

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting on 9th July was well attended by members of the public. In public question time there was grave concern expressed about the number and behaviour of the cyclists using the village roads, including serious safety concerns and nuisance to other traffic. A representative of Trifarm cycle training defended their recent event. Councillors reported that an Essex Cycle Association risk assessment had concluded that the village was not a suitable area. There was a villager's written complaint about traffic in Riffhams Chase accusing parents from Elm Green School of driving hazardously. Councillors said that all the village's narrow winding roads are generally becoming unsafe due to their use by lorries and by vehicles which are speeding and also in the middle of the road.

There was lengthy discussion about several development proposals with two agreed objections. One requested development had issues relating to planning policy when building outside the village's defined settlement and one proposal was thought to be over-development.

Efforts will be made to ensure restoration of the two footpaths near St Mary's Church destroyed in the drainage works, but it was said to be impractical to implement the request to upgrade the footpath from York Street to The Old Rodney to a bridleway. The footpath to Wickhay Green will be cleared. It is still too dry to improve the pitch.

Council was updated on the approved Highways' plan to increase the regulation of traffic entering the A414 at Eves Corner. There are still major concerns about the effect of the proposed traffic lights on Little Baddow Road & Mayes Lane, even though it has been clarified that these will only operate at the two peak times with the mini roundabouts remaining. Work starts on 2nd August and so the Council is organising urgent surveys of the traffic flow before & after in the area & of the potential increase of "rat running" locally.

After receiving advice Council agreed that the new buildings grant should go to the Memorial Fund. The Link Committee is upgrading its communication about help available to the community if needed. *Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH.*