

Mere Parish Council

PARISH CLERK - MRS. L. C. WOOD

CLERKS REPORT – July 2013

Agenda Items

5 b) Replacing yellow lines – Cllr. Jeans has reported that, at a recent CATG meeting, it was confirmed that the yellow lines should be repainted by mid September.

8a) Request for small firework display for Mere School at Duchy Manor Sports Grounds on 3rd November – Mr. Bill Deeker has sent me the following email: *'It has been suggested by the PTA that we put on a small display for the school on Sunday 3rd November. Before going any further with the idea we wanted to ask the Parish Council if they were happy we do this in principal before we then seek official permission from the County Council?*

Perhaps you could seek some feed back or put it to the next meeting?

The idea is to simplify the event in to a 1 ½ hour bonfire night, firing the display at 6pm 'ish with some small refreshment provision and selling tickets on the gate. It would be advertised through the school only and principally aimed at the children and their families. The emphasis of the show would be for children with smaller fireworks than have been seen in recent years.

We are also considering the idea of a small 6ft bonfire mounted on corrugated iron raised off the ground on blocks with a sand bed underneath to protect the ground from the heat. This will make the clear up easier afterwards and prevent damage to the ground that we may decide to put it on – all depending on the response from the Parish and County Councils.

I will be in charge of the event and firing of the fireworks.

I Look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have.'

9a) Requested cycleway between Mere & Zeals – Mr. Coad from Zeals has sent the following suggestion to Wiltshire Council, via CLARENCE : *'I read in today's paper that the Council are 'teaming up with Sky Cycling to encourage young and old to get back in the saddle'.*

May I suggest that you at Highways adapt the greatly underused footpath from Mere to Zeals into a combined pedestrian & cyclist path? Traffic on the B3092 from Mere moves rapidly when cyclists are grinding up the slope, and to get off the main highway would make for much greater cyclist security and remove any impediment to car and lorry traffic.

This would not be a major expense – indeed from Zeals to the 3092/bridge is already up to pedestrian w cycle path specification. Such small investment would be a clear sign that the Council is serious about cycling and not just grasping at PR stunts'.

Rebecca M'Zadeh has advised Mr. Coad: *"This issue is one which can be brought to the Community Area Transport Group meeting on your behalf by your local Parish Council. I have copied in Mrs Lindsey Wood of Mere Parish Council and Mr Philip Knott of Zeals Parish Council for their information and further action."*

9b) Consultation – Proposed changes to the Connect2 Wiltshire Taxibuzz services in the Mere area – please see attached documents

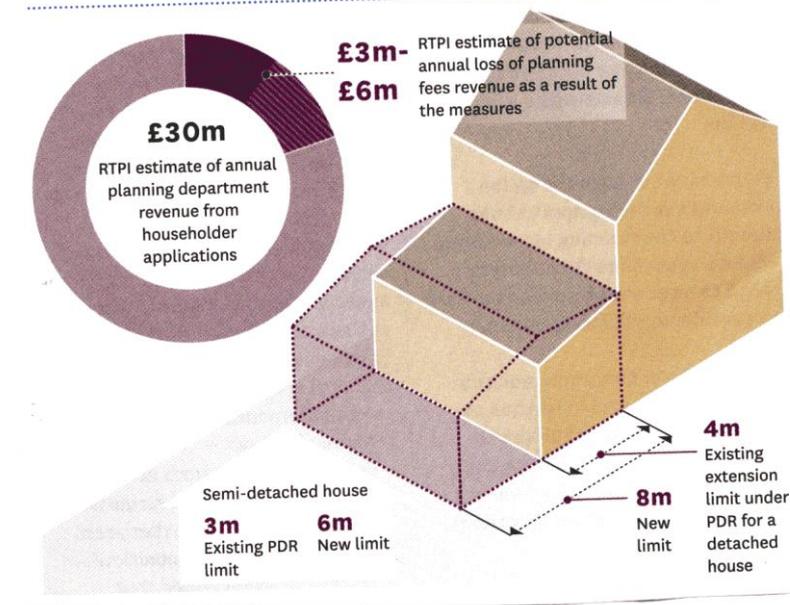
Information Items

Revised Planning Rules for Home Extensions – relaxation of Permitted Development Rights (PDR)

Cllr. David Hope has prepared these notes on the revised planning rules for home extensions for the next three years, under the Growth and Infrastructure Act. He says: "As you will see, the size of single storey extensions that can be built without planning permission is going to double. I share the view, expressed by some local authority representatives, that this effectively amounts to a planning application without a planning fee. Whereas the Parish Council would be consulted on a planning application, it is not clear whether we would be invited to express a view under the new relaxed rules when there are neighbour objections."

The Growth and Infrastructure Act (April 2013) relaxes PDR rights for home extensions for three years, doubling the size of single-storey extensions that can be built without applying for planning permission:

IN FIGURES: IMPACT OF THE NEW RULES



The legislation has been amended to introduce “a light-touch neighbours’ consultation scheme”. Homeowners wanting to build under the new rules have to tell their local planning authority, with plans and written descriptions, but they would not need to pay a planning fee. The authority (Wiltshire Council) must then tell immediate neighbours, who would have 21 days to object. If they did object, then the Council would have to decide whether the impact of the extension on the neighbours’ amenity is acceptable. The government is to assess the potential cost impact of the proposal whilst it prepares secondary legislation for the relaxed PDR.

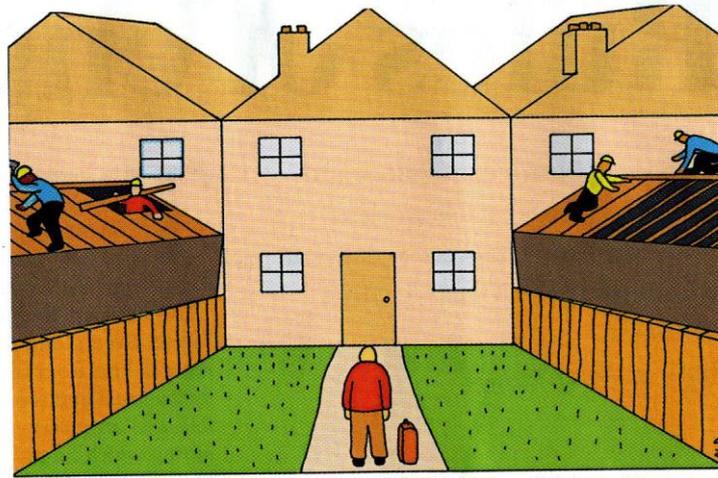
Local authority representatives have disputed the government’s claim that the relaxed PDR rules will save money, claiming that:

- If a neighbour objects, then the new process would not be much cheaper or quicker than a normal householder planning application
- It is effectively a planning application but without a fee. It gives councils a lot of work with no more resources to deal with it.

There is also concern that neighbours who are away during the 21-day period would not be able to object to plans for extensions that they did not like.

ANOTHER VIEW

by OLD



JOHN REGRETTED EXTENDING
HIS HOLIDAY TO 21 DAYS

There will be an appeals process. If the Council refuses permission, homeowners can appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.

The neighbours' consultation scheme will only apply to the Growth and Infrastructure Act's householder PDR – it will not apply to homeowners wanting to build extensions within the current PDR limits, or the new rules on conversions from commercial to residential.

Source: *Planning* (3 May 2013) – The Journal of the Royal Town Planning Institute - Haymarket Business Media Ltd, London

David Hope

6 May 2013