

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

Vice Chair Nic Cooper opened the meeting with a minute's silence for the death of Peter Willington, our respected Chairman. Nic Cooper was subsequently elected as the new Chair but owing to Elections in May the Councillor vacancy would not be filled.

38 villagers attended to give views on the outline application for the development of land adjacent to Holybread Wood. This was for seven houses with road access next to the protected section of Holybread Lane. Only one person offered any partially positive comment on the proposal, all the others being vehemently against. Both drivers and horse riders pointed out the deleterious effect of more traffic on an already hazardous lane. Most particularly it was noted that this land was outside the defined settlement and so would be a bad precedent. Also it would spoil one of the rural entrances to the village. It was stated that the only thing that would improve this land was not this development but conforming to the prior Notice to the owner to clear the asbestos and varied detritus from the land. Previous Inspector reasons for refusal were noted. The applicant has challenged the ability of the City Council's planning policies to meet Government housing targets, stating that if this objection was accepted, then they would become void. This would preclude their use by protesters and the Parish Council. Despite this, Council decided to make strong objection to this outline application.

There is grave concern that the proposed huge housing plan for south of Maldon will vastly increase traffic on the A414 making the junction of Little Baddow Road at Eves Corner very difficult. It was stated that the planned pre-junction lights to manage traffic flow on Little Baddow Road did not take account of its daily single lane situation caused by parking for two adjacent schools etc. Back up would be inevitable on the A414 due to blocked junction entry! Our Councillor has registered to attend the relevant Day 4, 27th January, of the Maldon public consultation, but there was significant worry that Danbury Parish Council may not be similarly registered to attend to support our concerns.

Much else was also discussed but there is no room to report. All details of items in this independent report and others can be obtained from the Council. GH.