

Email of 8 March 2021 from Village Hub Development Group

Subject: The Village Hub - first step towards a Parking / Traffic Management Plan

Dear Richard

The Village Hub - first step towards a Parking / Traffic Management Plan

The Parish council will recall the Planning Condition for the Hub :

10. The Hall hereby approved shall not be occupied by more than 100 persons unless the shop and surgery are closed for the duration of that function or unless alternative parking facilities are provided elsewhere in accordance with a parking management plan that shall have been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The Village Hub Development Group (VHDG) is well aware of the limitations of parking and the need to have appropriate traffic management when new facilities are open. During consultation a number of nearby residents expressed concern about traffic, parking and access. We have had informal discussions with residents to make clear that traffic and parking will be managed to reduce inconvenience to them.

The group has made a start on drafting a strategy to scope the issues and mitigate them. However whilst there are clearly some measures which the Village Hub Development Group can deliver, such as design of the car park, we believe that the broader issues mean that a village-wide approach is needed. Accordingly we feel that the Parish Council has a role in developing a plan which is not just for the benefit of the Hub, but the village as a whole.

The VHDG envisages a range of scenarios which might be used to develop a parking (and traffic) management plan. These cover the spectrum from the Hub being closed; through a normal working day for the Shop and Surgery; to an event at the village hall which happens when the Shop and Surgery are both open. Mitigation measures will range from opening hours, car park design, signage, through to suitable overflow parking and its management. In particular the need for overflow parking away from the site requires a range of options to be assessed.

We have scoped a strategy paper which sets out the mitigation measures and are happy to share this as part of ongoing discussions.

As a next step can we suggest that representatives from the VHDG and BPC meet (via Zoom) as an informal Task and Finish working party to help develop the options for further consultation ? Perhaps this suggestion can be considered at the council's April meeting?

Thank you for your continued assistance.

Steve Preston

On behalf of Barrowden Village Hub Development Group