

## CLT Report

The CLT affordable passive homes project is now some 23 weeks into construction and progressing just behind schedule. One of the emerging difficulties is the connection to the power grid, the scheduling of this is subject to a general national backlog of power grid work, as reflected in the recent BBC Radio 4 programme on weak grid support for renewable power connection.

The erection of scaffolding for the northern block of 4 homes is delayed as the power line needs to be moved when it is connected to the site. The power line is currently too close to the proposed top of the 'top hat' enclosure. The earliest delayed finish date for the site was September 2023, but as signing of easements was only completed on 15th May this will move the occupation date close to the end of this year, unless Scottish and Southern Energy surprise us. Partial occupation of the 10 homes is being considered as of 18th May.

The CLT supports the Seend Parish Council initiative to review the green spaces element of the Seend Neighbourhood Plan 2020 - 2030. It is vital that the plan be kept up-to-date and responsive to local changes, such as the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan 'Green Space' analysis and the likelihood of the Melksham By-Pass Route Option C mitigation measures for Seend Cleeve. Green areas between Seend and Melksham could be identified for forestation as a noise and light and climate change mitigation contribution to Route C. The CLT also supports the suggestion, aired by the former Parish Councillor responsible of the Seend Neighbourhood Plan, to include an update of the Seend Rural Housing Needs Survey. Seend CLT is currently working with Community First, who undertake analysis of the Rural Housing Needs surveys, to update the survey to make it more useable and wider in scope to include identification of needs for Self Build, Market and more social housing need models, such as inter-generational co-housing. We particularly feel that co-housing will meet the current and future demands of an increasingly aged population with a growing need to downsize without having to leave the parish.

As the outgoing Honorary Secretary of the Seend Lye Field Charity I conducted a parish survey of peoples' usage and attitudes to our community facilities at the Lye Field and Community Centre. This was undertaken as a response to the general difficulties encountered by both organisations in filling the administrative volunteer roles that are essential for the continued safe and economic operation of our cherished facilities. This effort was also undertaken in recognition of the many notable people who strived before us to raise the money and build the facilities we now enjoy. Perhaps the CLT has its origins in the community spirit that lives on, driving Seendites to do it for themselves. Could Seend truly be the home of localism?

Turning to the survey results, I'm afraid they speak for themselves and only confirm what we already knew. We have lost some community cohesion and that in turn has jeopardised our community resilience. Our parish has a deficit of people in the age range 25yrs to 50 yrs and a greater than English national average number of people aged 55yrs to 65 yrs. Our share of 70yrs plus parishioners is likely to grow considerably. To understand this aged population increase just read the AECOM Housing Needs Assessment forming part of the Melksham Neighbourhood Plan now in its consultation phase. The housing solutions offered for a future ageing population by AECOM are not the best and ignore co-housing completely.

The main 'take-aways' from our community facilities survey are on the front page of the attached report, so it is not necessary to read the whole report in detail unless you are interested - and I hope the Community Centre and Lye Field administrators will be. I reproduce (cut and paste) the front page take-aways below:

Some selected survey 'takeaways' – not quite an Executive Summary.

Both paper and web form questionnaires provided the opportunity for respondents to include other household members as joint respondents. The 118 submitted responses therefore represent the views of 221 people. In a small number of returns, some respondents did not complete all questions. Response numbers and percentages are based on the numbers of responses to each question.

71 (74.7%) respondents have no wish to be voluntarily involved with the operation of our community charitable organisations. Respondents stating they have been involved in the last 3 years may still be involved and are likely to be the predominant attendees at Annual General Meetings.

24 respondents have offered to take up active volunteer roles in our parish community organisations. Some have given limiting caveats to acceptance; some are not available until next year. Overall, this response is encouraging. Some of those volunteers are aged 75 years or older.

89 (81.7%) respondents said they would not accept the winding up of the Seend Community Centre and Seend Lye Recreation Field organisations. 20 said they would accept winding up. Some said they would not be happy with winding up but would accept it. 7 respondents did not address the question.

In general terms survey respondents are satisfied with the current offerings from our organisations. Many respondents provided useful and innovative suggestions for improvement.

81 (69.8%) of Parish respondents had used the Community Centre facility in the 3 months prior to April 2023.

76 (87.3%) of respondents had used the Community Centre facility in the past. Only 2.8% of respondents had never used the Community Centre facility at all.

76 (67.9%) of respondents had used Seend Lye Recreation Field facilities in the past year.

36 (32.1%) of respondents had not used the Seend Lye Recreation Field facility in the past year.

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