

ETTINGTON PC CLERK/CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Date: 8th March 2023
Item 10/Appendix 2

1. **School Clock:** Work in progress. Clerk chasing.
2. **Banbury Road Land:** documents not yet ready for signing. Clerk monitoring
3. **Councillor Code of Conduct- updated DPI forms.** To be reviewed and renewed following election
4. **Land off Rogers Lane enforcement update:** request by resident below for council to submit an EIR request:-

I think two actions could be considered:

- The first is to use the Environmental Information Regulations to find out what is happening (it offers stronger rights than the Freedom of Information Act and is the appropriate route on landscape and ecology matters).
- The second is to write to Nadhim Zahawi if the council fails to say what is happening, or if its actions are inadequate. He could be told about the severe problems being experienced locally because of under-funding of planning enforcement nationally (see <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/research/2022/november/planning-enforcement-resourcing/>), and lack of expertise at Stratford District Council. In particular, he could be told that it is unhelpful that planning enforcement is wrongly seen as a discretionary service.

I think it would be most effective if a request for information under the EIR was made by the parish council, rather than by an individual. Really, though, it should be treated seriously either way.

The council does not have to provide information if it would compromise an ongoing investigation. This might apply at Ryepiece Orchard. However, if the council is not investigating some of the breaches, it has no grounds to refuse to say so: it is not possible to compromise an investigation that is not taking place. Therefore, I suggest that any EIR request should ask for a breakdown of what is happening, topic-by-topic (internal road, pond, ground levels, orchards, public footpath etc).

I realise you could simply make this request now, but the district council has 20 days to respond so you could invite councillors to decide whether to do so, and still receive the information in time for your April meeting.

I hope the parish council will take this step. I think it is appropriate because:

- The parish was offered a benefit (community orchards) that it is unlikely to receive;
- the site is a scar on the village scene;
- this is but one of several cases of planning failure that have harmed the village and its residents;
- the state of the public footpath affects nearly all residents and is a public matter.

The developer's failures to finish the site, including the internal road, are a matter for private dispute. However, I think the parish council could justify acting on their behalf because they should have been protected by the planning system, and they have suffered serious harm

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because of failures to enforce the planning conditions on the site. However, I think the most important thing is to get the internal road finished, and there is a risk that enforcing all of the ecological measures - but not the road - will prevent that happening.

5. **New CCLA account:** account is open. Funds received from NS&I to be transferred.

6. **Economy Consultation:** Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have launched a public consultation on a draft Economic Strategy for South Warwickshire. This Strategy will guide economic policies in South Warwickshire, seeking to create a stronger, greener economy within five years and align with the local plan currently being prepared to shape development until 2050. At its heart are three themes – People, Productivity and Place and five key opportunity sectors – Automotive; Electric Vehicle (EV) Batteries; Hydrogen; Bioscience and Agri-tech; and Digital Creative which will not only drive economic growth but help to deliver on ambitious climate change targets. For more information on the draft strategy and the consultation itself, please go to the following website page.

[South Warwickshire Economic Strategy | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

The consultation runs until **Friday 31 March**.

7. **Public footpaths review:** detailed email sent to resident answering queries. No further contact

8. **Defibrillator training and responsibility:** in contact with Ettington First Responders to arrange