

## **Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council**

### **Report from Shropshire Councillor Nick Bardsley**

#### **Parish Council Meeting: 14th April 2020 *via Zoom***

#### **1 Local Plan Review: pre Submission Consultation**

There has been a further postponement - until Cabinet in July. The much delayed timetable has pushed Adoption forward to March 2022. Your Clerk has further details.

#### **2 Yardley**

Since your discussions last month there has been considerable activity. Your Chairman and Vice Chairman wrote in strong terms shortly after the Zoom meeting on March 25th to Shropshire Council recording the complaint officially.

I had a lengthy phone call with Karen Bradshaw (Director of Children's Services and currently joint Acting Chief Executive) on Friday the following week (April 3rd) as a result of which we set up a teleconference for Thursday the 9th with:

SC Cllr Ed Potter (EP) - portfolio holder for Children's Services  
Karen Bradshaw (KB)  
Parish Councillors Simon Gittins (SG) and David Spicer (DS) Ruyton XI  
Towns PC  
Myself (NB) as local SC councillor

#### **Teleconference on April 9th (2.00pm to 2.45pm)**

Cllr Ed Potter (EP) chaired the meeting, welcomed participants and arranged introductions.

Issues/points raised were:

SG and DS expressed strong support for SC's policy of seeking to provide additional places for Looked After Children locally in Shropshire but reiterated the grounds for the complaint raising:

- their disappointment that SC had apparently decided not to engage with the Parish Council at an early stage
- legal arguments to rebut KB's belief that an application for Planning Permission was not required and
- practical and policy arguments that the proposed intensification of use made full consultation with the Parish Council and the wider community essential.
- KB confirmed:
  - that communication had not been as it should have been, specifically that it had not been Departmental policy to prevent the local Member (NB) from briefing the Parish Council. She apologised on behalf of SC that this had not been made clear by her officers.
  - that her Department had every intention of consulting formally and fully at the appropriate time with the Parish Council and the wider community. She accepted that the support of the local community was important.
  - that the Department had not set out to identify a property in Ruyton XI Towns. The process was aimed at finding suitable properties across Shropshire.
  - that she would obtain (if possible by April 17th) from the Head of Planning Services a statement supporting or otherwise her view that an application for planning permission for the proposed change of use was not required.
  - that the new home would not fall within the definition of Secure Residential Institution (Class C2A) and that there were no plans to construct additional buildings on the property.
  - that although there would be 14 x staff employed at the new Children's home the number there at any one time would be very much less than that.
- SG referred particularly to the two earlier planning applications, both of which had been refused principally because of the substandard access from/egress onto Brownhill. The proposed use of the property as a Children's home would very probably generate rather more vehicle movements than would have been the case had the 2013 application for two houses been approved.
- He asked that SC consider financial assistance to the Parish Council in introducing additional traffic calming measures e.g. an extension of the 20mph speed limit as far as Platt Bridge and supporting/physical means of enforcing the extended limit. This would help protect staff and visitors coming to the Children's home.

- SG suggested that the St John Baptist CE Primary school might well need additional resources to accommodate any primary school children from the new Children's home.
- EP asked if it would be helpful to establish a local liaison group comprising Parish Council Members, NB as local SC councillor and appropriate officers from Children's Services. He would attend as required.
- NB welcomed the suggestion referring to the useful role undertaken by similar liaison groups elsewhere in Shropshire.
- It was agreed that the composition of the group should include:
  - 2 x Parish Councillors
  - 2 x officers from Children's Services
  - Portfolio Holder for Children's Services
  - Local SC Councillor

EP offered to attend the planned meeting of the Parish Council on April 14th.

NB 200413