

## **Cllr Bambridge Report to Syresham Parish Council 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.**

I have called in a planning application on the Poplars Farm on the Wappenham Road, Syresham WNS/2022/1343/FUL. It is not in your parish but I think you should be aware of it. This is for a wind turbine and follows a previous application that was allowed on appeal. The new application is for a much larger turbine - in fact the proposal is for a turbine that is 58% larger in diameter and nearly 15% taller. In fact, the proposal takes the height from 86.45m to 99.17m – in old money that is give or take an inch or two – 284 ft to 325 ft in height and 171 – 270 feet in diameter. The call in is approved so it will be brought before the planning committee giving an opportunity for anyone to speak from the parish council and or community if they so desire as well of course as the applicant who is also able to answer any questions the committee may have. Although the comments due date has passed there is still time to send in such and please can they be copied to me. As I am on that committee, I cannot make any comments regarding my position on the matter until I have heard all the facts and feelings related to it.

The consultation on the Local Plan Part 2 supplementary planning guidance related to employment allocations – in other words industrial development - closed last week and is now being gone through so that hopefully some of the changes expected can be adopted in time to be used with the current applications around Towcester.

The new highways contract comes into operation on 12<sup>th</sup> September with Kier being the contractor – previously it was Kier WSP now it is just Weir. North Northants also has agreed their highways contract with Kier but this is a totally separate contract – however there is built in flexibility with regard to the use of specialist equipment and the like which will be of all round benefit. New management structure with increased capacity will be important and significantly WNC has directly employed some of the key staff who previously worked for Kier WSP have an excellent grounding. The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which I chair, has formed a working party to look closer into how this will deliver what it promises and ensures that the repair and maintenance of our roads is a significant improvement on what is has been. I foresee that one of the important stages in the overall process will be to involve Parish Councils in ensuring that local information is taken into account throughout the road maintenance and repair process.

I have received some questions from your clerk –

- Q. The Parish Footpath Wardens wondered if it would be feasible for WNC to pay for gates instead of stiles on at least one circular right of way around Syresham, to allow walkers who have difficulty getting over stiles to have the opportunity to take a walk in the countryside?
- A. Query gone to Highways who will respond in 10 working days.
- Q. Could you please confirm who is responsible for the design of the A43 overbridge at the HS2 crossing?
- A. WNC would like to see a footpath/cycleway allowance on the bridge, these will need to be certain dimensions to be applicable. EKFB would do the work, but the bridge design is the responsibility of HS2. WNC hope to see this design soon, as bridge works are due to start within 12 months. HS2 have assured stakeholders that there will be allowance for footpath/cycleway.
- Q. Residents in Pimlico have complained about the odours from poultry farms in Crowfield, the issue is on this agenda.
- A. Cllr Bambridge has received a reply from Environmental Health. Answers to be forwarded to Pimlico residents.
  
- Q. What would be the implications of the upcoming Ward boundary review?
- A. The intention is to reduce the number of Ward Councillors from 93 to 77. It is more likely to impact the urban areas, where there are more Councillors. Boundary review is due to local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire. November is closing date for consultation.