

**Ringwood Town Council Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009**  
**– a Report from District Councillor Chris Treleaven**

1) Public Examination of NFDC Core Strategy

Preliminary Hearing with the DCLG-appointed Inspector (Michael Hetherington) was held on Thursday last. Judging by the number of lawyers and developers present, the contentious issues at this stage look to be:- a) Dibden Bay strategic port issue (again!) and b) how to include into the housing targets the historically large proportion of “windfall” sites.

Formal proceedings scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Background papers, letters, representations etc are on NFDC website ref. “Core Strategy Public Examination”.

2) National Park Authority – Core Strategy/Management Plan – final version.

NPA are conducting consultative working parties/group sessions as part of their preparations for the submission document. Last week saw the turn of the local District Ward Councillors to have their say and both Cllr Ford and I attended. The now familiar topics of ‘zoning’, employment and tourist opportunities, affordable housing, traffic management measures and horse-keeping were discussed from equally familiar standpoints. I did detect an air of compromise on some issues, but we will wait to see!

3) Southampton Road Improvements

As your Council will be aware, the HCC Country Town Initiative programme is progressing to the draft plan stage. A public exhibition of the proposals will be displayed - with Officers present - in the former herbal medicine shop in Southampton Road on May 13<sup>th</sup> (10-8pm) and 16<sup>th</sup> (10-1pm).

4) Town Access Plan

The first formal meeting of the Steering Group was held on 21<sup>st</sup> April (with Deputy Town Clerk, Cllr Wiseman and myself present with HCC and NFDC Officers). The first task was to agree which community facilities within the Town should be prioritised for ensuring safe and sustainable access for all groups of our residents, with emphasis on walking and cycling routes. Any programme of improvements would, in the main, be funded from Developers’ Contributions. In view of some recent adverse Planning Appeals, where Transport Contributions were deemed unnecessary because the need for schemes had not been adequately specified, it is particularly important that the Town Access Plan defines clear and justified improvements necessary for the welfare of our residents, businesses and visitors.

5) Furlong Car Park – tendency to flood in the SE area

Many residents have complained that, following and during periods of heavy rain, the lower part of the car park sometimes floods. The whole park is serviced by soakaway drainage points, and a programme is now being undertaken progressively to clean these out. It should be pointed out that the cost of connecting these drains to the piped drainage system running within the Town would be prohibitive.

6) District Car Parks – feasibility of paying by phone

Our Parking Manager is compiling a feasibility study for improving our parking service by offering the opportunity to pay parking charges by mobile phone in place of the pay & display ticket. Visits to neighbouring authorities who offer this facility suggest considerable advantages to users.

(crt24thMarch)