

## A Year in the Life of Rowde Parish Council

June 2022 – May 2023

**Parish Council membership:** The Parish Council remains full with 11 members.

A warm welcome to Tom Humphreys who joined the Parish Council in September 2022. The Parish Council also welcomed Mark Somerville who joined the Parish Council in January 2023. Chris Stevens re-joined the Parish Council in January 2023 and was welcomed back after a short break.

**Meetings:** The Parish Council met in person 11 times during the year and held an extraordinary meeting in February 2023 to discuss the planning application to build on land off Sands Lane.

The Parish Council meeting in September was delayed due to the official mourning period for Queen Elizabeth II.

**Finance:** The Parish Council set the precept for 2023-24 with a £0 increase to residents.

**Donations:** to village groups in 2022-23 totalled: £1,853

Rowde Village News				£500.00
Rowde Village Hall				£200.00
Rowde PCC - clock				£500.00
Link				£250.00
Rowde Toddlers				£403.00

### Events

- The Parish Council hosted a day's event to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- A live music, fete style event to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022, in the small playing field.
- Rowde celebrated with Christmas with a village window advent calendar, a Christmas tree sited on the Village Hall grounds and a new Christmas banner wishing residents a happy Christmas.
- The Parish Council has purchased a gazebo to use at village events.

### Community

- Furlong Close was sold but the new owners have retained accommodation for residents who were already living there and providing them with 'support living' provision. Thanks were expressed to the Family and Friends for securing the future for the residents of Furlong Close. Cllr Mayes was thanked for her hard work with the group too.

- Parish Councillors attended the Open Day at Furlong Close on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The event was hosted by Community First who are promoting the external leasing of the communal areas on behalf of the owners.
- Silverwood School: Construction work to expand Silverwood School, formerly Rowdeford School, continues. It is expected that the new school will open in October 2024.
- The Parish Council had discussion with Wiltshire Council about the projected number of vehicles that will be travelling to and from the expanded school. The Parish Council asked for traffic to be diverted away from Marsh Lane. A trial test has found that this will not be possible as it will add too much time to the children's already long day. It is anticipated that there will not be a problem with excessive traffic on this road due to the use of multi-passenger vehicles.
- The Chairman attended the topping out ceremony at Silverwood School on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### **Development**

Reed Place: the planning process was delayed due to a problem with the drainage scheme. Permission was finally granted to build the houses in September 2022: 2 x 1 bed houses, 2 x 1 bed flats, 2 x 2 bed bungalows, 3 x 2 bed houses, 1 x 3 bed house with associated car parking and landscaping. These will be built on the site to the east of existing housing development.

Residents who wish to apply for the accommodation when it has been built, will need to be registered with Homes4Wiltshire.

- In October 2022, Wiltshire Council was still negotiating the groundwork contract to build houses off Reed Place.
- The Parish Council were consulted on the new road name for the development. It was proposed to call the development 'Haymeadow Way' after it's original use.
- Building is yet to start.

### **Planning**

- In July 2022, there was investigative work taking place in a field adjacent to Sands Lane.
- The Parish Council was contacted at the end of July by developers to discuss on outline planning proposal for land off Sands Lane (for up to 80 houses).
- In September 2022, the Parish Council hosted a village meeting to explain planning procedures and to give residents an opportunity to share their views on the proposal.
- The outline planning application to build up to 50 houses on land west of Sands Lane, Rowde [PL/2023/00386] arrived on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- The Parish Council hosted an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to discuss and vote on the planning application. The Parish Council objected unanimously to the application. The outcome of the application is still waiting to be heard (as of 8/5/23)
- **National Grid**

A planning application has been submitted for sealing end compounds to be

constructed on land north of Conscience Lane, Roundway, land east of Marlborough Road, Devizes and land adjacent to the Bridge Inn, Horton Road, Devizes. The Parish Council found no objections but asked for conditions to be imposed that required construction traffic to use the haulage road and not Conscience Lane. The Parish Council also asked that the landscape and land drainage will be reinstated.

It was originally outlined that construction would start in 2023 with the hope that the work would be completed by 2024. Work has not commenced yet.

- Rowde Primary School, High Street applied for permission to install a MUGA pitch with 4m high surrounding mesh fence and access path [PL/2002/00796]
- Sandridge Farm, Brick Hill, Bromham, [PL/2022/06711] made an application to remove variations of conditions, reference PL/2022/00543. A farm building was converted to residential use without planning permission. Wiltshire Council asked for it to be returned to an agricultural building. The owner asked for permission to delay this. The applicant applied in December 2022 for permission to change the use from an agriculture store to a residential holiday let. The Parish Council did not agree on a response to the application as the original work had been undertaken without planning permission.
- The Rowdey Cow applied for a variation of their premises licence to include the sale of alcohol in the shop area previously occupied by the Spotty dog. The Parish Council supported the application.
- The Firs, the Locks, Devizes: PL/2022/08360 demotion of existing dwelling and construction of replacement welling. The Parish Council had no objections.
- There was a provisional discussion about building a community led housing project on land at Tanis. This has not been progressed.

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

Parish Council representatives and the Clerk continue to meet with the Devizes Neighbourhood Planning team on a regular basis to work on the new joint Neighbourhood Plan.

It was agreed at the Steering group meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 that there would be no general call for sites. The most current version of the SHELAA will be used for site selection.

Sites are still being accessed against the agreed methodology. There has been a discussion on the Neighbourhood Plan Design Code, which would develop policies on housing design.

There was a discussion on Open Green Spaces in Rowde, led by E Clark, from the Devizes Neighbourhood Area Steering group.

## **Highways**

- The Local Highways Footpaths and Infrastructure Group (LHFIG) – Wiltshire Council agreed to fund the post and sockets for a Speed Indicator Device.
- The Parish Council has purchased a Speed Indicator Device (S.I.D) and has installed it outside of Rowde Primary School, High Street for the time being.
- The Community Speedwatch Team has been paused until a new leader can be found. Thanks was given to T Jeffries for running the speedwatch team for the past 8 years.
- Flooding on Devizes Road continues to cause concern to the Parish Council and to residents.

## **Play Areas**

- The asset transfer of Silverlands Play Area from Wiltshire Council was completed in September 2022. New play equipment has been ordered and is expected to be installed in June 2023.
- The grounds maintenance contract has been split into two parts. The new contracts commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and will run until May 2024. The bench in the small playing field, next to the Church was renovated, with thanks to M Somerville.
- The playing field needs toilets and changing room provision. The Parish Council is investigating purchasing a container which can be converted to become a changing room.
- The dip near the gate to Rowde Court Road from the playing field has been levelled with paving slabs.

## **Village Appearance**

- The Parish Council thanks E Brown for continuing to keep our village clean of litter.
- This work is supported by our worker Tim from Furlong Close, who alternatively works clearing pavements or litter collecting the large playing field.
- The Parish Council hired a road sweeper to come through the village in June 2022.
- The village has entered the Best Kept Village competition for 2023.

## **Footpaths**

- Thank you to N Saunders for checking the footpath routes and maintenance needed.

## **Allotments**

- L Wills has taken up the role of Allotment Representative for the Parish Council.

- All vacant plots have been filled.
- J Dalley arranged for a grab lorry to remove green waste that had been accumulated at the allotments. Half of the waste has been removed.

**Wiltshire Council** – a huge thank you to Cllr Laura Mayes for attending Rowde Parish Council meetings and providing updates from Wiltshire Council and advocating on behalf of residents and the Parish Council.

Wiltshire Council has provided cost of living support to people who are struggling with the rising cost of living. Assistance has been provided to residents through schemes such as the Household Support Fund.

### **Looking forward**

- To plan for changing room facilities at the large playing field to attract use by more football teams and other sports.
- Creating a footpath in Tanis.