



THROOP & MUSCLIFF NEWSLETTER UPDATE Winter 2011

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WINTER EDITION ON LOCAL WARD ISSUES FROM COUNCILLOR RON WHITTAKER

on behalf of my two ward colleagues **Cllrs Anne Rey and Derek Borthwick.**

Please visit our website on www.peoplebeforepolitics.info for all updates in the Ward.

Last month, since the last newsletter, have been extremely busy more so with the magnitude of cuts being now imposed on all local authorities, as Independents we are working closely to ensure wherever possible that any service reductions do not fall on the most vulnerable and needy in our community.

NORTH BOURNEMOUTH GREEN BELT - ABOLITION OF REGIONAL STRATEGIES

In our previous newsletters we have attempted to give up to date reports on the decision of the new Secretary of States decision to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies [RSSs] which covers Bournemouth and the South West. Well, unfortunately that decision was challenged in the High Court by the developer, Cala Homes, and a decision in November 2010 found that the Secretary of State had acted unlawfully when he attempted to scrap this body. The Coalition Government have stated that the decision changes very little and will be introducing the Localism Bill to Parliament that would abolish regional strategies.

We are also informed that the government anticipate the Bill will gain Royal Assent in late 2011 or early 2012, as things now stand that court decision has no weight in deterring any decisions that might effect the Green belt.

THROOP RIVER CROSSING [BRIDGE]

In 2007 Bournemouth won a £300.000 lottery bid towards providing a new river bridge crossing at Throop. A number of routes were investigated, eventually the decision came down in favour of Pig-Shoot Lane, this would entail a bridge for horses, riders / cyclist / walkers to have easy access via Hurn village. Such funding had to be matched with other contributions and this lottery fund was only available until 2013, unfortunately over the past years the joint meetings with a number of interested parties, landownership issues, local politics, planning issues, all has not gone well, with many hurdles being put in the way to achieve this crossing. Meantime costs increase, Dorset County Council who were to provide a large funding allocation towards the project have withdrawn this scheme as they consider it to be high risk. Sadly after now some 20 years of many endless meetings at county hall attended by Ron and other interested groups since 1992, many hundreds of walkers / horse riders will be extremely disappointed. SUSTRANS who have been the major player here are to meet to see how Bournemouth can secure the lottery funds remain in Bournemouth. [please see website for more information in the meantime].

EXISTING MAIN WEIR BRIDGE, STOUR RIVER

With this now being only the main bridge crossing and with this bridge being some 50 plus years old and recently Dorset County Council having to undertake some urgent repairs to the safety hand rail, including replacing some of the deck supports, with ongoing correspondence with Dorset CC to now ensure that this bridge remains a high priority for maintenance this year. Dorset CC has informed Ron that options are being worked upon and will be consulting potential partners, more so users of the bridge in the coming months, whatever that means?, believe me, we will be continuing here to remain in touch with Dorset CC.



One area that we as ward members are to see if any of the lottery funding could be used to provide the extension to the existing bridleway path [known as M15] at Berry Hill to the rear of the farms estate to allow for horse riders within Throop. This would then allow easy access to the riverside, this would allow a much improved area for cyclist / walkers. Same time on a number of occasions requested, why cannot one of the large fields which is under council ownership be used for horse riders, a simple request?

RIVER STOUR RESTORATION WORKS

As many residents are aware that large sections of the river bank are facing very serious erosion, which in time is going to affect the current footpath, a very detailed report from Engineering consultants is expected shortly. Our concern here is naturally around Muscliff, so that whatever action is recommended that funding is identified to prevent further erosion, as we know in places the footpath cannot be set back any further without encroaching upon rear of residential properties, which itself would de-stabilise steep banks. Again we have seen where handrails have sunk as a result of landslips causing top rail to bow, am hoping that more detailed information will be forthcoming later this year.

UNITED REFORM CHURCH, MUSCLIFF LANE AND MANSE

Residents within Throop village will know that after much correspondence with the owners of the two listed properties, in November last year, we were given assurances that the Church was to be occupied by the Bournemouth International Church under a full repairing and insuring lease by Christmas [last]. Also that the Manse which has been empty for some three years was having work on, making the Manse available for occupation by tenants. Work would start before [last] Christmas with a view to this listed property being occupied by Feb this year. At the same time we have made repeated representations regarding the overhanging vegetation of the Shrubbery into the carriageway off Muscliff Lane. [At time of going to print still no action is forthcoming on both the listed buildings.]



OTHER LOCAL ISSUES [BRIEFING REPORT]

- [1] Gas lamps [listed] in Throop have over past years been causing problems, some due to vandalism. We are now awaiting for Transco for the works that are apparently needed to upgrade the existing pipework to all the Gas columns.
- [2] Planning application to 285/289 Castle Lane West for development to the rear of the already approved development was thankfully DISMISSED at the appeal, good news for residents backing onto the site from both Hurstdene Road and Belmont Ave.
- [3] 20 Mile zone requested around Epiphany Primary School, this request has been made also to extend into the RURAL section of Muscliff Lane.
- [4] Throop Mill, sadly still no progress here with the owners, although we have a regular visit by Senior Building officer to check if any movement or structural issues. What a great asset this could be to the community.
- [5] Muscliff Primary School, planning permission granted to extend the school, tenders are out to four building companies, end of Jan when the local authority will decide which company has been successful in its bid. Work due to begin by 17/18th February, completion by Aug, for the September intake.

I REALLY DO HOPE RESIDENTS HAVE FOUND THIS DETAILED NEWSLETTER OF INTEREST AROUND JUST A FEW OF THE MANY ISSUES IN THROOP / MUSCLIFF ON BEHALF ALSO, OF MY TWO WARD MEMBERS,

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Many thanks,

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