

Chairs / NWBC Report

SMZ: The most recent meeting of the SMZ took place on Monday 11th March.

There was a presentation from the Environment Agency who detailed their enforcement actions and monitoring of HS2. Further information will be circulated in relation to reporting of potential breaches of agreements relating to flooding.

An action agreed back in July 23 where a multi agency meeting would be held to discuss vulnerability to surface water flooding in Water Orton was revisited with HS2 feeling whilst they were committed to attending such a meeting it wasn't their responsibility to lead on it.

HS2 felt that the responsible body was WCC. WCC then detailed that they felt it was the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency detailed that whilst they were the responsible body for the provision of consent notices that they were not responsible for dealing with any resultant issues.

I offered to lead on this meeting as none were willing to do so, however as there appears to be a vacuum of responsibility which may need addressing at a national level it was suggested that the matter would be facilitated by Craig Tracey. A date will be fixed with the issues being framed by a paper from Water Orton representatives on the SMZ.

North Warwickshire Area Committee: The most recent meeting of this meeting was on Tuesday 19th March.

A wide range of topics were discussed. There was a presentation on planning enforcement and the slides of this will be distributed to councillors on request.

There were discussions around the possibility of sharing information relating to purchasing and areas where there were potential collaboration to reduce costs. I suggested that all those who used scribe or similar would consider running a report which detailed the budget items and sharing this to see if there were any potential areas for savings. (eg Christmas lights storage)

****Opinions sought on whether we can share this information****

Cyber-security (Phishing notice). There have yet again been attempts to defraud Parish Councillors by the use of phishing emails.

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk

Precept: The release of Council Tax bills recently have suggested that the precept for the Parish Council has risen by 5.1%. The Parish Council placed a request for an increase in income of only 4% and this is the amount which will be received. Enquiries are being made as to the reasons why this looks like a 5.1% increase but it is suspected that the tax base within the village has decreased from the time of last years calculation.

Steve Stuart

21.03.24