

## **Newsletter 3, June 2017**

Dear Everyone

### **Neighbourhood Plan June update**

**We are continuing to collect data and opinions. This month we will concentrate on flooding and drains!**

#### **Farmers' Market next week, 10th June - Floods**

We will have our usual Farmer's Market stall next Saturday (10th June) when the focus will be drains and floods. Come and see us.

We are trying to build up a bank of evidence on Martock Floods as many people who have long local knowledge often question the evidence from official organisations such as the SCC and Environment Agency when flood matters are raised during a planning application process.

***Please bring flood photos to the market next Saturday or (better) email them in advance to me so we can build up a display.***

We will have a small team manning the stall who have a long understanding of Martock Flooding, Gordon Swindells, our Flood Coordinator, Rebecca Abraham from Parrett Works, who gets all the floodwater once it leaves the village, and Edward de Broe-Ferguson who lives where the Foldhill Lane floods meet the East Street floods. We also hope to have one of the village fire and rescue team with us.

#### **Farmers' Market last month - natural environment**

Thanks for sending photographs of views. Keep them coming. I hope soon to put an interactive map on the Neighbourhood Plan website - click on a pin and a view opens. When you send photographs can you tell me where you took it and which way you were facing. There is no need to do this if you use a smartphone and the GPS data is turned on; this information is embedded in the picture file.

We are gradually building a up a picture of where around the village are the best wildlife habitats. We have quite a bit of data from the Somerset Environmental Records Centre to help with this. We have quite a lot of rare and protected species in many places around the village. Please help us by telling us of the interesting places, or wildlife, you find when you are walking.

#### **Help manage some of our best habitats**

Around the village we have a number of wildlife habitats and corridors that need some managing. We have been discussing the possibility of setting up a small group of volunteers to help manage some of these that are publicly owned, (and privately owned if the owners would like help). This will have the support of the Parish Council. If you have an interest being a part of this group please email. It will not be

particularly onerous - mainly autumn cutting back of brambles etc. It would be good to involve the school in this; if you are a teacher and are interested please get in touch.

Did you know about the wildlife pond at Cartgate - on the left as you turn in? It was created by Highways England when the roundabout was built. It has become too overgrown and Highways England have just done some heavy clearing of parts of it with machines. They want to hand over the lighter seasonal management to a group from the village.

### **Foldhill Lane Planning Application**

You may know that there have now been three applications to build houses on land opposite the Foldhill Care Home north of the old railway line.

The first, in March 2014 for 46 houses was rejected by SSDC. The second, for 35 houses, was also rejected by SSDC and the developer took it to Appeal where the Planning Inspector also turned it down. The developer then put in a third application for 24 houses in June last year which was also rejected by SSDC. The developer has now appealed again.

All the details can be seen on the Planning and Building Control Web Pages of South Somerset District Council. Search for 'Triways' and all the applications can be seen and the details viewed.

The Planning Inspectorate is now considering the second appeal and anyone who would like to comment should visit the Planning Inspectorate webpage and search for the case number APP/R3325/W/17/3171212. There is some advice on the site about how to make a comment; in particular they say that all comments already made will be taken into account automatically and so need not be repeated. The deadline for comments is next Monday - 12th June.

The main issues of concern that have been raised by the parish and others are drainage and flooding, traffic down Foldhill Lane, the high overall number of new houses already planned in the village, and the preservation of the rural landscape above the railway line. The field is of 'High Landscape Sensitivity' - this can be seen on the SSDC landscape map that was part of the last newsletter and displayed at the farmers market last month.

Come and meet us at the Farmers' Market on Saturday

Andrew

