

Thorpebury Liaison Group Meeting
51st Meeting
Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 2pm
Teams

Attendees

- Councillor Owen Bentley (OB) – Barkby & Barkby Thorpe Parish Council and BABTAG
- Councillor Lynn Westwood (LW) - Thurmaston Parish Council
- Mark Pickrell (MP) – Charnwood Borough Council
- Geoff Mee (GM) – Leicester City Council
- Joshua Dollin (JD) – DWH
- Victoria Walker (VW) - CEG

Apologies

- Councillor Brenda Seaton (BS) – Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council and Thurmaston Parish Council
- Maggie Shutt – Duck Pond Residents
- Richard Wain (RW) – Hawksmoor
- Tom Nightingale (TN) - DWH

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

2. Action points arising from last meeting

The bus strategy update was provided under the transport item on the agenda

3. Project update

Joshua Dollin (JD) explained that there are now circa 160 occupations between the three developers.

JD explained that the Barkbythorpe remedial works will require some road closures and, as such, these will not be able to commence until the Hamilton Lane works are completed. The remedial works include things such as damaged kerbs, repainting of white lines, additional warning signs and road markings as well as the bollards on top of the width restrictor.

As the Hamilton Lane works are progressing well they will be complete by the deadline for the road closure which is the end of October. Potentially, the Barkbythorpe works might be able to happen pre-Christmas but as no closures are permitted during the Christmas period it may have to fall into the New Year. As there have been issues with the contractor the housebuilders are now engaging a new contractor to deliver these.

There have been some challenges with some sections of footpaths within the site, where the steeper areas are washing away the gravel. As a result DWH is looking at two alternative bound-surface products to solve this, in an in-keeping design with the existing surfacing. This month, edgings are being replaced so hopefully the surfacing work can begin before the weather worsens.

LW queried the footpath link between Barkbythorpe Road and Hamilton Lane. JD explained that the existing bridleway which runs west to east is open and will have some surface improvements made to it as the works progress. So you can go from Barkby Thorpe Road to Hamilton Lane. There will also be additional footpath links through the development. For example a north to south route past the cricket pitch and a second north south route nearer to Hamilton Lane with a spur off Hamilton Lane so there is more connectivity.

4. Transport

Southern Link Road update

VW confirmed that CEG had submitted the latest proposals to City for comment and we are corresponding and arrange a meeting to progress matters.

GM added that City's thoughts on the alternatives supplied by CEG in August should have a response back within a month or two.

OB queried if by alternatives this meant an alternative to the Southern Link Road in order to deliver more houses over and above the 575 trigger. GM said that isn't what was meant in terms of alternatives, but it is within the gift of a developer to renegotiate any trigger with a Transport Assessment and alternative solutions should they wish to do so. He reassured the liaison group that as one of the two land sellers they are doing their best to negotiate through this and appreciated there was frustration on both sides but things are progressing now.

Barkbythorpe Mitigation Measures

In response to OB's query, VW explained that the physical speed measures are kerb to kerb humps, not speed cushions.

OB thought that County had closed the consultation on the 2nd of September. VW said we hadn't received any updates but would liaise with the transport consultancy to see what the timescales were moving forwards. ACTION POINT- VW

Bus Service

VW explained that Go Travel had been appointed to progress the delivery of the bus service. They were putting together the contract which proposes a half hourly service to Leicester

Monday to Saturday day times and an hourly service Sundays and evenings. This will need to be agreed with the relevant Councils and a meeting is being arranged. CEG is meeting Go Travel on a bi-weekly basis to progress this as swiftly as possible. Go Travel had confirmed that the process to delivery usually takes circa 3 months but a further update will be provided regarding the timescales at the next liaison group meeting ACTION POINT - VW.

5. Any other business

OB queried the planning application for land west of Hilltop Road and if this was still confidential. MP explained that they were approached by City on a confidential basis as it is purely pre-app discussions at this stage and it is so close to the boundary. They have responded and the matter is with the City Council.

OB queried the Local Plan modifications new policies map which no longer shows the areas of green space, and asked if this should be a cause for concern. MP explained that as some of the prospective developments included a lot of detail, such as locations of primary schools, and are superseded by plans within approved applications, a decision was taken to pare back the detail. In his opinion there is no cause for concern as the plans within outline and Reserved Matters applications provide details re elements such as green spaces and these are approved documents. OB queried a concern raised by a resident on Colby Drive where 15 metres are proposed between his house and the first house in Colby Drive. MP confirmed that the policies map doesn't change the parameter plans that are already approved for Thorpebury.

6. Date of next meeting

Date tbc