

BPC Covid-19 Decision & Payments Log – 004

Cheques written	
3314 - £100.00 DATA PROTECTION REDACTED	Hire deposit refund
Came and Company 3315 - £1,243.51	Insurance Policy
HM Customs & Revenues 3316 DATA PROTECTION REDACTED	
Mrs F Gooch 3317 - £25.00	Expenses

Decisions made outside of meetings due to Covid-19 pandemic.	Actions	Further information
Cllr Gooch has requested that members consider not charging for advertising in the Barming News for the next edition due to the current situation.	From a financial point of view the Clerk is happy with this arrangement.	No objections have been sent so far.
The parish hall WIFI contract has been renewed.	A 2 year contract accepted at a cost of £27.99	Bank will automatically increase the existing direct debit of £24.99
Further signage has been ordered for information regarding Covid-19 'Stay Alert' campaign for the parish.	Cllr Gooch has arranged for the signs to be printed.	The Clerk will arrange cheque.
Planning application	20/501773/FULL Land off Oakapple Lane - 187 dwellings	Objection comments submitted – see below.

Other news:

The Clerk has been emailed by a resident complaining about cars meeting up in the parish hall carpark with groups of people playing football etc. A large amount of rubbish (cans, wrappers) was left, which the resident kindly cleared up. The Clerk reported the matter to the PCSO.

The Clerk was informed about a possible business grant (for loss of income) by Ella at MBC and Fay - the application form has been submitted – Unfortunately we do not fit the criteria so we will not be receiving a grant.

Allotments fees – only one outstanding now for £12.50 the Clerk will chase. A refund will be issued for ***** as **** paid £25 instead of £12.50.

The Clerk has emailed a suggested invoice and payment tracker system to put in place for outstanding payments etc. All outstanding invoices will be chased again by the Clerk.

The Clerk has contacted a wheelie bin cleaning company to quote to clean the bin at the parish field and is awaiting their response.

The audit was all signed off at the meeting on the 2/6/20. The public rights have been displayed on the notice board and on the website and the paperwork has all been emailed to PKF Littlejohn.

Emailed to members: 10/06/2020

To be signed off by the Chairman at the next meeting:

Barming Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons:

Significant Loss of Open Space

During the Local Plan consultation process in 2014/15, Barming Parish Council expressed its strong support for policy OS1 on the basis that for many decades this whole site of wide open heath land has benefitted our locality; a valued local amenity local to the Rede Wood estate and beyond for walkers, families, joggers, dog walkers, horse riders. More recently its usage has increased still further by residents from the new Orchard Fields Bovis estate, and its value as open space in terms of Public Health has increased even more during the Covid-19 lockdown. This proposal neither matches nor compensates for the extent of the loss of open space, contrary to the provisions of NPPF paragraphs 96, 99 and 100 and Local Plan Policy OS1. The site was subsequently allocated for housing in the Local Plan, and Barming has been slowly suffocating as its green lungs have been built upon: Barming Rise in North Street (35 dwellings); the stable land off Oakapple Lane (87 dwellings) currently being built, despite the provisions of the NPPF 2019 recognising the importance that open spaces have on public health. Barming's identity as the rural edge of the Maidstone's built environment is steadily eroding.

Inadequate Access

Main access will be via Broke Wood Way & Fullingpits Avenue on to Hermitage Lane. Traffic congestion on Hermitage lane / Fountain lane / A26 Tonbridge Road is proven, bordering on legendary. The impact of traffic from this development on to these main routes will aggravate problems even further.

Access on to Broomshaw Road will have a significant impact on the locality:

1. It will cut across a very well used public right of way KM11, frequently used by passers through, dog walkers, families etc which will raise significant safety issues;
2. Broomshaw Road is, and always has been, a quiet, narrow residential cul-de-sac. Nearly half the dwellings are bungalows mainly occupied by senior / retired folk. The peace and quiet, the surrounding peaceful amenity that has been enjoyed since the estate was built, will be significantly disturbed to the great detriment of the immediate locality. Pedestrian safety and indeed their vehicular safety as they attempt to move their cars off their drives will be severely compromised by the movement of additional traffic that they have never been used to.
3. Similarly, Rede Wood Road is a narrow residential street, a mixture of houses and bungalows, young families, school children, old folk, all busy going to school, going to work, walking dogs. Their pedestrian and vehicular safety will be severely compromised particularly at the junction with Broomshaw Road, with the additional traffic that these local streets were never designed for.
4. Heath Road is wide enough to accommodate two-way traffic but the upper part of North Street is not, and the blind bend in its narrow section between no 62 and the Redstart Pub is already hazardous, as is the pedestrian access a little further down at Barming School where accessibility is severely hampered

by parent parking at peak times.

5. North Pole Road quickly narrows to a single track winding road, totally unsuitable for vehicular traffic.

6. The Integrated Transport (Walking & Cycling) Strategy 2011-2031 contained a proposal to create a cycle route from Barming to Kingshill via the Medway Valley Towpath & South Street & North Street & North Pole Road (closure). Releasing additional traffic will significantly impede this proposal.

7. Beverley Road is a bus route and is regularly hampered by parent parking

8. Traffic from the pea field development would run through the above residential streets to avoid Hermitage Lane congestion

It is incomprehensible that page 28 of the submitted Planning Statement states that the impact assessment on Rede Wood Rd/Heath Road; Heath Rd/North Street and A26/North Street is negligible and non-severe with minimal residual impact on the surrounding highway network.

In reality, a rat run will be created from Rede Wood Rd on to Heath Road via either Beverley Road or North Street to reach the A26 to avoid Hermitage Lane / Fountain Lane congestion. The impact and cumulative effect of additional traffic released from the secondary access will have an unacceptable impact on local highway safety and on the local street network and must be resisted in accordance with para 109 of the NPPF and Local Plan policy DM21

If Members of the Planning Committee are minded to approve this application, the parish council requests as follows:

1. The surrounding PROWS are inadequate to take this volume of additional wear in ground conditions as well as boundary overgrowth. The following will require upgrading in order to enhance and encourage connectivity:

☐ KM11 from the water tower up to where it meets KM12

☐ KM13 from North Pole Road up to the water tower where it meets KM11

☐ KM12 from where it meets KM11, down to Heath Road.

☐ The footpath leading from Wesley Close crossing KM12 to Banky Meadow, will need to become part of the formal PROW system to contribute to the enhancement and encouragement of connectivity as part of the pedestrian network to Heath Road and beyond

2. That the secondary access be limited to emergency vehicles only in accordance with condition 8 of planning consent 18/506068 (80 dwellings off Oakapple Lane). This restriction would safeguard the existing quality of life, sense of place and environmental amenity of the local community within the immediate vicinity and would enhance and complement the existing network of pathways and cycle routes.