

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting on 7th December was attended by County Councillor John Spence. He was continuing his review of the Eves Corner traffic lights. He has established that no information is currently being collected about any resultant queuing on Little Baddow Road, about which he was concerned. This is exacerbated by the parked cars nose to tail dropping pupils at St John's School and thereby creating a long single track, which he thought was unresolvable.

There were no objections to the individual planning applications, although concern was expressed about a further bungalow becoming a house and also about solid driveway gates stated to be inappropriate in a rural area. Council objected to a further application for the land east of Runsell Lane, Danbury to build 90 houses. The only part of the application which would be unchangeable was the access. It was proposed to have only one, to be onto A414, with a central waiting section for cars turning right. It was pointed out that cars would find it easier to turn left and still use Runsell Lane and also that the traffic figures were incorrect and now out of date due to the Eves Corner traffic lights. It was considered that there was still a likelihood of our village's roads becoming "rat runs." Concern was also expressed that it would cause further pressure on Danbury Medical Centre, which is already described as inefficient.

The issue of speeding on The Ridge was discussed. One example was of damage to the wing mirror casing of a car due to speed in a narrow place and the speeding driver failed to stop! It is hoped to start the Speedwatch again in the New Year after training and Police recalibration of the speed gun. Traffic on the Ridge and North Hill is now much greater and there will be investigation of the road parking situation at Paper Mill Lock which also often becomes single track.

The Budget was agreed and the precept will be raised by 2%. The astronomical cost of hard surfacing the Hall carpark is not in this Budget. Consideration will be given soon to funding it at a future time. Concern was expressed that it was not wheelchair easy. The pursuit of the cost of replacing the bench on North Hill damaged by a car continues and a letter has been sent to the vehicle's owner. *Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH.*