Trysull and Seisdon Parish Council (May 2020 Cllr. AHS)

Working in Unity

The planning application (19/00036/OUT) proposing to build 49 houses on the Landfill in Seisdon was finally defeated at the District planning meeting held on the evening of the 19th May 2020. The Planning Committee voted unanimously against the application.

The Parish Council (acting as statutory consultees) will always apply the necessary due diligence to each and every planning application. Our considered comments, with those of other consultees, are made public and forwarded to our District Council. It is the District Council Planning Committee that then decides on planning matters.

The process is often frustrating for both tiers of Council because no matter how undesirable a planning application may appear, if it remains compliant with current planning legislation and adopted Core Strategy (local planning policies) then District's hands are tied. This was indeed the case with the 'Plough'. In spite of the Parish Council's most strenuous objections to District and sending a representative to speak at their planning meeting on behalf of concerned residents, the plan was found to be policy compliant.

The landfill application for 49 houses brought another dimension of concern. The impact on the landscape of Seisdon would have been significant, if not ruinous. The Parish Council set to work on their objection strategy to this plan over a year ago in May 2019. It circulated over 400 leaflets in both wards (at the personal cost of Parish Councillors) raising awareness and offering residents detailed advice on how too they could register their own objections.

Parish Councillors spent considerable hours scrutinising the various planning documents, comparing each paragraph with the Core Strategy policies in order to find inconsistencies that would form the basis for our technical objections.

District Councillors commended the district planning officer on the first class report prepared for them on this application. This report also referred to the Parish Council's representations as 'comprehensive'. Again personal representations of a Parish Councillor were also read out at the planning meeting in objection to this plan.

We would wish to thank, most sincerely, all of the 45 individuals who heeded the call and forwarded their own objection letters in support of this campaign. Your time and effort is very much appreciated by the Parish Council.

Our thanks too, as always, to our very diligent District Councillor who has made considerable representations at District level over the last year on this matter and also spoke most eloquently on our behalf at the planning meeting.

Should this decision be appealed, as is the right of the applicant, the Parish Council may not have any involvement in this process.

However, let this not distract from this a fine example of correctly engaging in the democratic process and what can and has been achieved here by residents, Parish and District Councillors working in unity.