

Newsletter 4, July 2017.

Dear Everyone

Neighbourhood Plan July update

We are continuing to collect data and opinions. This month we will concentrate on our historic building heritage

Farmers' Market this Saturday morning, 8th July - Buildings

You many not be aware that Martock has precisely 200 buildings of national significance on the Historic England list. Compare this with Ilminster which has 154, Crekerne (167) and Yeovil (116). This is an important topic for the Neighbourhood Plan; we punch way above our weight.

We will have our usual Farmer's Market stall on Saturday (18th July) when the focus will be our fine buildings. Come and see us. I attach a Newsletter about it.

We hope to talk about:

- Revising the Martock and Coat Conservation Areas
- Creating a list of locally important buildings which are not on the Historic England list
- Creating a Village Design Statement that we can use to persuade builders to create new buildings which harmonise with the old.

Farmers' Market last two months - flooding and the natural environment

Thanks everyone who sent photographs - of views, landscapes and floods. Dont stop. I hope soon to turn them into webpages.

I have already put a post on the web about **the Great 1979 flood** that so many people mentioned. See <http://martockplan.org.uk/wp/2017/06/12/the-great-1979-flood/>. You gave us so much information that we were able to to pin-point the precise date and time and then get weather conditions and tidal data to give us a very clear picture about why it happened and the lessons we can learn and apply today. Thanks everyone.

News about the Cartgate Nature Area

I mentioned this last time; it is a small but important natural area, including a pond, based around the railway embankment at Cartgate. (Nice Marsh orchids there last week).

Highways England, who own it, cleared a lot of the brush that was overwhelming it but they were stopped by a lady pheasant sitting on 11 eggs. They'll come back later and finish the job. Last week the Parish Council agreed to take over the minor

management tasks to ensure this area continues to develop. This will include small-scale dredging, cutting back brambles, keeping wildflower areas open etc. It will be all done by volunteers later in the year and its good that the Gardening Society is interested in it. If you would like to join us and volunteer please let me know.

Help needed this month

- We would like suggestions for modifying the Conservation Area Boundaries (we have two, Martock and Coat; the Martock one goes as far as Higher St Bower Hinton. I hope tomorrow to put a map of the conservation areas on the website at www.martockplan.org.uk/Environment/Builtenv.html

- We would like to develop the list of what are officially called 'Non-designated Heritage Assets' - in other words, buildings that we would like to see conserved but which are not officially listed. This includes buildings that are important historically (old Sparrows Works for example) or buildings that are visually important in the village. They do not need to be particularly old; some ideas are in the attached newsletter. Send ideas and photographs.

Come and chat at the Farmers' Market on Saturday.

Best wishes

Andrew