

Nash Mills Parish Council – Borough Councillor Report – February 2021

Nash Mills Wharf

The weir is now properly repaired and water is flowing through the site beautifully. At some point the water will have to be stopped again for a short period while they resolve the fish pass issue. The 'Mill Canal' that flows through the site has been tidied up as a temporary measure, and when this is drained again for the fish pass (planned for May) they will repair the channel, clear and sort the landscaping to bring it into line with the approved plans at this time.

The overflow car park is closed for 9+ days as from today while they refurbish it. Once the work is done they will be selling permits for the car park. Frustratingly the residents don't appear to have been informed of this, or how to buy a permit, although I understand that Vistry have been told by Chamonix that they have done this... I am chasing for a further update. Today the NMW Facebook group has been filled with discussion about this - selling permits is not proving popular, especially when the residents have been given no explanation, so this may cause a greater burden on the local area if the residents don't buy permits. Once the car park 'lake' is drained it will have a capacity of 72, so this will hopefully take more cars off Red Lion Lane if the permits discussion gets resolved. I have made arrangements with the village hall committee to enable parking for 22 cars in their car park, and this was taken up very quickly, 22 cars were successfully booked in and moved into the car park yesterday (Sunday) in readiness.

Milbor Site

Milbor works have started, with the removal of part of the roof and asbestos. Unfortunately, the developer hasn't responded to my attempts to contact them regarding the site not being secure, and also regarding various concerns of local residents. I have raised the issues with DBC and they are doing all they can. Frustratingly, the removal of the asbestos/roof isn't considered development in planning terms, but DBC have requested that any local residents should raise their concerns with them, and also with the HSE. I am still trying to get hold of the developer.

Nash House

On 20th January I wrote a very long missive to DBC regarding all the issues in Nash House. I have just received a very detailed reply which has raised further questions, so I will be having a further meeting with the enforcement team tomorrow and will be happy to update NMPC verbally at the meeting.

There are still no bins for the residents, who have been asked to put black sacks of all (unsorted) rubbish in the wooden bin stores. I emailed DBC on 20th January about this and as I hadn't heard back today I have spoken to Waste Services and followed up with an email, with an urgent request to deal with it as it is an environmental issue.

Georgewood Road Steps

DBC's main maintenance contractor, Osborne's, have been instructed to repair the steps as soon as possible. I chased this today and was told that one of the outside maintenance teams is currently stood down due to a Covid situation, but they have the repair on their books and are hoping it will be done before the end of February, Covid and weather permitting.

The lighting of the footpath is more difficult to resolve. There is no budget for this at DBC anyway, but as there is a streetlight at the top and one at the bottom of the steps, and that it isn't much further to walk round the pavement, this is something that DBC wouldn't be able to prioritise. I asked what the cost was likely to be and was told they hadn't costed it, but as a guess it may be even around £15,000, although they made it clear this was really just a guess.

Gade Tower

I have again chased the waste services department for an answer about the issues with the bins at Gade Tower. I will give a verbal update at the parish council meeting if I receive an update.

Skip in Chambersbury Lane

Having spoken to DBC Enforcement, I decided that the easiest way to get the skip removed would be to contact the skip company, so I called him on Thursday 21st January. He gave his word it would be moved on Monday 25th and it was removed as promised! The skip firm owner was under the impression the skip was on the mouth of the drive, so was surprised when I explained that it was on a grass verge!

Nash Mills MOT Centre

This MOT centre is the subject of an enforcement notice to remove the unapproved signage on the buildings and in the front garden. I chased Enforcement, who has discussed this with the owner and it was agreed that they will remove the signage on the buildings immediately, but they have negotiated a slightly longer time to remove the totem sign in the front garden, although they will comply as soon as they possibly can.

Barnacres Road – trading cars

Trading Standards are looking into an unlicensed used car sales business in Barnacres Road.

Grit Bin – Bunkers Lane

Following our clerk's investigations regarding responsibilities and liabilities regarding the placement of a grit bin, owned by the parish council, on land owned by LPRA, we are awaiting a decision by LPRA.

Highbarns

I have received confirmation from DBC that the road sign, removed from the corner of Highbarns, will be reinstated in the next week or two.

Kingfisher Drive Parking Bays

Following a question from a local resident to the parish clerk, Cllr Briggs and me, I have been looking into the ownership of the parking bays in Kingfisher Drive, with the help of DBC. This has proved to be a complex issue with two parties claiming responsibility for some of them. I am waiting for Herts Highways to clarify whether they own the bays opposite numbers 8-16 Kingfisher Drive.

Jan Maddern

Dacorum Borough Councillor, Nash Mills

1.2.2021