

Report to Sparsholt Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 20th April 2024

from Cllrs Patrick Cunningham, Stephen Godfrey & Caroline Horrill

It has been our privilege to represent you in the **Wonston & Micheldever Ward** for the last year.

The three Councillors cover the 6 parishes of Crawley, Littleton, Micheldever, South Wonston, Sparsholt and Wonston, representing over 7,000 residents across more than 100 km². Patrick lives in Littleton, Stephen in South Wonston, and I live here in Sparsholt. We are all local to the communities we love and represent.

We still await the next draft of the **new Local Plan - Reg 19** where the Council will have considered the consultation feedback, requests for more development sites from developers and any shifts in key data that we need to take into consideration. The City Council has participated in the search for additional development sites to accommodate homes required by the Partnership for South Hampshire, which says it has insufficient land to accommodate their housing needs. The site in our area has been identified near Botley and would result in 1000 homes. The Liberal Council administration has included green field sites in the plan which we will be arguing against. We have also objected to the proposed Popham Airfield development in the Basingstoke District which has also re-ignited a discussion about the Micheldever Station development of 6,000 homes.

As a Council we are committed to **building more Council houses**, some 1000 over the next ten years to ensure more affordable homes are available in the District. Sparsholt too will be part of that programme with the additional homes due to begin building this summer in Woodman Close.

Residents in our ward continue to worry about the closure of the **Andover Road**. Hundreds of residents are requesting that the decision be reconsidered as we now know we will have some 900 new homes at the top of Andover Road on the **Sir John Moore** site. We have been lobbying extensively about not closing the road and I know this will continue to be a discussion as the impact on our local road network could be extensive.

The Council continues to work on re-development projects such as Central Winchester, River Park, and Station Approach although little progress has

been made on most of them in the last year. The most obvious change has been the demolition of the Friarsgate Medical Centre.

We continue to work on many important local issues such as the reorganisation of the bins in Woodman Close, improved signage through the village, flooding issues in Dean and the car parking improvements in Woodman Close. The car parking spaces are being extended but the white markings have been stopped pending further discussions with residents.

Planning is at the heart of City and Parish Council activities, and you have had your fair share of applications to review. This is a constant job and is important we all work together to ensure local views are well represented.

Thank you for allowing me to table this report today.

Cllr Caroline Horrill