

Present: Rachel Gray (OPC), David Hatcher/Sue Skipp/Ian Saker (CAARA), Matthew Bessant/Chris Moore/Darrell Wilson (Bellway Homes), Teresa Irving (OPC/DPC)

Apologies: Cllr R. Cheesman (DPC) – Holiday, Kevin Hipkins (OPC), Matthew Woodhead (DHA) Darren Bishop (Bellway Homes).

- **Update on progress and site start**

The church car park is currently being installed (BH/the Diocese have held discussions). A temporary access road is being installed in the top part.

Technical approval for the S278 Highway works was delayed but is expected to be signed off tomorrow.

Tarmac work on the entrance close to The Old Rectory will start next week.

- **Update on conditions and other planning matters**

Kent Highways has instructed that ten trees will need to be removed from Deringwood Drive. An ecologist is due to look at the trees tomorrow and will ensure there are no nesting birds. BH to provide the Clerk with details of which trees will be removed.

Adjustments are currently being made for planned road closures; Church Road is expected to be closed from July to September, with access for residents only.

Deringwood Drive and Church Road North will be the first closure and should be completed during August. Church Road South will then be addressed, at which point the build out section is expected to be installed.

Once the infrastructure is in there should not be as much off site disruption.

The work that's required in the vicinity of Foxden Drive will mean closing the Public Right of Way. There's currently no firm date for this, but it's expected to be in 2-3 months' time. A tree in the top right-hand corner of the site will possibly need to be removed and two street lamps might need moving. Confirmation of closure dated to be provided.

Sewer works have not yet been agreed/approved. Control measures will be in place for the new site to feed into the existing sewer at Foxden Drive. CAARA pointed out that residents in Chapman Avenue and Ufton Close are already experiencing problems and this is likely to make the situation worse. BH advised that ICOSA will inspect the work on their behalf and then it will need to be agreed by Southern Water.

The top soil strip is now complete and the screening will be finished next week.

- **Issues for Discussion:**

- Dust

BH apologised for the dust that has been caused. This was due to an exceptionally dry March (usually it would be a problem with wet mud on the roads at this time of year, not dust).

In response to the 'clouds of orange dust' comment and concerns about breathing this in, the meeting was advised that Leap dust monitoring stations were installed on Friday and these will check the levels. The exact site of the monitors was unknown and will be clarified. The results are expected to take at least one week. If the monitors say there is too much dust, other measures will need to be introduced. It was confirmed that Environmental Health has visited the site to carry out checks.

The main issue with dust is understood to be caused by 8-wheeler lorries and the lack of mains water on site. Attempts to dampen down have been made and lorries have been slowed down to assist with this.

BH advised that once the primary road is in in totality, the dust will not plume and it will be easier to manage. They will also endeavour to cover the 'soil mountain' to stop some of the dust. Water cannons can be used once a permanent water supply is on site, which is expected to be the end of the month. Assurances were given that the situation will not continue and once the water supply has been connected, more meaningful measures can be taken. The issue will continue to be reviewed.

It was stated that it's unlikely there will be the same problem with dust when the footings are dug.

BH to provide a statement for publishing on websites to keep residents informed (to let residents know that BH are aware of the problems).

Covering the backs of lorries has been looked into. Groundworkers say that the lorries are covered, but some lorries have been seen covering up when already moving. Kearns have spoken to their contractors and stated that lorries must be covered before moving off. However, attendees were advised this is not a legal requirement.

- Deringwood Drive/Willington Street Junction.

This junction is a matter of grave concern. The central barrier on Willington Street was recently destroyed by a speeding car and there is currently no protection for pedestrians when crossing the road.

BH are not sure if the S278 Agreement has been technically approved and signed yet. They will investigate and confirm by email. Once this has been agreed, access will be afforded to BH and they can implement traffic lights and streetlighting.

- Any other business  
Concerns were raised that there is no room for pedestrians in the locality of the church. Materials belonging to BH are left on the highway, leaving no surface for pedestrians. In addition, lorries are frequently overtaking pedestrians in a dangerous manner.

BH to speak to contractors and ask that they wait for pedestrians.

BH are still having talks with Kirkwood Trust in respect of a temporary rerouting of the footpath opposite the church. If agreed, a pedestrian gate could allow access to the field where the current farm gate is. Alternatively, access could be made near the hedgerow. Signs would be erected to confirm that it's a temporary arrangement, not a permanent PROW.

Whilst there is no safe route at the moment, BH stated that they will do whatever they can to try and make the road safe for pedestrians.

It was noted that there was a large fuel spillage yesterday, near the church. BH to ensure to ensure that it is cleaned up.

Otham PC has objected to the recent Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit to 30 MPH on a small section of Church Road, as they believe it should be extended to include the blind bend just beyond the Old Rectory and Little Squerries. BH to speak with the Technical Manager to see if the Order can be changed to include this + move the national speed limit sign.

Cars/delivery drivers are still using the footpaths in Bicknor Wood. BH to consider what can be done and to bear this in mind for Parsonage Place.

An update on the seismic monitoring to be provided by BH.

It was agreed that a site plan will be projected for future meetings for ease of reference.

The meeting concluded at 11.05 am.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday, 28 June at 9.30 am.