

Parish Council of Coleford

Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
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Newsletter June 2023

Planning Applications

2023/0766/HSE - Single storey rear extension. 57 Mendip Vale, Coleford, Radstock, BA3 5PR
Coleford Parish Council recommended approval.

2023/0929/SCREEN - Ash Farm, Charlton Road, Radstock, BA3 5EX

Screening Opinion for a proposed solar farm

The applicant attended the meeting and outlined the proposal which would see solar panels and battery storage installed on 15 acres of land to the rear of the industrial units, adjacent to Chamborough Lane. Extensive surveys had taken place and reports generated to address all aspects of the application including sound, trees, soil, geo physics, wildlife, environment etc. Access would be via the existing access to the industrial units and once installed there would be little disruption or impact on the surrounding area. Sheep would still be able to graze under the panels.

A consultation drop-in session is being held at Writhlington Village Hall on the 26th June during the afternoon and evening where anyone can turn up to ask questions about the scheme. Residents within a mile radius of the site will be notified to allow them an opportunity to attend.



It was asked what height the battery storage would be. It was confirmed that they would be housed in 20ft shipping containers which would be the tallest part of the scheme.

It was noted that Somerset Planning had already confirmed that it is not an EIA development, which implied that it was ready for the application to be submitted for planning permission.

Planning updates

Pennys have amended the planning documents in line with the agreed extension for the pitch levelling at Highbury Playing Field which is now ready to be submitted to Somerset planning department.

Update on the Community Review Project



After a lot of hard work from the community review steering group, the reports have been completed and are available to view on the Parish website. The reports and action plan will help to prioritise future projects for the village and identify funding requirements. The Council will start reviewing the action plan to take this forward over the coming year. The Chair thanked everyone who took part in the questionnaire and the steering group for giving their time and expertise to create this useful document that will help to shape Coleford.

Coleford Climate and Environmental Group

A presentation 'Green Wedmore, a guide for Green Coleford' has been arranged for Tuesday 27th June 2023 at 7pm at the Hub. The presentation will be given by Steve Mewes the Chair of Green Wedmore who will talk about how Wedmore has been reducing its carbon and building a stronger community. At the end of the meeting people will be invited to sign up to join the Coleford Climate and Environmental Group to implement change in Coleford. If you would like to get involved with this group, please contact the Clerk on clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Highways

The following report was provided:

Brewery Lane - reported again and some repair work has been done to the split in the road and also the sunken triangular covers.

Charmborough Lane - several areas marked up for attention near Lipyeate House, one of which has been completed. There are any loose stones on the edge of the Lane as you turn left off Charlton Road which will be reported

Cherry Gardens Lane - potholes reported, marked up and repaired.

Rope Walk - pothole reported, marked up and repaired.

Anchor Road - a new School 20 mph zone sign is being installed. A neighbour has expressed concern that the location is right in the middle of where the pavement should be and it will force pedestrians, including those with pushchairs etc, into the road. The danger will be pointed out to Somerset Highways and attempts made to persuade them to move it to a safer place. It is assumed that another will be installed to the east of the school - we need to ensure this is located safely.

Street Lights - The suspended light outside the Co-op is working now, all day - to be reported. The defective light by No 8 Preachers Vale has now been repaired.

Orders placed

The following orders were placed:

- The notice board at Goodeaves which will be replaced
- The play equipment and safety surfaces at Coleford playing field will be cleaned (including the removal of graffiti) and treated to prevent algae inhibitor
- Required tree work to be completed at the entrance to Coleford playing field & at the allotment adjacent to the butterfly bank
- Signage for the new allotments

Update on the Allotments



Great progress has been made both at the site and with the required paperwork. The container is now in place and the water system pumping from Vobster Quay is installed. Preparations are well underway for the open day on Saturday 17th which will be a fabulous opportunity to show off what will be an amazing asset and opportunity for many residents to take on an allotment, which was highlighted in the Community Review report as something that the

community wanted.

The diseased Pear Tree at Coleford Playing Field Orchard

It had been identified that one of the trees planted at the Coleford playing fields as part of the community orchard had been struck by a particularly nasty disease called fireblight. Sadly, this meant that the best thing to do was to remove the tree to ensure that there is no spread to the other healthy trees.



Date of Next Meetings:

12th July 2023 @ 7pm Parish Council meeting

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council's attention, please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk Check out the website www.colefordpc.org.uk

Philip Ham

Somerset Councillor reports



Cllr Barry Clarke attended the meeting and gave the following report:

Since the creation of the unitary council, there have been many staff changes. 45 people have left due to restructuring which means that a lot of experience has been lost. This was budgeted to cost 8 million but has actually cost 5 million with further savings predicted over coming years.

5.4 million has been allocated for road repairs which equates to 80p per yard. It is encouraging to see that locally white lining has been completed but there are still other improvements to be made.

A policy has been agreed to address the phosphate issues on the Somerset levels, which means that housing applications can again be processed.

Consultation on planning has been weak. If you are aware of any applications where neighboring residents have not been notified as part of the consultation process then let Cllr Clark know so that this can be taken up with Somerset Planning Office.

The Licensing Policy is currently out for consultation. The Council has an obligation to review the policy every 5 years.

There is grant funding available for renovation /upgrading of Tennis facilities via the Lawn Tennis Association and Somerset Council. A local group SASP are also looking for venues with facilities close to Frome that could be used for holiday clubs. As part of the arrangement, they are prepared to invest in the facilities.

A pilot scheme for recycling of soft plastics is currently underway in Frome. If successful this will be rolled out across the county next year.

Local Community networks (LCN) are slowly getting up and running. Shepton have their first meeting planned for the 31st July 2023 at Pilton Village Hall, 7pm.

Cllr Philip Ham reported that the LCN handbook is now available. Coleford will form part of the Shepton LCN which will be made up mainly of rural parish councils, which will be beneficial in ensuring that rural matters are considered.

There are many road signs within the area that are damaged, twisted or dirty which have been reported to Somerset Highways for attention. If you see any that should be added to the list then let Cllr Ham know.

The center of Stoke St Michael will be closed for 8 weeks from the 3rd of July to allow the culvert to be rebuilt.

Cllr Ham said that they were concerned about the number of incidents on the road from Long Cross to the Beacon where 4 lorries had come off the road due to the difficult camber and the size of the carriage way making it tight for lorries to pass. They have been working with Somerset Highways in an attempt to find a resolution.

Recycling collections in some parts of the parish have not been completed for 3 weeks. This has in part been created by the number of bank holidays impacting on staffing. It is hoped that this will be resolved in the next week.

The Planning meetings for Somerset East have taken place and have gone smoothly with all decisions apart from one going the same way as the planning officer had recommended.