

GREAT CASTERTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The main highlights since my last report have been the completion of phase 1 of the Barkers site, the final approval for the Plough site and with it the provision of a much need children's play area for the village. At the same time we have been beset by traffic problems, both speeding through the village and a bottleneck at the crossroads at school opening and closing times. In addition, hanging over the village has been the proposed development known as Stamford North, or in Rutland Quarry Farm. Add to that the Mallard Pass Solar Farm development which will not really affect Great Casterton except during the construction phase where the consequences for the village could be dire.

Barkers phase 1 is nearly complete and most of the houses are occupied. Their entrance on Water Lane is going to add to the already bad congestion at the crossroads and it is disappointing that our representations to Rutland County Council to widen the lane and make alterations to the crossroads have come to nothing. If the Mallard Pass Solar Farm, or North Stamford were to go ahead the traffic situation is likely to be much worse and action will be needed.

We await new proposals for Barkers phase 2, the original ones having been rejected on the grounds that the proposed flats were unsuitable, visitor parking problems and the proximity to the cross roads.

The Plough development is now agreed for four houses and a playground, funded by the Developers, which we look forward to. No date yet for the start of construction.

The Parish Council has gratefully received CIL money for Phase 1 of Barkers and presumably can look forward to more from the Phase 2 and

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for the Plough. The Parish Council has agreed that some of this will be spent on improving the entrance to the village, on the Jubilee Beacon and on a donation to a new heating system for the Church Hall.

There is no doubt that the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm is a blot on the Rutland countryside as well as being detrimental for the quality of life for villages affected by it. Great Casterton is likely to be badly affected during the construction phase when fleets of large trucks will transit the village from the A1 to the already congested crossroads and the Ryhall road. They will pass through two Chicanes, listed houses and cause a hazard to the one thousand or more school children who come to the village every day. Consequently we are giving the Essendine Action Group our full support.

The North Stamford Development, and Quarry Farm in particular, has the potential to affect Great Casterton with extra traffic, congestion on the roads and at the crossroads. There needs to be a link road between the Quarry farm site and an A1 junction and it is of great concern that none of this has been mentioned in the various planning papers from Stamford Town Council and South Kesteven District Council. All we have received so far are comments that this is the responsibility of Lincolnshire County Council (who have not commented).

Finally I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for their work over the year, and in particular for our proposed Jubilee celebrations. A big thank you too to our Clerk, Derek Patience for his considerable contribution towards the smooth running of the Council.