

NEWS FROM LYNSTED WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

IT'S BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS IN LYNSTED...!

On 18th January we discovered that Swale Borough Council's draft Local Plan contained a proposal to build 1,100 new houses in Teynham & Lynsted. This included 300 new houses in the parish of Lynsted, which would increase our housing stock by 60%.

A southern relief road was also proposed, which would run through our best agricultural land adjacent to listed buildings. Here's the action we took:

- We wrote to every borough councillor urging them to vote against taking the draft plan to Regulation 19 consultation. Nevertheless, the motion was carried on 3 February
- By mid-February we had produced and delivered our first newsletter, drawing everyone's attention to the plan as no-one knew about it
- We attended a joint meeting with six other local PCs. This resulted in all seven writing to SBC demanding an extension to the six-week consultation period. This was successful
- We briefed a law firm to prepare our objections to the Teynham Area of Opportunity (TAO) and this resulted in a robust 24 page document arguing that the Local Plan was neither sound nor legally compliant
- A local resident launched a petition against the TAO which attracted 1,072 signatures
- We wrote numerous letters to the chief executive of SBC, the Cabinet member for Planning and the Leader of Council reiterating our objections
- We arranged for SBC's chief executive to attend an Extra Ordinary meeting at which she and the planning officer attempted to answer 25 questions that we had posed
- We conducted a survey of residents asking for their views. We received 261 responses from across Teynham & Lynsted – 95% of Lynsted residents objected to the bypass, with 89% strongly objecting
- We lobbied our local MP, Gordon Henderson, and he wrote a strong letter of objection
- Numerous media articles were published, strongly supporting our position. We were also very active on social media
- In April, we published a second newsletter which included a window poster
- Our website was a major source of information – 16 news items were uploaded and had over 3,000 views
- We supported an action group of local residents who produced a postcard and launched the STOP-TAO website
- In total 226 people commented on the TAO, making 734 individual comments. That means over 30% of ALL the comments across the entire Borough related to Lynsted & Teynham
- 93% of these respondents were clearly opposed to the TAO. Four per cent were neutral, and just three per cent supported it



We now wait to see whether SBC will submit the Local Plan to the Government Inspector.



MORE PLANNING ISSUES!

The application to build 86 houses off Lynsted Lane was re-submitted for the third time on 28 January. We wrote another strong letter of objection and articles posted on our website attracted a further 500 page views.

The first application in 2019 attracted 87 objections from local residents. The second 109. The third, over 150. So if the developers were hoping for objection fatigue they will have been sorely disappointed.

Then, in July, a new planning application was filed to build houses on the other side of Lynsted Lane! Again, a totally inappropriate location given the traffic congestion and air quality issues. At first glance it looked like only 10 houses, but the developer's submission to the Local Plan Review revealed the ultimate aim of 50 new homes. Another letter of objection was written.

We continue to scrutinise all planning applications in the Parish and make our recommendations. We also designated four areas as Local Green Spaces to help protect them from development

OTHER ACTIVITIES

It's not all about planning. We have:

- Created an environmentally responsible checklist for all new build properties

- Lobbied for better broadband
- Lobbied KCC and Southern Water for improvements to drainage in The Street near The Vallance. Work started in August
- Donated £2,000 to Stepping Stones nursery to help keep them afloat during the pandemic
- Applied for funding for an air quality survey on the London Road, but SBC rejected it. We shall try again!
- Briefed KCC to undertake a traffic survey at four locations in Lynsted and Kingsdown to assess safety issues, with a view to reducing the speed limit and/or calming measures. This complements the work carried out by our Community Speedwatch team
- Installed decorative gates and planters in the villages

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our APM is being held at 7pm on Monday 27th September at Lynsted Church. Guest speakers include our local PCSO who will be discussing crime and anti-social behaviour. Refreshments will be served. Please come and tell us what else we can do to improve the area.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

We have a vacancy as one councillor has moved away. Could you spare a couple of hours a month to attend our regular meetings? Would you like to make a difference to your local community? If so, please contact the Parish Clerk.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

**Julien Speed (Chairman) • Peter Delaney (Vice Chairman) • Linda Morgan • Vanessa Ross Russell
Jacqui Langdon-Bassett • Trevor Carr • Janet Bott • Marion Mulley (Clerk)**

LYNSTED WITH KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

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