

Aldermaston Parish Council

Chairman's Report

June 2026

Editors: Sophie Crawford, Ed Tilsley

At our June meeting we were delighted to be joined by representatives from the Aldermaston Charity. They explained that they wanted to incorporate the charity to reduce liability to its trustees which requires the agreement of the Lord of the Manor, Rector, and Parish Council (APC). We agreed that it was sensible to modernise the charity's legal structure and readily gave our consent.

We were also given a brief history of the Charity. It originated with the construction of two pairs of alms-houses on Church Road (the pairs now joined to create two cottages) built by Rev. Dixon for elderly people in need in 1706, and land in Tadley bequeathed by Charles Keynes, the then Lord of the Manor, to help with the cottage's upkeep. More recently the Charity sold some of its land to Lidl and bought two further cottages at the Fallows Road development in Aldermaston Wharf. The charity leases the properties to older people connected to the parish with limited financial means, for a below market rent.

Under planning we reviewed 3 new applications. We agreed No Objection to a Listed Building Consent (26/01088/LBC) for internal changes at 34, The Street and to plans for the conversion of an outbuilding at Middle Lodge (26/00976/HOUSE & 26/00977/LBC). For the latter we caveated that APC would defer to the recommendation of the Conservation Officer with regards to whether all aspects of the proposed development are appropriate.

The final application was for a new 1/4 acre area of hardstanding and its use for B8 (storage & distribution) at Youngs Industrial Estate (26/01047/FUL). APC has a policy of objecting to any new industrial development that would increase HGV traffic on our local roads, particularly through the sensitive Conservation Area in Aldermaston Village, and Councillors are concerned that the additional B8 requested in this application would lead to more HGV

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movements. They agree with WBC Highways that has said the applicant needs to provide more information in a Transport Technical Note including on whether the site expansion will lead to an increase in vehicles, employees or movements.

Councillors also expressed concern about the cumulative impact of development in the area and noted the three recently approved retrospective applications at Youngs (24/02575/FUL, 25/00395/FUL, 25/00357/FUL) and another for 9 new units in a single building yet to be built (26/00549/FULMAJ). In addition, there is a whole new industrial estate at the adjacent Blacks Lake site pending construction (20/02527/OUTMAJ) and we know that AWE will submit applications for two new major projects at its Aldermaston site later this year whilst still in the process of developing its Hub building (22/01343/COMIND). Together these projects will have a significant impact on our local roads, and we feel this must be taken into consideration by WBC because of safety in the DEPZ and effect on residential amenity. APC agreed to Object to the application on the grounds of highways impact but will review again when a Highways Technical Note is submitted.

Additional submissions for the pending application at Padworth Sawmills were noted; they include APC's own legal opinion in support of its Objection,

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and the applicant's revised Highways Technical Note and Planning Statement. APC is invited to comment on the new documentation which we agreed to do. A decision may be made at the next meeting of the Eastern Area Planning Committee on 1st July.

We briefly discussed two planning enforcement cases relating to unauthorised traveller sites in our parish. In May WBC served a formal Enforcement Notice for the Reading Road site which requires the occupants to leave the land within a certain time scale. The notice from last November was a Temporary Stop Notice, both are different to the injunction which is being reviewed at the High Court this week. The second site is on Mill Lane in Aldermaston Wharf and was occupied more recently. A planning application has been submitted but lacks the correct information to be validated. As with the Reading Road site this case will have to be progressed by WBC planning according to best practice, but ultimately the site's location in Flood Zone 3 will make it very difficult for the owners to get permission.

Other issues in brief:

- The upcoming Medicine Festival at Wasing will take place from Wednesday 12th to Monday 17th August. This is slightly extended from previous years to take in a solar eclipse on the Wednesday evening (a variation in their event license has been requested to accommodate this). Jenna, the event's director, will attend our July meeting to elaborate on details of this year's festival and take any questions.
- Councillors agreed a Neighbourhood Plan would be useful to influence the development of our parish, but that we need to find support for the project which must be community rather than PC led. It was agreed that we should produce a proposal explaining what an Aldermaston Neighbourhood Plan might look like and what its benefits would be, before deciding how to share the vision with the wider community to see if we can generate the necessary public backing.

Aldermaston Parish Council's next meeting is on 14th July. Members of the public welcome to attend. For details visit <https://aldermaston-pc.gov.uk/>

Sophie Crawford