

Chair's Report 18 November 2024

Remembrance Day

Attended Remembrance Sunday service and laid a wreath on behalf of Wickham Market Parish Council in memory of the fallen who never returned home, very pleased to see a contingent of army personal from Rock barracks remembering comrades who lost their lives during more recent conflicts at the service.

Young Adults

The Wednesday evening meetings have been suspended due to the decline in attendance of its members. Stuart (CYDS) and colleagues have been out and about in Wickham Market looking for the young people, but with no success. Young people are in contact with Stuart via the internet when they need help and advice.

CPO Wickham Market

Robert Thorn our CPO for the past year has changed teams and returned to CID, his replacement is Thomas McKenna, hopefully he will be in touch soon when he has settled in with any updates on Wickham Market.

Simons Cross

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a vision for the future of Wickham Market and sets out clear planning policies to realise this vision. These policies provide conditions for future developers to follow during the course of their development. There is currently no developer for the land at Simons Cross. Wickham Market Parish Council (WMPC) believe that this land has not been sold and is currently farmed by the Holland family. As a result, the provisions of the neighbourhood plan do not yet apply.

POLICY WICK13:

LAND AT SIMON'S CROSS Land at Simon's Cross (approximately [1.4] hectares) as identified on the Policies Map is allocated for residential development. Proposals for up to 25 dwellings will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- a. It provides an appropriate mix of dwelling types and tenures.
- b. It provides for affordable housing to meet the requirements of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. This may be secured via agreement with the registered provider in order to secure the identified site access requirements.
- c. Appropriate vehicular access is to be provided from Simons Cross estate between houses 101 and 103 or between houses 57 and 59 which will require re-provisioning of the existing garages. *As there is currently no developer, these garages do not need to be re-provisioned*
- d. The vehicular crossing of the bridleway will be to a high-quality design, in terms of safety and aesthetics.
- e. The layout of the site should respect the amenities of the existing houses to the immediate east in Simon's Cross.
- f. Replacement or upgrading of existing play space on the site. Any proposals involving the loss of any existing play space will need to demonstrate that such provision is surplus to requirements, that the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality or that the benefits of alternative sports and recreation provision outweigh any loss. *As there are currently no development proposals, there are no proposals regarding the play space.*
- g. Pedestrian and cycle access links will be made to the Sports field and to the new allotment site, and also to Little Lane adjacent to 57 and 59 Simon's Cross.
- h. Appropriate drainage design will need to be carried out in order to address known local drainage issues.

News on the development of the old allotment space: WMPC understand that this land has not yet been sold so there are currently no development plans. However, it is understood that Flagship are still interested.

News on access decision: As WMPC understand that there are currently no development plans, there is no decision on the access to the land. WMPC also understand that there is interest in creating an access directly onto the B1078. There is an expectation that the 30mph speed limit will be extended further west along the B1078 as part of the Sizewell C mitigation work.

News on Flagship garages: As there are currently no development plans, there is no news on access or the fate of garages between 57 and 59 Simons Cross.

Sale of garages: WMPC understand that Flagship are offering some garages for sale, but not those between 57 and 59 Simons Cross. Flagship are entitled to manage or dispose of their assets provided they comply with their governing legislation. This is not something that WMPC have expertise in.

Loss of play area: The current play area at the southern end of the land was not provided by WMPC. It is on private land and the condition for a developer is to provide equivalent facilities or demonstrate they are not required. As there is currently no developer, this has not moved forward. The current facilities on private land have been deemed unsafe and as a result, have been closed. There was an expectation of imminent development, so WMPC believe that a decision was taken that it was uneconomic to repair for the short term.

Public Footpath: WMPC recognise that the Suffolk County Council [SCC] website shows a public footpath crossing the old allotment site. This is currently closed off and WMPC believe the situation has been reported to SCC who are responsible for public footpaths.