VPRA Newsletter September 18th 2023.

We finally have some outcomes of near clarity following the Round Table meeting of the various agencies including extracts from the notes of our MP which will feature in a future press release and further dialogue at various levels across the parties, ourselves with on-site meeting with the Agent and various contractors, local Cllr in dialogue with MoJ and planning officers, MP contact with the Environment Agency and the Prisons Minister as follows.

It was agreed that the MoJ work with the VPRA on emergency or interim works, particularly as winter approaches where safety of residents is at risk. An on-site meeting has identified some interim works and we are awaiting confirmation of agreed works and timing.

A final draft legal agreement from May 2023 between the MoJ and Wiltshire Council is with MoJ solicitors for final approval, following a positive response from the EA on the scheme for surface water run-off. Original application made in 2021, the response from the EA to the MoJ after 13 months required more information/risk assessments and was provided in January 2023.  It is unconfirmed if the application is back in the EA’ s 145-day queue.

On signing off by the EA, plans will be checked and agreed with WC. Cost analysis by the MoJ with estimates to HMPP funding with updated costs to satisfy the original HMPP commitment. The MoJ is confident revised costs will not pose an issue due to time passed and inflation. Once funding is in place and commercial agreements finalised and signed with contractors, works can start. WC will inspect works throughout and once completed, adoption takes place. The MoJ estimates that, if the EA approve the revised application by November and no other hurdles arise, contractors could be on site by May 2024, with completion in March 2025 subject to use of temporary trackway across the Village Green.

There are two key risks to the timeline identified at this stage.

1. EA approval.
2. The question of the trackway used by MoJ for works.

 The MoJ wishes to reinstate a track across the village green for works vehicles/materials thus preventing the estate's roads becoming blocked to residents, visitors and emergency services. The MoJ is bound by law to ensure the village green is reinstated to its former glory following the pre-adoption works. Alternatively, an option of using the verges running from the corner of No:37/38 to No:47 for works access was suggested to which we objected as this would impact dramatically on all residents living on this stretch and on those houses with gardens backing on to the verges. This option would cause vehicle traffic pinch points and be unsafe, severely restrict emergency vehicles and would prolong the time frame for works past the completion date of March 2025 indicated above.

Your committee remains of the view that subject to full reinstatement of the Village Green the temporary trackway across the Village Green remains the best option open to us based on alternatives falling short of access, safety and completion of the works time frame.

Village greens are protected spaces and MoJ solicitors have been investigating the correct process to obtain permission to place the track. It transpires that there is *no* formal procedure for seeking such permission.

We therefore need to demonstrate our support for the temporary installation of the track so that Wiltshire Council, as the body responsible for protecting the Village Green, sees that the majority of households are in support for the safety element it provides. This objective is also supported by your Parish Council.

You will find a simple survey below which you can complete on paper and deliver back to me, or submit online by using the link kindly provided by Cllr Muns or scanning the QR code. Under the VPRA Constitution each household being entitled to one vote.

**The closing date for completion and return is Monday 25th September 2023.**

**please direct comments or queries to;**

Des Read. Chair.41 Victoria Park. 01380 816603.Mb; 07957767617. des742@live.co.uk.

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Victoria Park Works Survey

"On the basis that the MoJ will return the Village Green to its original appearance and condition, are you happy, as a resident of Victoria Park, for a temporary trackway to be placed across the Village Green to ensure vehicular access remains open to all residents, visitors, and emergency services during the planned works to improve Victoria Park?"

Please circle your answer.

"Yes - I support the temporary use of the Village Green by the MoJ"

"No - I oppose the temporary use of the Village Green by the MoJ"

Your Name.

House Number.

**Reminder. Closing date for completion and return of the survey is Monday the 25th September.**

[https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FCKXPSP](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.co.uk%2Fr%2FFCKXPSP&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cffc9322d93a24da8796c08dbb09d0779%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638297960704055033%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6NsqBTd73iReiWKePvvEjLwPExhuwm%2BDWrdiDAC%2Bd7U%3D&reserved=0)

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Des Read. Chair. Victoria Park Residents Association.