

# DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL – PLANNING REPORT

Annual Parish meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Report to council

Subject: Planning – Lead members report

Report prepared by Cllr David Buckley (Lead for planning)

## Planning Report – 2021

The planning requirements for Datchet have been managed on behalf of residents in 2021 through the Parish Council by Temporary lead member Cllr David Buckley and Deputy lead Cllr Pamela Barnes-Taylor. Cllr Buckley and Cllr Barnes-Taylor have worked together since 2020 to bring an understanding of the changing planning rules that are regularly affecting the residents, business and properties within Datchet.

Cllr Barnes-Taylor being an experienced councillor both at Borough and Parish level, over many years. Cllr Barnes-Taylor has an in-depth knowledge of planning changes and local knowledge that supports the planning team. Cllr Buckley has stepped in at the end of 2020 to bring in a new reporting process to council looking at trying to balance the local needs and views of residents, the history of the village but to bring the Parish more in line with Borough decision making process so the villages get more say in their local applications for planning or development. It is important that with only a small say in any planning application, that the value of what we represent is taken seriously and to use the limited powers we hold to support the improvements and quality of life for Datchet residents and businesses to enjoy our lovely village for many decades to come.

The Borough rely upon the local input of residents on every application that is placed through the planning department. What, Cllr Buckley and Cllr Barnes-Taylor have tried to bring to the council process is to bring in all the historic and local knowledge to every application when asked by the Borough Council. Many parts or properties of Datchet sit within the historic Conservation area, have listed building status, or are set within the natural flood zone that Datchet was built into. We have many different styles of buildings that have been passed to the residents over generations and it is important that when an application is presented to our Borough planning team that we are represented as a local view and not overlooked or forgotten.

The Parish Councils response on each application carries the same weight as a single resident's response, so it is very important that the residents have their own input to all local planning applications that may directly or indirectly affect them as well as relying on the Parish Council response that will carry the local history and planning elements as response to any application. The members of the Council wish to further engage with the public to work together to maintain and make the village

the best place it can be for all the families, residents and businesses that enjoy and benefit from it every day. The village is bigger than individuals, a single property or a Council it is a living entity on its own and we need to all have input in maintaining the village to supply each of us the quality of life we all enjoy and your two councillors representing you at the Parish Council wish to hear from you as often as you need, to hear ways that we can add value to your lives.