

**Cawston Community Forum
05 March 2018
Cawston Community Hall**

Chair:

Cllr Alan Horton

Cawston Parish Council

Board members:

Cllr Peter Butlin

Warwickshire County Council (WCC)

Cllr Michael Stokes

Rugby Borough Council (RBC)

Cllr Samantha Bestwick

Cawston Parish Council (CPC)

PC Charlie Young

Warwickshire Police

Q&A Summary:

Q1: The work on the William Davis extension is causing a lot of dirt on the roads, have the builders already been approached regarding this issue?

Cllr Stokes: The enforcement officer has been out number of times; the consortium is aware that it is a problem. It does not make a difference that the roads are unadopted, it is a safety issue. The parking of the vehicles on the sideroads have also been raised, these again are a safety issue and shouldn't be there.

Cllr Bestwick mentioned that the parish council would like to receive more feedback from the public if there are more of these issues, the parish council is able to raise these directly to the consortium, borough and county council.

Q2: There are similar issues along Coventry road, the trucks go up on the verges, turn around and leave dirt on the road.

Cllr Butlin will forward instruction to the builders/contractors not to use this maneuver anymore. If they do damage the verges, they need to reinstate them.

Q3: Is there already any news with regards to the land next to the shops? It currently is not in a good state with the fences breaking down.

Cllr Bestwick: This land is owned by the consortium, who have showed interest to make a planning application for residential developments.

Cllr Stokes: This piece of land, together with the pieces of land where the shops and community hall are on, was originally reserved for public purposes (doctor, dentist, shops, pub etc.). The part of land where the community hall is on, has been sold to the community at a great discount. The consortium had indicated at that time that if there is no interest in the rest of the piece of land, it would apply for planning application for residential developments to recover part of the loss made with this sale. After 15 years of no interest, the consortium is allowed to do this. The developments will be similar to the current developments in the area.

Q4: Who is currently in the consortium?

Cllr Stokes: 50% William Davis, 25% Hallam and 25% Gallagher. Most work is outsourced to MDA consulting.

Q5: Certain parts don't look good in the area, for example the part around Cawston Grange Drive. Is there anything we can do about this?

Cllr Bestwick: We currently have a service contract with a lengthsman, but it's difficult for him to look over the entire area. We as parish council does identify parts to target, any feedback on this is welcome. In order to improve the area further we could look into increasing the lengthsman's budget.

Q6: Why aren't the roads adopted?

Cllr Butlin: Because of the way Cawston is set up it's difficult to adopt only parts of the area. The linking roads force to have entire parts adopted in once. There is also the difficulty of having different developers. The way the county council enforces developers to have the roads adopted is by withholding some bonds. These are released as soon as the roads are adopted. Communication has been difficult recently with the consortium on the adoption of the roads (18 months of silence).

Q7: I've noticed that my streetlights are going out at night, I regard this as dangerous and am concerned about criminal activity.

Cllr Stokes: The road you mention (Francis Drive) has been adopted. Before going into detail about the streetlights, I do want to make sure that no-one goes away with the perception that Cawston is an unsafe area. Police reports will support this. The recent criminal activity has been targeted; the cash machine at the Coop has professionally been broken into by criminals aware of the lack of safety mechanisms.

Cllr Butlin: With regards to the streetlights, these are indeed switched off from 0:00 until 05:00 in certain areas (~60% countywide) as part of county policy. There are two main reasons for this: 1) Costs for the county are brought down, cost saving of around £900.000 a year. 2) We've seen that anti-social behaviour drops. We've done 3 years of extensive monitoring to support this statement. In some area's we saw a significant drop. The main reason for this is that youngsters don't want to hang out in dark areas and burglars can't see what they're doing.

Cllr Bestwick: The streetlights are in general owned by the county council, but we as a parish council are able to fund extra streetlights. For instance, we do own part of the streetlights down Coventry Road, which we took over from Dunchurch parish council. We do, however, need to discuss this first with the county council.

Q8: I'm part of the litter picking volunteer group, and I'm concerned about the amount of litter in Cawston. We stopped our litter picking over winter, and suddenly we see vast amounts of litter everywhere, it's appalling. Is there any way we can improve this?

Cllr Stokes: Let me start by saying that the litter picking group is a great initiative, we as borough council (Cllr Bestwick: and we as parish council) are happy to support this initiative (providing equipment etc.). Secondly, if you consider Rugby; Cawston has more litter bins than any other area in Rugby. I think most litter is caused by anti-social behaviour. It's a nice area, it's on the edge of town, the parks have the lights on at night, this may attract the younger people. If we turn off the lights in the parks at night (once adopted), the litter caused by anti-social behaviour might reduce. Another thing we might be able to do is to replace the smaller bins with larger, smarter bins, which also report to the borough once they're full.

Cllr Bestwick: We as parish council also have a budget to place litter bins. We're currently monitoring the area to see at which places we might need to put some extra bins.

Q9: What is the best way to report anti-social behaviour?

PC Young: Yes, please, when you see anti-social behaviour, please report this. The best way to report anti-social behaviour depends on the situation:

- 1) If the offender is still there, call 999
- 2) If the offender is gone, call 101
- 3) Or you can call the Community Safety Wardens (0800 0968800) (can also deal with environmental issues, patrol streets and open spaces to approach groups that cause anti-social behaviour etc.). The Community Safety Wardens are also in close contact with the police.
https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20054/community_safety/226/community_safety_wardens

PC Young: As of June this year, I will become your permanent police officer. You can also approach me directly with your concerns. I'm happy to get familiar with the area and your concerns.

Cllr Stokes: To go a bit deeper on the concerns about youth groups: The borough has spent £200,000 on voluntary centres and community centres to engage with these groups. We also engage with schools and parents if the youth causes problems. However, unfortunately some small groups that cause difficulties are difficult to grab. Some of this youth may not come from the Cawston area; Cawston lies on the edge of the borough, it's a nice area; it attracts the youth. The Safety Wardens might be able to help; Safety Wardens can patrol the area and are trained to talk to this kind of groups.

PC Young: I would also like to emphasise, as Cllr Stokes indicated, that Cawston is one of the safest areas in Rugby. I did a search from the 1st of January to 5th of March in our system, and Cawston comes out with one of the lowest scores. I've had

a look at the Facebook page, and some content does not resemble what has been reported to the police. Please report to us when there are any concerns.

Q10: With the increase in housing in the locality, will additional schools be built to cover the additional children?

Cllr Stokes: A few years ago, the Cawston Grange Primary School had an extension. This extension was part of the local plan and takes the extra houses into account. Subject to inspection, there will be more schools.

Cllr Butlin: I need to add that any new school needs to be a free school. There have been proposals for another secondary school. Again, part of the local plan. It is the obligation of the county to provide enough places for the schools that the area needs.

Q11: At what stage will WCC consider the requirements for grit bins for use by residents?

Cllr Butlin: The WCC is only able to grit adopted roads, currently we grit about 46% of the county's road network which is quite a high percentage. For unadopted roads, the parish is free to buy grit bins and the county council will be happy to fill these (application process to be found online).

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/gritting>

Cllr Bestwick: The Cawston Parish Council has been in contact with the WCC regarding the placement of grit bins in the parish. The WCC mentioned that placing grit bins on unadopted roads may cause problems with the adoption process. Therefore, the CPC is careful with requesting placement of grit bins on unadopted roads. We might be able to request a grit bin for the (steep) part from the A4071 to Cawston Grange Drive, this part looks adopted.

Cllr Stokes: The consortium currently owns the unadopted roads in Cawston, therefore they are the one to contact regarding the gritting of the roads. I need to mention that the consortium has been gritting the roads during the past periods, the RBC has received reports from these. However, it is more difficult for the consortium to plan the gritting, they don't have the information the WCC has regarding temperature of the roads etc. I need to add that when the roads are adopted, the gritting might reduce with respect to the current situation. It looks like that only Calvestone Road and Cawston Grange Drive will come on the list for gritting after road adoption. Again, for the other roads the public is free to order grit bins from the WCC.

Q12: There is quite a lot of plastic waste on the roadside of the relief road, is it possible for the RBC to have a sweep to clean this up?

Cllr Stokes: The RBC themselves will not do this, but we have identified that the plastic waste comes from CEMEX. We have enforced them to clean this up and in general CEMEX is very responsive to these kinds of requests.

Q13: What support is there to start a neighbourhood watch scheme?

Cllr Stokes: Anyone is able to start a neighbourhood watch scheme. It can start from a participant number as low as 1.

Q14: Rugby is one of the fastest expanding towns in Warwickshire; is there a target the RBC is trying to achieve (houses/inhabitants/jobs)?

Cllr Stokes: The targets are not set by the RBC, these are set by central government. Rugby has been identified as central hub and people want to live in Rugby. We're currently planning for 12,500 new homes; 6,500 houses will be built in next 20 years in Houlton. Again, the local plan is very important here, this makes sure that all the facilities are in place to make the area a good place to live.

Consortium Q&A Summary:

Answers from Adrian McInnes (Consortium) regarding questions emailed by the Cawston Parish Council, 05 March 2018

Dear Adrian, I enclose a list of questions which have been raised by local residents ahead of the Cawston Community Forum on Monday (answers from Adrian below each question):

1) Can we have an update on the road adoption please?

There have been legal issues with the adoption of the sewers that have held up the highways adoptions. The County council will not adopt the Roads before the sewers in them have been adopted. These problems have now been resolved so it should be full steam ahead.

This will mean inspections, remedial works, re-inspections and then adoption. Rob has access to the necessary contractors to do these works and all the Consortium want this done as soon as possible to reduce their bond liabilities. The commercial imperative is always to get adoptions in place as soon as possible as we remain responsible in the interim period.

2) What use will be made of the overgrown land near the shops?

This is still consortium land and it is likely that a planning application for residential development will be made.

3) The roads at the new building sites have become very dirty and present dangerous driving conditions, especially in bad weather. Can we be advised of how this can be rectified in the future please?

We do have a road sweeping regime, I have drawn the concerns to our production department.

4) When putting in the grass for the new roundabout on the Coventry Road, 100s of plant bulbs were taken out of the ground when this work was undertaken, can you advise what happened to them?

Sorry I have been unable to find out about these.

5) The roundabout on the Coventry Road is poorly turned out and is the first thing a lot of people see when coming to Cawston. Can we have some new plants/more colour added please?

I think this is already adopted and will be under the jurisdiction of the County Council or do you mean the new roundabout? I can ask for this to be looked at.

6) Are there any plans for additional schools or parks as part of the new building?

There are school contributions from the new development in the S106 agreement to cater for the children in the development.

7) How can the consortium interact better with the residents of Cawston?

I think the best idea would be for a periodic meeting with representatives of the Parish Council, including representatives of the community groups would be helpful. Rob is the project manager for this site and he should be the first point of contact on issues relating to adoptions.

Kind regards,

*Alan Horton
Deputy Chair, Cawston Parish Council*