). FVCA reported this island as having a missing bollard. Upon checking with highways, one was never put in as this would stop the residents at The Old Post Office turning right out of their property.

Brook Road – we will do a speed monitoring exercise again once Lockdown has been lifted, I will then look into having the 30 mph reduced along the lane depending on results of the survey.

The hard standing has now been completed to enable the enforcement officer to position there. Hopefully it won't be too long before the officer is back again. I can contribute £500 divisional funding towards the payment to the parish council.

TRO from Stoneybridge Island, consultation has started to reduce speed from 60 to 40 mph up to nearby Orchard farm when the speed will then change to 30MPH. Relining of the road will also take place to give the impression the lane is not as wide. New painted road signs will also be done at the same time.

Swan Lane – drains have all been cleared (as well as Stourbridge Road) and potholes repaired. Resurfacing is also due to take place once lockdown is over.

There have been a few reports of hedges that need cutting back within the village, we have agreed the lengthman to maintain these on a regular basis.

Pinches Quarry (Phase 4)

As you are aware an application has been received and consulted upon for the extraction of approximately 1 million tonnes of sand and gravel, with restoration by way of importation of inert waste material, returning the site primarily to agricultural use. The applicant estimates that the development would take 14 years to complete. The formal planning public consultation period ended on 4 March 2020. We are reviewing all the comments received to date, and will likely be requesting that the applicant provides further environmental information in due course. Should we request further environmental information, our letter requesting this information would be uploaded on the Council's website. Once the further environmental information is received, we would re-consult on the proposal (all those consulted previously and those who commented on the proposal). John Spurling is the Case Officer for this application.

Chadwich Lane Quarry

An application is pending consideration. The County Council requested further additional environmental information in respect of the water environment. This information has now been submitted (end of last week). We are currently booking this in, reviewing and in due course we will consult on this further environmental information (all those previously consulted and who have commented on the proposal will be consulted), however, given that the country is in lockdown, we will review shortly after 7 May (end of the currently prescribed lockdown period), and decide whether or not to consult on the proposal at the current time. We are regularly reviewing this with Emily Barker – Head of Planning and Regulation. Regardless of when we consult on the further information, this will not affect the length of time the public will have to comment on the application.

Wildmoor Quarry

No change since the last update: *“As you are aware the two applications at the site – an application for a Mortar Batching Plant (part-retrospective) (County Planning Authority Ref: 17/000028/CM) and an application for the processing, stocking and bagging area (also part-retrospective) (County Planning Authority 19/000002/CM) were granted planning permission by the Planning and Regulatory Committee at their meeting on 3 December 2019”.*

Dolfor House

The Enforcement Notice (served by the County Planning Authority) and the refusal of the Certificate of Lawfulness (refused by the District Council) have been appealed by the operator, and as we have now received correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) confirming the start date for the appeal (this was received last week). Mark Lane is leading on this from a County Council perspective and I understand Simon Jones is leading on this from a District Council perspective. As the appeals are running in parallel we are liaising with the District Council closely, and both authorities will be writing to local residents shortly to outline where and how they can comment on the appeals.

Veolia Landfill and Quarry

No change since the last update: *“The Scoping Opinion was adopted by the County Planning Authority on 2 April 2019. This outlined what information should be submitted in any forthcoming Environmental Statement to accompany a planning application for minerals extraction / importation of waste to restore the site. Application awaited”.*

As always, any requests, reporting potholes etc can be done via the WCC website www.worcestershire.gov.uk / report

All recipients will receive a reference number for responding.

Or direct to myself at swebb2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation, hopefully we can arrange a further meeting once lockdown is complete.

Best regards
Shirley