

RESPONSE FROM RICHARD MARKER REGARDING HAYNE LANE DEVELOPMENT

I am responding to the request made in the leader article of the November Edition of the Gazette to comment on the proposals for development of part of the Combe Estate adjacent to Hayne Lane for both commercial and residential property.

I am sorry it is a bit lengthy, but I think it is important that I firstly explain the structure of the estate as I am sure many of your readers do not understand it.

Any development, acquisitions or sales of estate property are a matter upon which the Combe Estate Trustees decide. I am not a Trustee; rather I am custodian of the estate for my lifetime and am responsible for the day to day management of the estate.

The Trustees are the legal representative of the beneficiaries of Combe Estate and as such have a legal responsibility to look after the estate for the future generations who will inherit the estate.

The Trustees have objectives and there is an established estate strategy which sets certain objectives which include what is right for the Trustees, the family and of course the estate itself to include the environment and the people that live on and around it.

The only way the Estate can remain viable is to run it like a business. The main base of the Estate is agriculture and we are dedicated to invest into our farms and farm land to maintain this.

We are also committed to our residential portfolio to make sure it is well maintained and available to local families to live and work in the area.

Also we are committed to helping local initiatives and maintaining areas of open public space where and when we can. But to do all this we must remain profitable.

Therefore part of our strategy we must consider appropriate residential and commercial development where and when the opportunity arises.

The site at Hayne Lane is an example of this. Honiton has been identified as having a need for additional housing and the expansion of the Heathpark Industrial Estate.

The site at Hayne Lane has been identified by East Devon District Council as a potential site which could accommodate the expansion of Honiton. This opportunity therefore had to be considered by the Trustees as they have a duty to protect and where possible enhance the capital of the estate.

If there is going to be development in and around Honiton then in our opinion far better that it is carried out on estate land where we can actively control it and funds generated can be reinvested onto the estate than elsewhere where an individual landowner or consortium will take the money and run so to speak.

The Trustees have entered into a promotion agreement with Welbeck Strategic Land who have expertise and a proven track record in delivering well thought out planning consents for just such schemes.

I appreciate that there are those who are against any form of development but development like it or not is inevitable. I very much enjoy the countryside and country sports and would hate to see the destruction of the natural environment in the name of development.

Sometimes however one must identify where development can be accommodated. The site at Hayne Lane is not in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is not my place to comment of the consultation process as this was undertaken by Welbeck Strategic Land. What I will say is that I understand that every parishioner received an invitation to a consultation be it in either Honiton or Gittisham.

Charlotte Robinson of Welbeck Strategic Land stated:-

Welbeck Strategic Land take the public consultation process extremely seriously and welcome feedback from members of the community. In addition, to the event held in Gittisham two days of consultation were held in Honiton.

Furthermore Welbeck Strategic Land have attended two public parish council meetings.

The event held in Gittisham was held at the specific request of the parishioners and was arranged in addition to the events held in Honiton. If people could not attend the event they could email feedback and request a copy of the information boards.

The 5th of November was chosen as, amongst the dates upon which the village hall was free, this was the only one upon which the project team could also be available.

Unfortunately there is never a date that will suit everybody. We are firmly of the belief that there has been ample opportunity for interested parties to view and comment upon the proposals.

There will of course be further opportunity for comment once the application has been submitted.



CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT—by Carol McCann

This month our services will be 8th Parish Eucharist., 15th our Carol Service with coffee and mince pies at 11am, 22nd lay-led Morning Worship – non Eucharist Sunday service. We do not as yet know if we will have a Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day the First Communion of Christmas will be at 11am. On Sunday 29th there will not be a service in Gittisham, there is a joint service at St. Paul's at 10.00 if anyone would like a lift to Honiton please let me know. Our Christmas charity this year will be Chapter 1 Changing Lives One by One. This charity supports families in the East Devon area with issues concerning housing, health, welfare, etc. We usually collect for 2 charities covering children and housing and chapter 1 combines the two issues. The cash collections over Christmas, will go to the charity and this will include the Carols on the Green – once costs of the bar-b-q and mulled wine have been deducted. We are collecting toys for local poor children it would be helpful to those distributing them if they were left un-wrapped or in open gift bags so they can match each gift to a particular child. If you would like me to collect please let me know I will be taking them to the Children's Centre on Tuesday 10th. On Sunday 5th January there will be a joint Epiphany party at St. Paul's in Honiton. Gittisham children will be getting an invitation in due course, this parish is providing fruit platters for the tea plus a 10 layer pass the parcel and a table game suitable for all ages of child, with regard to the latter can anyone give me a few ideas for the game, it is a long time since I was a child!! At the churchwarden's meeting we were informed that Beverley our Team Reader is leaving Honiton and will be re-settling in Okehampton, we wish her well. Church Diaries will be available from me again this year.

GITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL – DECEMBER REPORT

Six parish councillors met for the December meeting. Cllr Sara Randall-Johnson (DCC) was also present.

EDDC / DCC Report. Susie Bond provided a report, despite her absence, explaining that Welbeck intended to put in a planning application before Christmas for the site west of Hayne Lane. Sara Randall-Johnson reminded members that DCC's draft financial budget had not yet been published. She also discussed proposals to dual the A30/303, as the region needs 2 good strategic routes, especially when the M5 was forced to close.

Crime. The police sent a report for the period since the last meeting they attended in September:

5th September: Male driver arrested for drink driving on A30.

10-11th September: Forced entry to shed and tools stolen. Theft from a car on private driveway. .

Finance. Members noted the finances this month.

Planning applications.

1. Land At Heathfield (Land East Of Hayne Lane) Residential development of up to 147 homes, new vehicular access from Sidmouth Road and Honeysuckle Drive and pedestrian, cycle and emergency access points, strategic landscaping and open space. Sara Randall-Johnson and David Valentine reminded members that this is an outline planning application, and therefore the final detailed design will not emerge until developer Gleeson gets outline consent (if this is granted). Sara Randall-Johnson advised members to outline all their objections at this stage, and she also suggested members propose what they would like to see on the site, should EDDC be minded to approve the outline application, e.g. doctors' surgery. Members discussed EDDC's draft Local Plan, which is due to come before the planning inspector in February 2014. As the plan period began in 2006, more than 200 homes have already been built or committed in Honiton, leaving only another 60 or so to meet the proposed number of dwellings allocated. Members therefore questioned the need to build so many houses, especially as they said more windfall sites would be coming forward. Their main objections to this application are that the site encroaches on the AONB and has potential issues in terms of highways. They felt that EDDC had not demonstrated exceptional need to build on an AONB and agreed that this application was contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework in that regard. Honiton Town Council has objected to this application along similar lines. Davids Fallows and Valentine agreed to circulate the parish council's revised response to members before sending to EDDC.

2. Kings Cottage Gittisham EX14 3AS Render repairs to external boundary wall. Members resolved to approve the application, subject to the use of appropriate conservation materials. David Fallows declared an interest, as his property shares a boundary wall.

Developments in neighbouring parishes. Members discussed the super enquiry at Feniton, which begins on 7th January 2014 and lasts two weeks. David Valentine agreed to go to the first day, and also to attend when the Inspector would invite members of the public to make comments. The two main threats for Gittisham parish for the three Feniton applications under review are education and health. Gittisham is in the catchment area for the primary school, and some parishioners use the same medical services as Feniton residents. A statement has been prepared which covered these issues. Feniton Parish Council has contracted three barristers to speak on its behalf for the three appeals, at a cost of £10,000. Members agreed in principle to offer Feniton £500 towards its legal costs, provided this was within the law. The clerk agreed to investigate.

Flood review. DCC is preparing a strategic review of flood issues within Devon. EDDC has asked for help in ensuring the details are up to date, so David Fallows agreed to find the information provided in the past. The clerk will send this, along with details of two properties flooded in 2012 – Eveleigh's and Crabbs Cottages. She also agreed to get in touch with Richard Rainbow from DCC, who prepared the data last time.

Salt bins. David Fallows said 11 salt bags had been delivered to the Vale.

Next meeting. This will be on Tuesday 7th January at 7.30pm. The council would like to wish all parishioners a happy Christmas.

HAZEL SNELL writes...

"I would like to thank everyone who sent me cards and good wishes which helped to make my 90th Birthday such a memorable one, and such fun spent with my family.

My 3 year old great-grandson, Harry, was deep in thought at the lunch table. When asked what he was thinking about, he replied— I'm thinking about what I am going to think about for the next ten minutes!!

Thank you for your warm friendship which greeted me when I first came to Gittisham nearly 30 years ago and which I have always appreciated."

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!

We have given the leader space over to a Christmas poem this year...no doubt many of our readers will think that The Editor had enjoyed a few glasses of 'festive punch' before typing the poem! No, if you look carefully you will see that it was written by a 17th century poet and we have kept the spelling exactly as written! As we look back over the past 12 months we think about all the events that have taken place in our community...another Panto, Salsa classes, a change to our bus services, Helen Hayman climbing 3 peaks, the Fete with Cool Runnings, the Flower and Produce show, the Harvest Festival and many, many more! What a summer it has been, with sunny days just like the ones so many of us remember from summers in our childhood. When we celebrate Christmas, let us give thanks for our community.

THE UDDER SIDE OF THE HEDGE by Carla Hulbert

I added 'write gazette article' onto my 'to-do-list'. A list that always seems to get longer rather than shorter and that jobs often get added to the top rather than the bottom. I had to write a list of young stock heifers which went to the bull ready for milk recording, along with all the other information the recorder needed. All the Tesco scoring was also needed – mobility scores, condition (fat/thin cows), cleanliness scores and any abrasions on hocks along with antibiotic uses. I'm still struggling to get on top of the issues with our heattime collars which help us spot bulling cows through an increase in their activity. A list of all cows with collars on, a list of those who are pregnant and don't really need them on anymore, a list of faulty collars and a list of cows needing collars putting on. Last Thursday we had 20 cows for insemination (another list) – we have an A-I technician come on a daily basis to inseminate cows that are bulling, there's rarely a day we don't have any but 20 is a lot. I also dried off 18 cows which then meant making lists of cows to shuffle around to fill the gaps in their cubicle shed. I was able to move cows from the heifer group and the 'highs' group into the 'lows'. There they will have a reduced ration of food as they are further in calf and their milk production will naturally drop off ready to be dried off. Our foot-trimmer comes fortnightly and will trim the feet of around 40 cows in a day. Some require treatment for dermatitis and have medicated bandages put on which I must remove after about 48 hours (more lists!). Next I guess I must think about writing Christmas cards, presents etc etc. Maybe I should take the time to write my Christmas list for Santa.

Email received by Fiona Clampin, the Parish Clerk.

I was recently in Gibraltar and visited the Great Siege Tunnels. I always try and make a video of everywhere I go and, in researching "A Much Less Boring Video (302 yards)- The Great Siege Tunnels of Gibraltar" I discovered the man credited with the decision to create the tunnels was one Henry Ince of Penzance, who is mentioned in that video. He was buried in Gittisham (which I've mentioned in a comment). Is Henry's story well known locally? Best wishes, Tony (Cornishpastyman1) St Ives. If you would like to contact Tony his email address is - cortina26@talktalk.net

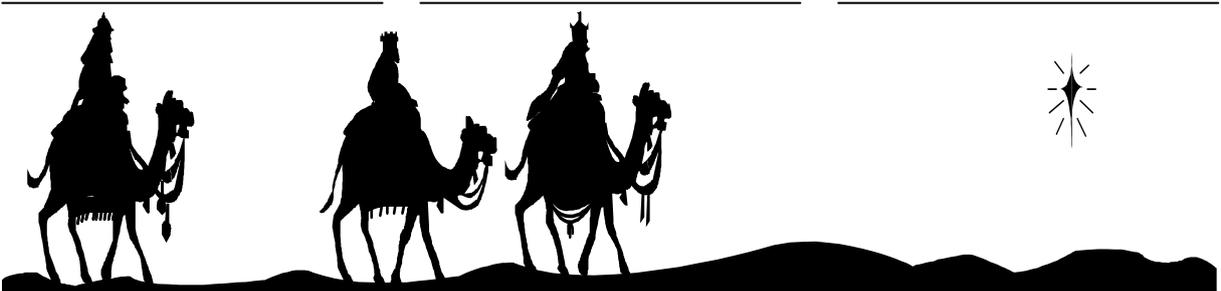
TO GIVE

Polly, at Gittisham Vale, has a 3ft single mattress which she no longer needs. It is not new but is in very good condition. If anyone is interested, and is able to collect it, please ring her on 01404 44910.

DEADLINE IS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY DAY OF EACH MONTH.

Please contact one of the editorial team below if you would like something to be included in this publication.

- Carol McCann 851113
- Barbara Mullett 851255
- Jan Sutcliffe 851255
- Doreen Wensley 45774
- Ernie Wensley 45774



WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE BEARING GIFTS WE TRAVEL AFAR...



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Christmas is come and every hearth makes room to give him welcome now
 Een want will dry its fears in mirth and crown him wi a holly bough
 Tho tramping neath a winters sky oer snow track paths and ryhmey stiles
 The huswife sets her spinning bye and bids him welcome wi her smiles
 Neighbours resume their annual cheer wishing wi smiles and spirits high
 Glad christmass and a happy year to every morning passer bye
 Milk maids their christmass journeys go accompanyd wi favoured swain
 And children pace the crumping snow to taste their grannys cake again.

From The Shepherd's Calendar by John Clarke 1609-1676



DATES FOR THE DIARY

December 14th - 'Let's Make Music' concert in Gittisham Church at 6.30pm. This is being held for the second year at popular demand! We hope to see you all for this most enjoyable evening of entertainment. If you would like to participate please contact Helen Hayman on 07806480246

December 20th - Stage Right 'Mummers' Play in the Village Hall at 6.00pm. Yule Log and Christmas Punch will be available. Come along and support the Children's Theatre Group in their first production.

January 5th—Epiphany Party at St. Paul's from 3 – 5pm – see the Church Wardens' report for details.

January 18th—"Keep the Home Fires Burning" at The Manor Pavilion Theatre, Sidmouth. Matinee and evening. Ring the theatre box office for tickets £10. Tel: 01395 514413

200 Club

The winners this month were:

- 1st Prize Mr D Weston
- 2nd Prize Mr & Mrs House
- 3rd Prize Mr R Kallmeier
- 4th Prize Mr B Gilling
- 5th Prize Mrs S James

CHURCH

ARRANGEMENTS.

December 15th at 11.00am Carol Service with mince pies.

December 22nd at 6.00pm All welcome for carols on The Green with Bar-B-Q

December 24th at 11.30 p.m. It is hoped that we can have the services of a vicar, however this may have to turn into a lay-led Midnight Mass

December 25th CHRISTMAS DAY Family Service at **11.00** to enable us to have a clergy-led service.

December 29th—No service in the village—there will be a team service at St Paul's in Honiton at 10.00am. Let Carol know if you need a lift.

January 5th— Christingle service at 11.00am for Epiphany with Eucharist and refreshments. at 11 a.m. Christingles should be made up on Saturday 4th please. If children could come and help at 2.30pm hopefully in the room up the lane near my gate...please let me know if you can come along.

Carol McCann—01404 851113

HOLY DUSTERS for December

Carol McCann, Pam Chown
Terry Boswell, Carol Hall

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

DOROTHY CHAPMAN, of Town Farm Buildings, died in hospital on 28th November. Dot, as she was known, had been suffering from pneumonia. We send Frank our love and condolences to the family. The funeral service and burial will be held at 11.30 on Wednesday 11th December at the parish church. Family flowers only; donations to the NHS Foundation Trust, RD&E.

HAZEL SNELL, celebrated a special birthday recently...90th. We are delighted to wish her many belated Birthday Wishes and hope she will celebrate lots more in the coming years!

SARA TRUMPER is raising money for Cancer Research UK by giving up alcohol during the month of January! Well done, Sara...how about more people joining her so that it becomes a parish effort? Contact Sara for more information.

YEAR'S MIND—DECEMBER

Ron Blackmore
 Merlyn Broadhurst
 Marjorie Clapp
 Kenneth Clapp
 Basil Hayman
 Andrew Hill
 Barbara Mitchell
 Clive Partridge
 Dorothy Smith