

# MICHELDEVER PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

July 2025

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*William Helen*

This copy of The Dever is provided free of charge to all residents by the Parish Council.

The annual Parish Assembly was held on Wednesday 16th April at Northbrook Hall and my report covers many of the matters discussed at the meeting.

The Parish Council stay in touch with residents through the minutes of the monthly meetings which are available on the Parish Council website, the two newsletters each year, in July and December, which are delivered free to all homes in the parish and through my report at this meeting. This year, my report covered the following points:

**Winchester Local Plan** The independent inspection of the Winchester Local Plan is about to commence. No housing allocation has been made for Micheldever in this plan.

Separate to this, the Micheldever New Town proposal has been made

to the Government's New Town Task Force and Tessa Robinson, Chair of the Dever Society, spoke further on this as noted below.

**Carousel Park** The Planning Inquiry concluded in 2019, with the report published at the end of that year. The City Council, following delays during the pandemic, were then able to commence enforcement action and issued Planning Contravention Notices in October 2021 and then Penalty Enforcement in March 2022. Appeals were made to these and a new decision was issued last year. The Planning Inspector gave planning permission for the site to become a Gypsy and Traveller site with 24 pitches, subject to a number of planning conditions. Under the new planning conditions, a plan had to be submitted and agreed within 11 months. No agreement has been reached on the new management plan or nutrients within this deadline and

Winchester have therefore issued an application refused letter. This has been appealed and the appeal has gone to the Planning Inspector. This will be an appeal in writing rather than in person and will hopefully be completed within a few months. It was noted that there are also issues with the bund around the site.

**Speed Indication Devices** All three devices are now operational. Thank you to the volunteers who are operating these and to councillors Wandless and Foot for carrying out the training. Additional posts have been purchased this year to make it easier to move the devices. It is still difficult, however, to get the Police to carry out any enforcement action, even with the data from the devices.

**Community Emergency Planning** The Parish Council are seeking to have an emergency plan in place. Volunteers are still being sought and please see Councillor Adams if you think that you could help.

**Grants** Grants have been made this year towards the mural installed at the station, to the Warren Centre for the refurbishment of their

wooden floor, to Citizens Advice, the Churches in the Parish and towards the village website costs.

**Potholes** These are a constant challenge. If the grips designed to take water off the roads are kept clear this would reduce the risk of potholes developing.

**Lengthsman** The Lengthsman has worked in the Parish clearing around road signs and cleaning them, clearing ditches etc

**Parking consultations** These are to take place in Micheldever and East Stratton to attempt to stop dangerous or obstructive parking.

**Micheldever Station pavement to the bridge** HCC now have the opportunity to purchase sufficient land to install a footpath to the bridge. It is a long overdue but very expensive project. The Parish Council have applied for a grant from the railway and HCC do now seem prepared to commit some funding to the project.

**East Stratton** The trees on the open space have been reduced and the neighbours hedge has now been cut, to improve light into the hall.

## Micheldever Station New Town Proposal

The Parish Council are grateful to Tessa Robinson, Chair of the Dever Society, who spoke at the Parish Assembly about the latest new town proposal for Micheldever Station as follows:

In 1990 the first proposal, from Eagle Star, was made for 5,000 homes at Micheldever Station. This led to the setting up of the Dever Society. The number of homes proposed has varied over the years. The current submission is for 15-20 thousand homes. Details of the current proposal were received (by the Dever Society) from an Irish journalist.

Around 100 submissions have been received by the Government's New Town Task Force who are looking for the establishment of 12 new towns. There is no transparency and this is all being done without any information being shared with the public. The terms of reference of the task force do say that there should be engagement with local councils and that proposals should ideally have the support of the local

community. Danny Chambers, our MP, has asked a couple of parliamentary questions about clarity on the consultation process.

This proposal would be a huge development with a significant impact on surrounding areas. If not chosen as one of the 12 new town sites, the proposal will not go away. Housing targets for the Winchester District in the next local plan have greatly increased (around 63% increase) which will lead to increased pressure for sites. Magners are making submissions to the current review of the Local Plan and seeking to have it found unsound.

The majority of submissions to the New Town Task Force are in the south east. Building costs are similar throughout the country but it is much more profitable to sell homes in the south and it is therefore preferred by builders.

It was noted by Tessa that the proposed new town would be in addition to Winchester's housing target.

## **Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation**

Winchester City Councillor Stephen Godfrey provided a summary about devolution and local government reorganisation at the Parish Assembly as follows:

The Government is introducing devolution so that all areas of the country have an elected mayor. Hampshire have pushed for devolved government for many years and have been included in a fast-track stream for a strategic mayor responsible, amongst other things, for Police, transport and strategic planning.

There are almost 2 million residents in Hampshire, more than in Birmingham, Manchester or Northern Ireland and the county makes a significant contribution to GDP. Devolution should improve productivity, efficiency and jobs. It will give Hampshire a seat at the table with the other elected mayors.

Alongside devolution, local authorities (15 in total) must merge into a smaller number of unitary authorities (3, 4 or 5) over the next 3 years.

The new unitary authorities

will takeover adult and children's social care, housing, highways and planning.

Discussions between the 15 current authorities are ongoing, with each authority having its own views and ideas. A lot of analysis work is necessary to inform the discussions. The guidance suggest that the new unitary authorities should have half to one million residents each. There is understood to be very little agreement between the authorities as yet. There are 3 months left before an agreement needs to be reached, consulted upon with the public, and presented to the Government in September.

The Impact on Parish Councils' is not currently known. Winchester City Council currently works with parishes. Reorganisation may require parishes to take on more responsibilities or possibly combine to share or provide services.

The Parish Council can be contacted via Jocelyn, the Clerk, [clerk@micheldever-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@micheldever-pc.gov.uk) or 01794 368951