

Nash Mills Parish Council - Borough Councillor Report - October 2020

It has been another very busy month, particularly with local residents' issues that I have been working on, enforcement, planning and the ongoing problems in Nash Mills Wharf. Please don't hesitate to ask about anything I may have missed.

Nash House

I have 'called in' the latest application for Nash House and have made my feelings very clear to the planning officer regarding this. If he is minded to approve it, it will be sent to Development Management Committee and I will be speaking strongly in objection.

Nash Mills Wharf

The original weir (at the junction where the inlet comes from the canal) suffered 2 collapses in the last couple of weeks. The first culminated in the canal being drained between Apsley Lock (#67) and Nash Mills Lock (#68) and the boats sitting on the bottom. The issue turned out to be caused by the temporary dam at the old weir, just above lock #68, which had given way. I contacted Canal & River Trust (CRT) and it was resolved very quickly. Then on Weds 8th October a concrete ledge over the top of this same weir/temporary dam had caved in. This was caused by the sheer volume of water due to the heavy rainfall over the last week. I spoke to CRT again and they told me that the water levels were the highest they have ever been. They visited the site and are keeping a close eye on the situation. They are putting more pressure on the developer and the Environment Agency to resolve the issues at the weir site. I am also in regular contact with the Enforcement team at DBC regarding the shortcomings of the developer on the site and they are following up on some of the outstanding issues.

The Denes

- Empty unit – At the time of writing this report I am still awaiting a firm update on the empty unit, but I have again requested an update from DBC's Estates team.
- CCTV – This was due to be on the parish agenda in October but due to the number of items deferred from September will need to be pushed back to November
- I have received complaints from residents that the recycling bins at the shops are being misused and there is no space to put their rubbish. I am investigating this with the CCTV team at DBC and have asked the residents to keep a diary of when they are filled so we can easily check the CCTV.

Hospital Campaign

The West Herts Hospitals Trust and Herts Valleys CCG voted unanimously last week to rebuild/refurb the Watford site. Dacorum Council, Sir Mike Penning MP and The New Hospital Campaign Group (of which I am a member) are united in our opposition to this decision. We are working together to challenge it, and our Judicial Review is due to be heard in the High Court later this month.

Various

- Noise issues reported:
 - Barnacres – motorbikes speeding up and down the road late into the night
 - Building works – various building schemes are creating noise disturbance
 - Emergency electrical repairs in Nash Green – a loud generator was causing a noise nuisance
- Unlawful advertising – there are various examples of unlawful advertising around Nash Mills and these are reported regularly, including two Enforcement cases that I am dealing with
- Land at the rear of 292 Belswains Lane – Following the recent burglary I have been in contact with Enforcement to ask them to persist with enforcing this derelict plot of land, as it seems to be an area for antisocial behaviour
- School Appeal – I represented a local family in a school appeal this week

Team Nash Mills – Ready to Go!

Team Nash Mills is standing by to help local people with shopping, prescription collections etc. I intend to put out a newsletter in the next week or two (depending on restrictions), to remind local residents that we are here.

Summary

Everything is still very busy and people are anxious about further restrictions. If anyone needs help then please don't hesitate to contact me.

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