



Love South Leigh & High Cogges

Dear Residents,

13th September 2022

Conservation Area Up-date

Good Afternoon, Everyone,

Some clarity

Following the distribution of Polling documents on Saturday and a number of questions that have arisen, we write to clarify certain points and to advise on the next steps. We have decided to suspend the Poll until after the next Parish Council Meeting to allow questions to be answered and issues resolved where possible.

The Parish has been consulting on this issue since 2016, the most recent phase having started in 2020. During the recent process, the CA Steering Group has pursued clear objectives that we believe are in the best interest of the Parish as a whole, and the Parish Council authorised us to poll the community on them.

Expert advice to achieve maximum protection

To do this, we took expert advice in order to achieve the maximum protection for the Parish and to avoid submitting an application that would be destined to certain failure. The professional fees for all of this have been paid for entirely independently of Parish Council resources.

We have explained clearly why the proposed CA is smaller than we would all like. We were as disappointed as anyone at the advice from the District Council's own consultant, who is one of the ultimate decision makers, that we would be asking for too much in our proposed application.

Common objectives

We all want to achieve the same objective which is primarily to have as many weapons in our armoury to counter large scale and/or inappropriate speculative development. Because it is important, we shall continue to listen to residents and endeavour to gain the greatest protection for the Parish. Thus, we have postponed the Poll until after the Parish Council meeting on Thursday, 22nd September, at which the CA is an agenda item.

Answers to every question asked

In the next few days, we shall be responding in detail to each of the issues raised by residents who have been vocal on WhatsApp. For now, the Poll is postponed and the Parish Council has invited residents to attend the PC meeting on 22nd September when the topic can again be discussed openly and agreed actions taken for thereafter. In the meantime, questions asked by those residents to date and our answers as best we can provide, will follow.

As noted, we would love to expand the area and, if the PC agrees, will do everything we can to do so. But everyone must recognize that that will increase the chance of rejection as it will be directly against the advice of the District Council's own adviser, which we have sent you. We can and will certainly try if the Parish Council endorses it.

Please read the documents

We urge residents who plan to attend the PC meeting to read all the documents that we have issued or referenced beforehand and/or to contact us.

We also urge those who are disappointed not to consider polling against the motion as a matter of protest, as and when the Poll is reinstated. Clearly, this will achieve nothing and will benefit no one other than potential developers. Thank you for your interest and we regret any confusion over the changed polling schedule. We hope that this note and the information that will follow are useful.

For the Conservation Area Steering Group. Martin 07799368464