

**Ringwood Town Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008**  
**– a Report from District Councillor Chris Treleaven**

1) Core Strategy – Local Development Framework.

We are now reaching the final stages of the Options proposals. There has been no significant opposition in the public consultations to the Preferred Option of a dispersed development profile for housing and employment sites throughout the District, rather than focussed development at Totton and Ringwood. The next step will be to prepare for the final submission to Examination-in-Public. Any site-specific proposal not previously consulted on will require further public consultation.

2) Furlong Car Park – replacement of public facilities

In-house discussions continue with this project.

3) Temporary Road Closures (for voluntary organisation events such as carnivals, pedal car races, charity marathons etc)

Although we have now agreed a procedure which does not place any extra legal burdens on voluntary organisations than previously, we are now receiving observations to the effect that the already existing indemnity requirements have insurance problems of covering “indirect” claims. We are taking legal advice as to how appropriate cover should be apportioned.

4) Parking Enforcement

The new Traffic Management Act requires explicit definition of how penalty-notice receivers can claim ameliorating circumstances, and NFDC has now published the guidelines under which cancellation of penalty notices may be considered.

A small but consistently misunderstood parking infringement relates to the “period of observation” – the time elapsing before a Penalty Charge Notice is applied. Members of the public claim there is a 5 (or 3) minute period of “grace” before a Penalty Notice should be applied (just time to visit an ATM, or get a sandwich, say). This is totally untrue – if the infringement is obvious, the Penalty is immediate. The 5 minute period of “observation” is to establish whether an infringement is occurring - e.g. is “unloading” really happening, or has the van-driver popped upstairs for a different reason.

5) New Forest National Park - proposed Conservation Area - “Western Escarpment”

By the time this report is read at Council, we will know whether I (as the relevant Ward Member), and your Council, have succeeded in claiming that the semi-rural residential area of Hangersley does not meet the criteria for Conservation Area status. Whatever this result, the NPA have already agreed that the possible loss of permitted development rights in the area should be specifically defined, both as to which right and to which property. (Otherwise the planning bureaucracy would escalate unmanageably!)

6) Developers’ Contributions to local Transport Infrastructure

Cabinet approved the policy of seeking Developers Contributions towards transport infrastructure for all approved planning applications for developments other than replacement dwellings. If such a Contribution can be shown to make an otherwise acceptable development uneconomic, provision has been made for Developers to argue their case for an exception.

7) Crow Hill, Ringwood.

The necessary steps have now been taken to name Crow Hill as Crow Hill. I am grateful for your Council’s support in this, as my neighbours and I are now quite certain where we live.