

AYLESFORD PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT 2014/15.

There were a similar number of applications (224) to be considered this year with many of these being minor tree works.

There have been 9 approvals by TMBC where the PC objected (up from 5) and this trend reflects the easing of planning regulations which run until the end of 2015. There were, however, on balance 5 TMBC refusals where we had not objected (same as last year) and 3 refusals agreeing with the PC objections (up from 2 last year).

Some past applications appear to have become dormant in that the proposed burial ground along Common Road and the former Upper Bell sites we await further developments with interest. There was a further application in the Kits Coty development where we objected as it was overuse of a rural site yet TMBC approved. Blue Bell Hill members are closely monitoring what goes on in this part of the parish.

There have been some big developments in the Preston Hall area including plans for 208 dwellings with 68 affordable homes and associated road developments. We have been actively involved in suggesting suitable names for these new roads but the developers still want to have an 'Eccles' one incorporated!

During the year we have been petitioned by various interested parties as with Mr Brewood speaking to us about the Rochester Airport runway development proposals, Mill Hall residents asking for our support in restricting the expanding of weekend and later opening hours for commercial units at Unit 12, Yew Tree Industrial Estate. We accepted the runway proposals but agreed with those residents at the Mill Hall site that some further restrictions were needed particularly on Saturdays.

Colin Finch from the Kent Public Rights of Way organisation spoke to us about Local Growth Fund and the proposed footway along the Medway towpath between Aylesford and Maidstone. There have been concerns about proposals for change of use at the Aylesford Nurseries site and members are concerned that the `Little Gem` was rapidly becoming an eyesore within the village centre itself. Outside here matters have been fairly quiet within Eccles before our own car parking extension gets under way and the Peters Pit working start expanding. In both Blue Bell Hill & Walderslade there is nothing contentious to report for the past year.

It just remains for me to thank Janet & Neil for getting the documents ready at meetings for members to consider and to thank Cllr Elvy for being being ready to stand in for me as Vice Chairman should I be unavailable for any reason.

May 2015