

Introduction

By now we would have expected a report on the background behind the major WBC projects (regeneration of Victoria place and Sheerwater) but it would appear to have been delayed.

Footpaths and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

For months we have been trying to secure funding to upgrade a couple of footpaths in Hook Heath. The good news is that at the Executive meeting on 13 June the WBC Executive agreed to release £24,000 of CIL funds for this purpose. The description of the works is as follows

For a section of footpath 104 (this footpath runs from the junction of Pond Road and Mile Path to Hook Heath Road near Gorse Hill):

- For approx. 1m width, clear vegetation, remove loose material from surface, lay and compact suitable landscaping fabric and sub-base material to level path. Lay and compact natural limestone surfacing to 100mm depth and finish with rolled layer of granite dust or similar. Surface to be cambered to shed water to either side.

For footpath 102 (this footpath runs from Pond Road around the car park to the location of the pedestrian bridge):

- Lay landscape fabric along the path and with a fence-to-fence width to protect tree roots. Infill the path to raise levels and provide a flat stable surface. Surface to a compressed depth of 100mm with a natural limestone, and finish with rolled granite dust or similar to give a suitable path width fence-to-fence of approximately 1m.

The project will be managed by the Countryside Capital Programme Officer from Surrey County Council.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

As I write this in the run up to an election, we have both the main political parties promising to get more houses built. The most likely consequences will be reimposition of central government building targets followed by reviews of green belt boundaries in those areas which don't have sufficient building land. We might also see some new towns though they take a long time to develop. Based on experience, changes to the legislation will also take time so we shouldn't expect an immediate impact.

A separate issue is that purchasers may not be enthusiastic about taking out mortgages, which in turn will mean that developers won't build houses anyway, even if they could get the workforce needed.

Neighbourhood Plan

Irrespective of potential changes to legislation, we are going to press ahead and review the current Neighbourhood Plan. The planning system expects reviews at around 5-yearly intervals and if we had areas identified for development then a review would definitely be overdue. Also, the plan explicitly states that it runs till 2027. Input from Hook Heath residents will be welcomed, whether it be support for the existing Plan, or suggestions for change.

This first phase of the review process will focus on the Vision for Hook Heath and the Objectives of the existing Plan's policies. The Objectives strive to ensure that development can proceed without detracting from the character of the Area.

Vision

The Vision is to maintain and enhance the Area's distinctive and special residential character. It seeks to provide a safe, pleasant and sustainable environment for the community, thereby enriching the quality of the lives of all those who live and work here.

Specific Objectives

Built Environment

Ensure that new developments, extensions and modifications complement or enhance the existing character and appearance of Hook Heath.

Open Spaces

Retain, and where possible enhance, the Amenity Value of the Open Spaces in the Hook Heath Neighbourhood Area.

Local Infrastructure

Control levels of on-street parking, improve pedestrian safety and limit the amount of through traffic thus reducing its adverse environmental impact.

If you have any comments on the Vision and/or Objectives, the committee would like to hear from you; if you don't respond we'll assume you are happy

with the current versions. You can send your comments to chairman@hhra.co.uk by Wednesday 3 July.

Once the committee has reviewed any feedback on this phase of the review process, there will be an opportunity for residents to submit their thoughts on the existing Neighbourhood Plan policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan can be found here

<https://www.woking2027.info/neighbourhoodplanning/hookheathneighbourhoodplan/hhnpfinal>

and also on the HHNF website

<https://www.hhra.co.uk/hookheathforum/index.htm>

Local Planning Applications in the Hook Heath Neighbourhood Area

One application reported in the last Update has been approved by the Council.

PLAN/2024/0077

Erection of a front outbuilding at Saketha, Golf Club Road.

One application reported in the last Update has been withdrawn.

PLAN/2023/1020

Certificate of Proposed Lawful Development for a side extension to form an attached garage following demolition of existing garage at The Chase, Hook Heath Road.

One application reported in the last Update continues to be pending.

PLAN/2022/0657

Erection of single storey extensions to the front, side and rear elevations and roof extension to increase ridge height including insertion of front dormer windows and rear and front rooflights to facilitate additional accommodation within the roofspace at Eastwood, Hook Heath Road.

There are four new planning applications which are currently undecided.

PLAN/2024/0216 Erection of a single storey rear extension and conversion of garage to habitable accommodation (amended plans and description) at Manydown, Holly Bank Road.

Manydown is a locally listed building.

PLAN/2024/0360 Proposed in-ground swimming pool and plant room at Links House, Golf Club Road.

Links House is in a Conservation Area.

PLAN/2024/0387 Erection of a single storey rear extension to existing annexe at Hook Heath Lodge, Hook Heath Avenue.

PLAN/2024/0399 Erection of a single storey rear extension following demolition of the existing conservatory at Padua, Hook Heath Road.

This section continues to be much shorter than in the past. This year new planning applications have been submitted at a rate of about one/month, about a quarter of the 'normal' rate.

HHRA

This is a reminder to please pay your annual subscription if you haven't already done so.

Many thanks for your interest and support

Sincerely,

Mike Cooke, Chairman
On behalf of the Hook Heath Neighbourhood Forum Management
Committee