

Edington Parish Council

Supplementary information pertaining to the proposal to enhance the village playfield.

There have in recent days been a number of documents circulating that have been brought to the attention of the Chair and the Clerk to the Council. These documents contain a number of inaccuracies and some are completely false. We feel it is important that everyone is aware of the true facts and not falsehoods being circulated by some people.

Outlined below are some of these statements and with each one is a response from the Parish Council.

- Village events that utilise the existing playing field with the marquee and music will bring noise closer to residential property, generating potential conflict between village events and villagers. RESPONSE – There are only two events held by the village each year on the playfield, namely the Charity May Ball and the Edington Fair. There are no plans to increase the number of events held on the field. These events are for the entire village and are seen to be an integral part of village life for those people who wish to take part.
- The holiday house that is owned by the company has been the source of noise complaints because of the guest's late night partying, are there any guarantees that the proposed new hard standing car park will not become hard standing for a concert stage or other live events that will blight villagers? RESPONSE – It is assumed that the “Holiday home“ referred to is actually the Hillside complex, which is not a holiday home but is described by the company as “Cottage-Luxury-Ensuite-Garden View-6 Bedroom House”. This is on the other side of the road to the playfield and has no bearing on the proposal. The reference to live events - The Parish Council has no plans to hold pop festivals or any other live events.
- Will the car park be locked at night to prevent unwanted vehicles or occupation from caravans/motorhomes etc? RESPONSE – The use of the car park is for the management of the Three Daggers to oversee and it is their responsibility to ensure its appropriate use. The Parish Council nor the Three Daggers have ever discussed the use of the land for a caravan/motorhome park and have no intention of doing so.
- I have just read (04/09/21) that Three Daggers have already purchased the land. Does this mean that the deal with the Parish Council has already been done? The land would not have been purchased without Three Daggers ensuring access from the complex. RESPONSE – The purchasing of the land is nothing to do with the Parish Council, it is a business transaction between the land owner and the purchaser. At this point in time as far as the Parish Council are aware The Three Daggers have not purchased the land. We understand that Three Daggers Operating Ltd. have conducted lengthy negotiations with the land owner and have expressed an interest to buy subject to the proposal that they have submitted to the Parish Council.

- Any play equipment that needs to be moved as part of the arrangement would be moved by the contractors employed by the Three Dagers Operating Ltd. at no cost to the Parish Council. What play equipment will be retained by Three Dagers? This equipment was donated to the village. RESPONSE – All of the existing play equipment is the property of the Parish Council and will remain so. Any play equipment that needs to be moved will remain the property of the PC
- Please also be aware the current owner of the field has already been seeking to buy additional surrounding pieces of adjacent land even to the point of knocking down buildings, to gain an access road on to the field for building a housing estate. RESPONSE – Any land owner has the right in a democracy to follow which ever path he chooses with his land providing he adheres to the requirements of the law. The Parish Council does not support any development on the northern part of the field and would oppose any such development.
- There have been stories circulating that other parties are interested in purchasing the field or part of it. RESPONSE – The purchasing of the field is purely a matter between the seller and prospective purchasers. The offer being put forward to the Parish Council by the Three Dagers Operating is separate to negotiations over the purchase of the field. It is an aspiration of the Parish Council that at some point in the future they will be able to acquire the remainder of the field to ensure its future as a community asset as a village green space.
- There is no telling what the Three Dagers are planning to do in the future RESPONSE – Any developments at the Three Dagers complex including the construction of a car park will be subject to the normal planning rules. The Parish Council will as always be consulted over any planning applications and at the appropriate time will make a response to the application taking into consideration the impact of any development on the village.
- “We run the risk of having our village transformed beyond belief into a bustling little town with lots of cars and visitors” RESPONSE – The Parish Council have never had any plans and never will plan to change the village into a small town. Wiltshire Council have designated the village as a “Small Village” for development purposes and as such will only permit limited development. However the Parish Council is also keen to ensure that the village does not lose any more of its services. Some forty years ago we had two pubs, a bakery, two village shops one of which included a post office and a village school. We now have one pub, a shop and a post office, do we want to lose these as well?

This list is not exhaustive merely highlighting some of the more extreme comments being circulated.

The results from the latest village survey undertaken as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, indicated that some 60% of respondents stated that they felt that there should be more employment opportunities within the village. 57% of respondents stated that they would like to see more visitors to the village. 93% of respondents thought that local business should be supported and encouraged to stay in Edington. The Parish Council have a duty to ensure that wherever possible they meet the identified needs and wishes of the village.

The purpose of the Parish Meeting on Monday 13th September is to allow villagers to express their views on the proposal put forward by Three Dagers Operating Ltd.

Following this Parish Meeting the Parish Council will then hold their normal monthly meeting later in the week when as part of the agenda they will discuss the proposal and decide whether they wish to proceed if it is deemed to be of benefit to the village as a whole. If the council decide to proceed then discussions will be undertaken with Three Dagers Operating to ensure that the final solution is to the benefit of the village and during these discussions we will negotiate the details of the deal.

John Pollard

Chair Edington Parish Council

9 September 2021.