

Nash Mills Parish Council – Borough Councillor Report – March 2021

Nash Mills Wharf

The car park is now completed, after a delay caused by covid and also complications regarding the flooding. The fobs are hopefully being programmed by the middle of the week and the fobs will then be sent out. Permits are now being issued for the underground car park.

I met with Sir Mike Penning, and the MDs of Vistry Midlands/South East and Crest Nicholson last Wednesday, with regard to the parking issues on Red Lion Lane. We have asked them to work out the cost that they paid for the small piece of land we are discussing, so we can plan a way forward, and we will be reconvening on Wednesday 17th to look for a way forward.

Milbor Site

For several months I have been trying, along with local residents, to find a way of forcing the developer to secure the site. Enforcement, planning, and even the Health & Safety Executive were unable to take responsibility of this, and it has been incredibly frustrating as the site is clearly a very dangerous 'playground' for children who had free access to it. Following a call from P/Cllr Briggs last Wednesday, who reported some children on site, I spoke to Joe Guiton at DBC regarding site security. Joe is the manager of the department that deals with antisocial behaviour, and after a lengthy discussion about what we can do to force the developer to secure the site, he very helpfully contacted Herts Building Control. They visited the site on Thursday, and by Saturday a 2m high fence had been erected. There are still further issues with the site, but at least they have secured the perimeter.

Nash House

The battle of Nash House is ongoing, parking spaces have been marked out, but not in accordance with the approved plans, and the developer is challenging our claim that the basement flat is not being built in accordance with their – still unapproved – plans.

At last, I have managed to arrange for bins to be delivered to Nash House, although I have received a report in the last few days to tell me that there is not yet a complete set of bins. I will be chasing this to find out what is happening.

Georgewood Road Steps

Osborne's reported last week that the steps were now repaired. The very helpful team leader at DBC went to inspect them and reported back to me that it was the worst repair he's ever seen! DBC have now commissioned a full refurbishment (rather than a simple repair) on the steps and this is being done as a matter of urgency, as the surveyor has declared them unsafe.

Gade Tower

I have been assured by Waste Services at DBC that the bin issue at Gade Tower is now resolved, with the bins inside the bin store and chutes from the flats into them.

Skip on the Verge in Chambersbury Lane – Again!

P/Cllr Roberts reported to me that there is another skip in the same spot on Chambersbury Lane. I have again called the skip hire company and left a message asking them to remove it, and to refrain from putting future skips on the verge.

Grit Bin – Bunkers Lane

No further update – still awaiting a response from LPRA on this.

Hole – Highbarns/East Green

I have again chased for an update on the shaft that appeared in October. The survey has been completed and they are currently completing the statutory process to fill the hole. I will update as soon as possible.

Bunkers Park / Cemetery / Crematorium Access Road

The trees were finally planted on Friday! Many delays due to Covid issues amongst the team, but they are at last planted. We are now chasing for an update on the ditch that was due to be dug in order to prevent vehicles breaching the barrier and entering the field (on the right as you enter the track).

The Willows

The three new willow trees that NMPC approved payment of were planted on 18th February. They are around twice the size of the previous ones that died, so I am setting up a tree adoption for people to water them until they are properly established.

The fence between part of the Willows (rear of Kingfisher Drive and Swan Mead) and the canal is rotten and it seems that no-one owns it. The developer paid DBC to take over the green spaces (ie mowing grass and tending to the trees) many years ago, but there is no mention in the agreement to take over the fence. I am in discussion with DBC over this as I believe that as a council, they have a duty of care to residents and this fence is becoming dangerous; children can get through gaps in it (and have been seen to do so!). I will update further as I discover more.

For some time there has been a frustration amongst residents regarding the untidy land at the corner of Bittern Close and Teal Way. I am speaking to DBC to try and establish who owns this land. Although this has proven to be a complex matter, we may have found a breakthrough and I hope to report back next month.

Defibrillator

Permission for the defibrillator to be affixed to the wall at The Denes, and powered by the DBC supply, has been an issue for 2½ years. However, I spoke to the Group Manager of the Estates department and he was most helpful. We now have permission for the installation, subject to Herts Highways agreement. This is also mentioned in the clerk's report.

Jan Maddern

Dacorum Borough Councillor, Nash Mills

8.3.2021