

CONDOVER PARISH COUNCIL PRESS STATEMENT 18-05-2010

The Annual Condover Parish meeting was on Monday 17th May 2010 at Condover Village Hall; and was attended by about 50 people. Following the Chairman's annual report which described the activities of the Parish Council during the last year. A report was given by Cllr David Lane and Cllr Edna Francis who sit on the newly formed Condover Recreational Area Working Group, which comprises of both residents and councillors and has been set up for the purpose of progressing the Condover Recreational Play Area Project.

Numerous questions were posed by residents present many of whom oppose the new recreational scheme. Questions asked were varied however one related to the planning process, the Parish Council wish to confirm that a planning application for change of use of land adjacent to Cound Brook in Condover from agricultural to recreational is being submitted by the Parish Council; and is supported by :

- **A Design and Access Statement:** The statement describes the proposed access to the planned recreational site, footways, fences and gates. An outline plan of the proposed recreational site will be shown, and the reasons for its change of use will be supported by a summary of the benefits gained by the community in having such a site. At this stage no detailed drawings of specific play equipment provided will be available. These will be provided at a later stage after the working party has consulted with a specialist natural play provision provider and the SC Playbuilder Team. The detailed plan will be required by Shropshire Council Development Management prior to making a decision on the planning application. There is no need however to make a second planning application as unlike an housing planning application there is no permanent structure

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being applied for. At this stage residents are welcome to express their views on the planning application during the public consultation period advertised by Shropshire Council. This can be accessed via the Shropshire Council Public Access Planning System; all comments will be taken in to account by Shropshire Council Planning Officers and possibly a Planning Committee.

- **A detailed Ecological Survey** of the site completed by Churton Ecology; is available on the Parish Council's website and details the habitat survey assessment of the site and provides advice relating to the trees and hedgerows present and the need to carry out a further bat survey.

It is the Parish Council's intention to try and provide a recreational area for children in Condover, mindful that the natural green space area made available is to be retained and enhanced for residents use. (As recognised in the 2009 Parish Plan.) Having won the Playbuilder funding of £40,000 for a play area aimed at meeting 8-13 year olds; the Parish Council wishes to concentrate its initial efforts on this as a strict time table exists. Younger children's needs and those of the older community are not forgotten and will be considered in the future.

The Parish Council has no intention not to involve Condover residents in any decision made and firmly believes in public consultation as supported by recent village events held locally within the 4 settlements of the Parish to discuss the Shropshire Council Site Allocation Consultation document. When detailed plans are available of the Condover Recreational Play area they will be displayed on the Condover Parish Council website and Condover Parish Council notice board outside the village hall.

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Questions asked at the meeting about the population of the village and Parish in terms of age were not readily available on the evening but are as follows: The population of the Parish in 2008 was 1,972, with the majority of the population residing in the villages of Condover (659) and Dorrington (619). The Parish is the largest in terms of population in the Acton Burnell & Severn Local Joint Committee area.

Age Range of the Population	<i>% of Total Population</i>
Aged 0-15	<i>19.8%</i>
Aged 16-29	<i>12.1%</i>
Aged 30-44	<i>18.2%</i>
Aged 45 to RA	<i>24.6%</i>
Aged RA and Over	<i>25.4%</i>

Source: Shropshire Council & ONS MYE POPest

The Parish Council hope this has helped to clarify the situation and answer questions asked at the meeting.

As reported by the Clerk to Condover Parish Council

Mrs S Hackett, Gonsal House, Condover, Shrewsbury SY5 7EX
18 May 2010