

Cllr Jackson report – April 2021

It has been quite a quiet period of late, particularly with relatively few WODC meetings or commitments. Indeed, for the first time since I became a councillor, there was no Uplands Planning meeting in April. This was because there were no applications to be considered. But it was also interesting that we were informed that a couple of the Planning Officers are moving on. It is slightly worrying that in the three years I have been a councilor, there has been quite a turnover of planning officers, which tends not to help continuity and consistency.

There are a couple of issues locally which have been brought to my attention.

I reported at the last SBPC meeting that the highways officer and the OCC drainage technician have come to the conclusion that the blocked drains and permanent flood by the allotments at Bartongate will need a major job. This will require a partial closure of the main road. As yet, I have not had a message about a proposed date.

Both of the OCC officials thought that dredging the ditch by the hedge on the edge of the allotments may help somewhat, but it is not highways land. My friend Trixie Rowe gave me a guided tour of the flooded allotment plots, and she mentioned one of the affected allotment holders, Paul Brooks. We called to see him, and he explained to me, on site, the drains which should release the water from the ditch. He too thought it would be beneficial to dredge the ditch to try to expose these ditch drains which go under the road.

The land is owned by the Flemings, so I wrote to Vicky Fleming who passed my letter on. I had an immediate phone call from the Bartons Abbey Estate land manager, Paddy Hoare, and he is happy to meet on site with me, and other interested folk. We are hoping to do this on a Tuesday which is the day he is up at the estate. I will let you know when we have a proposed date.

The other issue that I have been contacted about is the planning application at Holt Garage. I notice that the concerned neighbouring residents, Sheila and Martin Dewick, have contacted the SBPC today, (Saturday 10th April). I got a phone call from Sheila on Thursday (8th), and she mentioned some concerns. Thanks to my being informed by the SBPC clerk of applications for consideration, I was able to access the plans on the website. I asked if I could pop up today to get a better picture. I found that seeing the site did indeed help me to understand their concerns. I am sure that if any of the parish councilors wanted to do a site visit, that Sheila and Martin would be quite happy to facilitate that.