



Fordwich Town News



October 2020

PLEASE READ AND SIGN, THE PETITION ON PAGE 8.

Report Of The Town Meeting on 10th September

10% of the town's population were safely distanced and masked in the church. Other people sent their support for this meeting designed to sound out views on opposing any large-scale development of either the Old Nursery site or the Brett's site and to find a way to resolve the other issues of traffic, parking, litter and the use and abuse of the river and its banks. After an introduction on just what it is that we are wanting to preserve, the floor was open for comment. There were 20+ contributors, expressing the need to oppose the building developments and to tackle the issues highlighted in this post-lockdown era, in a coherent and coordinated fashion. Out of this emerged the desire to establish a committee of residents to take on the forward planning, and to work together in building our case in opposition to potential developments.

In the days that followed, a sub-committee of the Town Council was established with 9 members. At the same time traffic surveys, noise, vibration and pollutant studies and ecological investigations are being put in place as well as a petition for all to sign. Contact has been made with local councils and other local groups. A wide range of outside bodies – from the University of Kent to Historic England have been approached for support and guidance. Communication through the town will, hopefully, work through an administrator coordinating 7 area representatives who will pass details, and requests for help, on to those expressing a wish to be involved in their part of the town.

Details of the work of the sub-committee will be reported along with the usual Town Council report month by month. The Chair is Mark Patchett who lives in Fordwich Road.

A fuller report is available on the Town's website: fordwichtown.org

Report on the Town Council Meeting Held on Wednesday 30th September at 7.30pm by Zoom

All councillors were present, but there was no representation from either KCC or CCC. It was reported that damage done by an Amazon delivery vehicle has resulted in recompense being paid to the householder. The Council is following-up the failure by KCC to repair the surface of the pavement by the George and Dragon car park and the erection of a No Through Road sign leading up to Westfield. It was with regret that Councillor Patrick Heren tendered his resignation. On this announcement, tribute was paid to his considerable contribution to the town, to the Council and the United Charity. More will be said later. A report was given of the Town meeting held on 10th September and the subsequent formation of a sub-committee. This included the various steps being taken to build the town's case against the development of any large-scale housing including a petition, traffic surveys and the recording of pollutants created by the weight of traffic through the town. It was agreed to appoint an Honorary Assistant Harbourmaster for Fordwich, with the aim of having a presence to ensure the correct and safe use of the river. On planning, the city councillors were asked to follow up issues relating to permission being granted on one listed building. A majority vote accepted the application for replacement windows to a property on the High Street. The council unanimously objected to the application by Romany Greenacres to increase the number of mobile homes.

Notes from the Mayor

If your bin is not collected on the correct day contact Lynne Moore at Canterbury City Council 08000319091 or email rubbishandrecycling@canterbury.gov.uk

Litter picking and Town Tidy

The date of the next litter pick is Saturday 5th December, meeting at 10.00am by the church gate.

New on the web site this month

You can find a report of the Town Meeting and a copy of the petition given later in this paper.

St Mary's Church

There is a great team of people who readily help with the locking and unlocking of the church, but there is always room for more to join in. Please consider if you could give what amounts to a few minutes a day for a fortnight, every 12 weeks or so, to be part of the team, and part of the rich history of the building. If you are interested, or you want more information contact Philip Lewis – details below.

Dates for the Diary

Friendly First Friday Coffee mornings will recommence once government restrictions permit.

Date of the next Fordwich Town Council meeting
Wednesday 28th October 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Monday 14th December at 7.30pm in St Marys thisismytheatre
present A CHRISTMAS CAROL Book early to avoid disappointment.

Places are limited because of social distancing restrictions. thisismytheatre.com for tickets.

Fordwich Civic Service 2021. Pencilled in for 19th September.
Bishop Rose has kindly agreed to be our preacher.

And finally

As well as signing the Petition, do please keep informed on the progress of the planning issues, and be prepared to lend a hand to make Fordwich the place you would want it to be for your great-great grandchildren.

Contacting the police

In an emergency phone 999

If it less immediately important phone 101

If it is a local matter contact: www.kent.police.uk/contactus

or

PCSO Robin Todd

Robin.Todd@kent.police.uk

Councillor Contacts:

Philip Lewis:

pandelewis@gmail.com

Patrick Heren:

patrickheren@mac.com

Adrian McCarthy:

Adrian.mccarthy@isgplc.com

Roger Green:

hrmarmg@gmail.com

Geoff Connolly

geoffconnolly@btinternet.com

Dear Residents,

Petition regarding the future development of Fordwich.

You will be aware of plans by Canterbury City Council (CCC) to approve the construction of up to 45 houses on 3.6 hectares of the Old Nursery site (entrance off the bottom of Well Lane). You will also have heard of the possibility that Brett's Estate could be sold to a developer at a later date.

If the Old Nursery site is developed in this way, it will have a profound negative impact on all of us living in Fordwich and the surrounding area. It will place additional strain on already stretched infrastructure. In particular, it will lead to increased traffic density, place unsustainable pressure on sewerage provision, and increase run-off leading to flooding. It will also negatively affect wildlife and the environment in general. It will change your life – for the worse.

At the Town Meeting held on 10 September 2020, it was clear that an overwhelming majority of those present were opposed to these development plans. However, any representations made by the Fordwich Town Council (FTC) will be enormously strengthened if they can demonstrate to CCC both the size and the strength of Fordwich residents' opposition to these plans.

This is to ask you to sign the attached petition. It is your opportunity to make your voice heard. But we need to act now before it is too late. Please make sure that all those over-18 living at your address sign the petition!

As well as signing the petition we are all encouraged to write to the Canterbury City Council Planners on their portal with our individual comments. A petition carries weight, but so does every single letter of opposition!

Petition from Residents of Fordwich to Canterbury City Council (CCC) and relevant planning authorities. Subject:

- *Proposed development of the Old Nursery Site, Well Lane, Fordwich with up to 45 new houses.*
- *Possible housing development of Bretts' Estate, Fordwich.*

Objections to the plans:

We wish to register in the strongest possible terms our opposition to the above plans on the following grounds:

- *This development was not included in the CCC Local Plan 2017.*
- *When the site came on the market in 2019, Fordwich Town Council was assured the site would not be approved for development because it was not in the Local Plan and is in a Conservation area.*
- *The development would roughly double the number of houses south of the River Stour. This would place an unsustainable strain on local infrastructure. In particular:*

~ traffic congestion, already a serious problem, would become intolerable, with the estimated addition of 90 cars to the community (the site is far from the nearest public transport and therefore in breach of the city's climate emergency guidelines).

~ water and sewerage provision would be inadequate.

~ runoff would be increased, and this would almost certainly increase the risk of flooding lower in the town.

The entrance to the site at the bottom of Well Lane gives on to a right-angle bend, which would significantly increase the danger of traffic accidents.

- *Being off Cycle Path 1, it creates a hazard for the growing number of cyclists using the route.*
- *As the only access to the site during construction work would be from the Stodmarsh Road (reversing a one-way street), there would be unacceptable disruption to through traffic.*
- *More generally, the development would have a negative impact on the Conservation area and on the wider environment (atmospheric and noise pollution, etc.)*
- *The net effect of all these factors would be to erode the value of Fordwich to the general public as a social amenity. Its value as a rural and historical amenity has been highlighted in the current Corona crisis with large numbers of non-residents availing themselves of the river and surrounding footpaths.*

Please add your email address and telephone number if you would be able to offer any help, or if you would like to be kept informed of developments. Please sign the last page of this copy of the Fordwich Town News and hand it, signed and with your address to:

Barbara Phillips, The Hollies, Fordwich Road

Peter Jones 8 Water Meadows or Clive Wren

Philip & Chris W-Sharp, 18 Brooklands Close

Richard & Natalie Miller Walnut Tree Cottage, High Street

Adrian McCarthy Willow End, The Drove

Joyce & Sos Armstrong, 4 Yew Tree Gardens

Alex & Lizzie Bennett, River Cottage, King Street

Val Clarke, Little Georgian House, High Street

Julia Pickford or Penny and Robin Whittington Spring Lane

Janet Hurst, Chequers House, High Street

Otherwise post to:

Philip Lewis, Christmas House High Street, CT2 0DX

A copy of this document is available on the town website –

Petition:

On the above grounds, we therefore strongly urge the CCC to withhold planning permission for the proposed development at the Old Nursery site and any subsequent proposals for the Brett's Estate, pending further discussion with Fordwich Town Council.

Name

Address

Signature

Name

Address

Signature

Name

Address

Signature