



Issue No 54
Summer 2015

Update on Barrett's Stobhill Development



Recently Philip Ashmore met with 3 representatives of Barratt, together with our County Councillors Glen Sanderson and Ian Lindley, Mark Ketley of Northumberland County Council (NCC) Planning and Alison Byard, who was part of the Hepscott and Morpeth Together group that opposed Barratt's proposals at Stobhill.

The purpose of the meeting was to be "good neighbours," Barratt said and to keep us informed of progress on the development. This approach was welcomed.

The timescale of the whole development was to be about 7-8 years Barratt said and work was due to start in July –but this might "slip." Progress will depend on house sales. The roads would go in first and the Sales Area would be next. This is to be situated roughly opposite Collingwood School. The first phase of housing will follow and run from the Sales Area to Stobhill roundabout. There is a proportion of affordable housing and some of that will be put in place early in the programme.

Barratt will try to recruit locally they said and it was important that the site as a building site was to be of minimum impact on the neighbourhood.

There are over 20 pre-conditions (e.g. SUDS design and sewerage) that need to be met before the work can commence, but Barratt is confident that these will be met following discussions with NCC. They have only recently submitted their "package of proposals" to NCC to satisfy ("discharge") these conditions.

The next meeting with Barratt is due "about mid-June."

PARISH COUNCIL Annual Report

This year we spent much time in opposition to Barratt's proposals at Stobhill and lost that battle. 40 acres of lovely fields will this year bear their final crop before being covered with housing. But the important thing is that we learned such a lot from that campaign. Now we must divert our energies and try to prevent more developers coming along to ruin the green surrounds of our Parish or to absorb our Parish into a southern suburb of Morpeth.

That is why the time Hepscott Parish Council spent in the last year on the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) is now more important, not less. The good news is that a recent legal case means that our Neighbourhood Plan can continue to "gain weight" in planning terms even before the County's Core Strategy is adopted. So thanks to everyone who supported the MNP's Consultation in January and February. Our participation was vitally important and Hepscott continued its record of punching above its weight, supplying more than 10% of the consultation input from only 5% of the MNP area. The start of the Northern By-Pass in February is a further piece of evidence that putting the majority of our new housing to the north of Morpeth, as proposed by MNP, is the sustainable way to go. The MNP is to be submitted to County on Friday 29 May for Independent Examination—after that it is out of our hands. All being well it will be the subject of a referendum in October/November.

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Views from County Hall

Glen Sanderson: County Councillor for Hepscott Village

Things have been quieter on the County Council front over the past month or so because of the election. That said, I have remained busy dealing with a range of issues - which have largely been dealt with thanks to helpful Council staff.

I was glad that the road surfacing repairs that I requested were carried out and have made an improvement

The arrangements for the two speed signs are in the final stages - these will be paid for from my councillors special schemes budget and although expensive should make a difference to the speeding traffic problem.

Hopefully they should be up and running by the late summer.

I have been working closely as usual with the Parish Council and have a very good working relationship with the chair and members of the council

If you have any problems or queries or want some help with Council matters please get in touch anytime.

glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk or 07730 979737



Ian Lindley: County Councillor for Morpeth (Stobhill Div.) including Hepscott Ward of Stobhill Manor

More developer pressure in Stobhill – There is another application in to fill the bit of green space opposite Choppington Road (and opposite the recently-approved 396 house development at Stobhill Manor). I am working to have this rejected – just as we had a similar application rejected. This is designated as protected open space in the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan so this is another opportunistic attempt to take advantage of the time gap whilst the lengthy legal process to have the MNP formally adopted is grinding on.

If you agree that this should be turned down please have a look at NCC's website (Planning application no. 15/01485/OUT). My own main reasons are loss of amenity, overdevelopment and detrimental impact on the streetscene generally.

Greenspaces and Streetscape - I am working for more funding to ensure **Groundwork** will continue to be able to deliver small but important improvement works across Stobhill (things like flower tubs). A good recent example is the new gate we have put in to give residents of **Jobling Crescent** access to Shields road and local shops. Remember I can often find funding for minor improvements of all kinds so please let me know if you have any ideas.

The **Community Link shop** (open to all) on Shields Road has been refurbished and extended, with new equipment:- thanks to my small schemes fund. This means even better CV and employment preparation help, computer training, Handyman service, Credit Union, free paint, wallpaper and advice services for residents. If you or anyone you know could benefit from any of these services, please contact Brooke Burgess (519575). Also we are developing a community allotment working with volunteers (on the slope at Allery Banks) – if you are interested or could help in any way call Lesley Twedde on the same number

Station Parking - People are getting fines or notices for illegal parking (**Kingswell, Low Stobhill** etc.) The only way to stop this fairly is to solve the station parking capacity, so people don't need to park badly just to catch a train. So I am working for more **parking spaces** at the station.

I have got agreement to install improved **lighting** before the end of June in **Jobling Crescent** – It is unsafe due to being under-lit in key places and this can be dangerous especially for elderly and disabled residents.

I've been working to have **9th Ave field** developed (new baby playground, adult exercise facilities, nice gardens, football practice area, teen space etc) since 2009 and we now have outline designs and partners NCC, ISOS, Groundwork, etc. Funding exists (including a contribution from Barratt's and my own NCC funding). Over the next two years we will be developing this area in phases, to make a really good resource out of this desolate field. Ideas have been shown to the Town Council who are supportive. There will be further consultation on design detail soon - please get involved!

Please contact me anytime, about anything.

Ian Lindley (07833293718)

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

With summer just around the corner the hall management committee are toying with the idea of resurrecting the summer barbeque in the field behind the hall this time hopefully without the rain. A date has not finalised yet but it may be in August. Please look out for more information on the board outside the hall.

The first summer coffee morning was held 23rd May and it was a great success. A big thank you to Carol and Joan for the lovely cakes they donated (they make exceedingly good cakes).

The hall continues to be as popular as ever with both private hire and various clubs. Also very popular are the events and shows that are performed with the Highlights Touring Groups, the performers being of a high professional standard. We have two more shows coming in the Autumn:- one is a return visit, namely Morgan & West, two young men who perform an amazing magic act. The other is a trio of guitar players so again watch this space.

Mu's quiz is the next event. This is always noisy but very entertaining so make up a team. You never know, it may be you who wins the bottle of wine and bragging rights this time, tickets are £3.50 bring your own booze and snacks (nibbles supplied).

Back by popular demand is Ernie Coe. Ernie's Northumbrian Night in February was so well attended that we ran out of tickets and space, so for the people who didn't manage to get a ticket we have rebooked him. I must say even though he is not coming until September more than half the tickets are gone already.

And at long last the extra parking space is ready for use so hopefully there will be no more congestion on the road outside the hall.

Dates for future events

Mu's Quiz Friday June 19th
 Barbeque August
 Northumbrian Night Friday 25th September



100 club winners

February

1st, Mrs K J Scott, 2nd, Mr and Mrs J Lewis, 3rd, Mr and Mrs C Sellers

March

1st, Mr and Mrs Cocking, 2nd, Mr P Hodgson, 3rd, Mrs M Tate

April

1st, Mrs E Jeffrey, 2nd, Mr and Mrs N Hetherington, 3rd Mrs J Kirkpatrick

May

1st, Mr and Mrs W Moran, 2nd Mrs D Robson, 3rd Mrs J Raine



Morpeth and District Red Squirrels



All recent reports of squirrels in the village have been of greys, but thank you to all who have been vigilant in reporting them.

Between us myself and Matt, from Hepscott Pest Control, have been busy controlling them. To report a sighting please use either my number 01670 515504 or the MAD RS mobile number 07570 897979

Kate Weightman

Hepscott Women's Institute

As events marking the centenary of the W.I. take place throughout the country, Hepscott members have been busy enjoying those in our area. The big event for the Northern Federations was a magnificent craft exhibition entitled "A Hundred Shades of Green" at Kiplin Hall in North Yorkshire. Twenty four of us travelled down by coach to admire the skill of the work on display, especially the cushion and contribution to a wall hanging made by our own President, Lynda Wadge. We also enjoyed the treats of lunch and afternoon tea - so a great day out!

Four of our members, Margery, Elaine, Dorothy and Carol have been chosen to attend the W.I. Garden Party at Buckingham Palace and with outfits bought, hotels booked and rail tickets reserved are raring to go!

As our personal contribution to the celebrations, Hepscott W.I. have planted a crab apple tree in the orchard next to the village hall for the continuing enjoyment of the people of Hepscott.

Our meetings have been varied in topic and venue: two members of the Northumbria Blood Bikers told us about the wonderful and essential work they do, John Robertson gave us an insight into the "Lethal Lovelies" in our gardens and we watched a cookery demonstration of "Food for Easter" using lots of seasonal eggs and chocolate - and then had the joy of tasting it all! Several members enjoyed a "Last Night of the Proms" atmosphere, waving their flags as Ellington Colliery Band played rousing tunes at the East Coast Meeting. In April we celebrated our eighth birthday with cake and candles and are now looking forward to the summer programme of speakers and our famous summer party.

If this catches your imagination and you think it sounds fun please join us at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month at the village hall.

Sandra Armstrong

More from the Parish Council

The year has seen many other village issues handled by the Parish Council. We were consulted on about 20 Parish planning applications and gave our views that hopefully reflected the Parish's; we further gave our views to many County Planning Committees in meetings in Alnwick. Every time our views have been sought by NCC we have responded and hopefully reflected the interests of the Parish. No one can say that Hepscott does not have a voice on issues like County Hall; the County's Core Strategy and their Flooding Strategy and attempts to revamp the Planning System. And thanks to support from our County Councillors we also had the village road resurfaced and will be getting new interactive speed signs on the A192. In the last year HPC has tried hard to serve the interests of the Parish and will continue to do so into 2016.

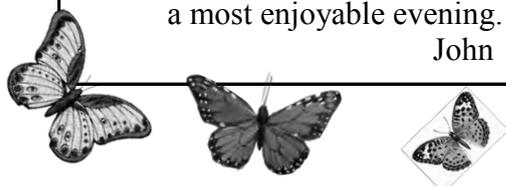
My great thanks go to all who made the Parish Council work so well this last year: to the team of councillors that has worked so hard and offered great support to me; to the people of Hepscott Parish who have been active and supportive in ways that I don't see in many other parishes; to our excellent Clerk Sylvia who has taken to her role like a duck to water; and to our County Councillors, Glen Sanderson and Ian Lindley. A special thank you to Merle Heppell and Hollie Ross who have been Parish Councillors for the last 2 years and are leaving the Council. Welcome Carolyn Reid and Malcolm Paton, our new Councillors.
Phil Ashmore—Chair

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HEPSCOTT HERITAGE GROUP

Many thanks to all involved with organising and promoting 'The Recruiting Sergeant' in March—a most enjoyable evening.
John



I'm Claire, an Independent Cambridge Weight Plan Consultant and I live in Hepscott.

I offer 1-1 private support for your weight loss journey. Whether it be a few stones or a few lbs. you'd like to lose.

Contact me for more info.

Tel: 07860 617006

Email: claire1571@sky.com

The Hepscott Herald is a community newsletter provided by Hepscott Parish Council. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the council or the editors. Whilst every effort is taken to check accuracy of the information contained herein, no responsibility can be taken for errors or omissions.

Regular activities in the Parish Hall

Mondays

Hepscott Quilters	10.00 a.m.
Tai Chi	6.30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Bridge Classes	10.00 a.m.
W.I. 3 rd in month	7.30 p.m.
Village Tea	
Last in month	2.00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Yoga Class	7.00 p.m.
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Thursdays

Art at Hepscott	9.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.
Bridge for All	1.30 p.m.
Parish Council	6.30 p.m.
3 rd in month bi-monthly.	
Bridge Class	7.00 p.m.

Friday

Keep Fit	10.30 a.m.
Bridge for All	1.30 p.m.

Saturday

2nd in month	
Chatterbox Quilters	9.30 a.m.
Orchard Work Session	
Lst in month	10.00 a.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PLEASE WATCH NOTICE BOARDS FOR DETAILS

JUNE

Hall Management Committee
Muriel's Quiz Night
Friday 19 June 7.30 p.m.

JULY

Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 16 July 6.30 p.m.

AUGUST

Hall Management Committee
A Barbeque tba

SEPTEMBER

Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 17 September 6.30 p.m.

Hall Management Committee
Northumbrian Night with Ernie Coe and Friends
Friday 25 September 7.30 p.m.

HEPSCOTT HERALD DEADLINE

Friday 25 September 2015

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