

E.V.A.D.E.

Ecclesbourne Valley Against Development Excesses

NEWS LETTER NO 3 19th November 2020

Website

The new website <https://www.ecclesbournevalley.co.uk> is up and running. Please take a look and suggest any improvements or additions you think appropriate.

Committee Matters

The committee has changed slightly over the past few weeks. The present committee comprises:

Lindsay Burton
Michael Copestake
Paul Dalton
Gwenda Inight
Sophie Jeffries
John Lewis
Ian Phillips
Dick Skinner
Julie Willets

Personal contact details are not published but any or all of them can be contacted via our EVADE e-mail address (See below).

General Up-date

We now seem to be in a period of reduced activity. We have made our points to Chatsworth and Amber Valley BC and can do little more until AVBC have completed their initial proposals for the Local Plan and put it out for public debate.

What we can do while we wait is to collect and collate any information (or should I say "ammunition") so we are well prepared for the next round in the battle. Supporting evidence to reinforce our arguments about the nature of the sites on which they may want to build will be important - not just nature in terms of wildlife but just as important the nature in terms of it being green field, agricultural land, in some cases on a flood plain and of significant amenity value to the local population.

Please let us know (2020evade@gmail.com) if you have anything that you think might help.

Photographs, documents, internet links or just general information - it will all help us in our efforts.

Neighbourhood Plans.

Teams working in Turnditch & Windley and also in Shottle & Postern are making progress with the development of Neighbourhood Plans aimed at influencing future planning decisions and developments in the parishes. In Shottle & Postern the "Area Designation Application" is being prepared for submission to Amber Valley BC, while Turnditch & Windley already have their "Area Designation Application" approved and grant funding arranged. They have their own web pages on AVBC website and a lot of information on progress on the Turnditch & Windley PC website

(<https://www.turnditchandwindleyparishcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>)

The whole process will take some time but next steps will include local survey/questionnaires to assess support. Hopefully everyone in the parishes will give their full support to this important effort.

Chatsworth

Our contacts at Chatsworth have acknowledged receipt of our letter in which we suggested that they might withdraw the Wirksworth Road site (South of the crossroads) from the AVBC call for sites process. Understandably their position is that the matter is now with AVBC and we should wait until they have processed the submissions and made their assessments before any further discussion.

We will continue to liaise with them with the aim of reaching mutually satisfactory outcomes.

Amber Valley Borough Council

Our letter to AVBC resulted in a relatively brief response confirming that the "large site in Shottle" has been withdrawn and that the other sites will be "subject to a robust process of assessment before any conclusion can be reached."

Subsequent discussions with AVBC clarified the situation regarding 5 sites in Shottle which had appeared in the 2019 SHLAA assessment. The assessment concluded that the sites were not "suitable" and so any planning application would have to overcome these conclusions.

With regard to the current assessment process, once conclusions have been reached, the details will be published on the Council website probably towards the end of the year. AVBC have undertaken to keep E.V.A.D.E informed of progress and we have an open invitation to meet with them when the time is right.

Watch this space!

Contact with the Environment Agency concerning 'Land north of Ashbourne Road' (42 houses).

The Environment Agency (EA) has confirmed to AVBC that the 'Land north of Ashbourne Road' (between the railway line and the River Ecclesbourne) is flood zone 2 and 3, and have referred them to consult Derbyshire County Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority for this area. In reviewing land in these zones for suitability for development Local Authorities must apply additional assessment tests. EA recommends, in general, development be steered away from zone 2 and 3 areas - however the probability and impact of flooding in a particular area, not just the zone, is reviewed in the local authority assessments. To assist in this AVBC has, we understand, commissioned an update to the area 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment' as part of their Local Plan Update – we understand the outcome of this should be available later this year.

Biodiversity (plant and wildlife) around the Ecclesbourne River and tributaries. APPEAL for information.

Thank you to those that have already responded to our appeal for information about wildlife. We have contacted, and are awaiting response from, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, including their Living Rivers Team, to ask for any information they may have on plant and animal biodiversity in these areas. We have reports of water voles, white-clawed crayfish, newts and over 40 species of bird in the valley.

We would appreciate any information and/or photos of plant and wildlife species to be sent to the EVADE email box (See foot of this page)

Autumn Colours in the Ecclesbourne Valley .



Christmas.

It may be a little early yet but who's counting! We wish all our supporters a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS. Hopefully the lock-down situation will have eased a bit by then and we will be able to meet with friends and relations - even if only at suitable social distances. In any case, have a good time and stay safe.

Contact E.V.A.D.E. via 2020evade@gmail.com
Check Our Website <http://www.ecclesbournevalley.co.uk>
Tell your friends.