



The Lymington Voice

The Newsletter of the Lymington Society Autumn 2012

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Chairman's Comments

I hope you take the trouble to read my Chairman's address from the last AGM as long ago as March. I must say I questioned the need to reprint it now, but it provides a good review of last year and of course most of our members do not come to the AGM. It described significant activity during the previous year with various campaigns in relation to Redrow, Wightlink and Wetherspoon's. The results of the Redrow and Wetherspoon's decisions are with us and are, shall I say,



**Society Chairman
Clive Sutton**

maturing at this moment.

Development seems to come in cycles and at the moment there are no significant schemes which require our attention and this provides us with an opportunity to take stock. In this edition of the Lymington Voice Ivor Johnson has described 50 years of the Lymington society and Don MacKenzie has described that our efforts to protect Lymington have borne fruit through our efforts

Contd. on page 7, Col. 3

Inside this issue:

Chairman's Comments	1
50 Years of the Lymington Society	1
Chairman's AGM Address	2
Social Events	3
Local Distinctiveness A Society Successes	4
The Year in Planning	5
AGM Minutes	7
Electronic Post for Newsletter	8

50 Years of the Lymington Society

By Ivor Johnston

The Lymington Society and Residents Association was founded in 1962 by Bill Hope Jones who continued to play an active part until shortly before his death in 2006. The aims of the society were "to foster good development in the town of Lymington and its immediate surroundings; to provide a public forum for the welfare of the town and provide pressures in determining decisions at all levels of government".

It has had distinguished Presidents including Sir Hugh Casson and Lady Mary Donaldson and a regular membership of about 400. In its earlier years an Executive Committee of 15 members arranged social functions and projects such as planting the trees to screen the police station.

A visitor to Lymington might rightly conclude that success in "fostering good

development" has been limited. There are successes – the Master's House, one of only two surviving from the era of The Workhouse, later the Infirmary, saved from demolition and now listed and beautifully restored as an economic holiday let. There are partial successes – the considerable reduction in originally proposed size and scale of Farringford House by the traffic lights. And there are failures, the loss of Cannon Street School, the approval of 340 densely packed dwellings on the Webb's chicken factory site in 2004 and the many blocks of flats, dating mainly from the Prescott era when gardens became "brown field sites".

At that time the Lymington Society was regarded by the Town Council Planning Committee and the Officers as something of a nuisance and ignored. The change came in 2006 when a very

large public meeting of the Society led to a live interview on TV with the Housing Minister and a statement by Mel Kendall, Leader of the NFDC, that "design inappropriate in its context ... should not be accepted".

Another large public meeting in 2007 was held in protest at the illegal introduction of larger ferries without prior consideration of the effects on the river or roads. After a lot of painstaking investigation and a Public Enquiry a rather unsatisfactory compromise was reached. Wightlink had to create additional habitat at Pylewell creek to compensate for loss of saltmarsh. There are doubts that this will survive but it is to be monitored by Natural England. The final outcome is still uncertain.

Today the expertise and considerable effort put in by the Committee are recognised

and members often consulted before applications are submitted. The chicken factory site may yet become a success. To their credit, Redrow accepted the Society's suggestion of an architectural competition, won by Bryan Avery who spent his childhood in Lymington. The features of the design are sympathetic to Lymington and the development arguably the best achievable in the light of the still valid 2004 approval. Time will tell.

For the future, the Society has an important part to play as the government's conflicting ideas on localism and development are implemented. A strong committee with new members will be vital. If you care for our beautiful historic town; if you are able to contribute some commitment or expertise, please contact info@Lymsoc.co.uk.

Chairman's 2012 AGM Address

50 years of the Society

Last year I reviewed the activities of the Society's Committee under my chairmanship over the past 10 years or so. I have now been reminded by the Secretary, Dr Ivor Johnson, that this is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Society. I believe it was formally instituted on 16 April 1962. One of its founder members was Bill Hope Jones who was our president until his death a few years ago. He continued to actively support the Society until he died.

Missing Records—can you help?

I have looked up some of the records of the Society which cover the decade of the 90s. If anyone else knows where the previous records are going back into the 60s 70s and 80s then please do let us know. I don't say they had an easy time of it in the 90s. There was the major planning appeal in relation to Buckland rings in 1987 and the ongoing issue of the siting of the hospital all the way through the 90s.

My reason for joining

It was the possibility of being able to push forward the development of the Hospital that encouraged me to join the Society's Committee and to become its Chairman and very soon after, probably not due to any great effort on my part, the hospital was built and is a very splendid facility for the Town, whether one likes its location or not.

All change with the new millenium

Apart from the Hospital, things in the minutes in the 90s were somewhat routine. I don't know whether it was the fault of the new Committee but, as I set out in my last Chairman's speech last year, everything then happened. The Chicken Factory Site issue became active and has had a mind of its own ever since. Mr Prescott decided encourage to development on Brownfield sites and incorporated back gardens into the term Brownfield. That started a battle which lasted several years until the planners came round to our way of thinking following a public meeting, and the Government eventually modified its directives.

The way we work

I look at the Committee minutes of the

previous meetings with envy. Possibly two or three letters to be discussed. These days not a day goes by without e-mails circulating amongst the Committee dealing with all these issues. We take the details them as read and discuss the wider principles at our Committee meetings.

It is principles upon which an Amenity Society needs to operate. Its mission and message need to be clear. It is not an organisation for individual one-off issues important as they are. It has to look at the overall picture and argue to its strengths. That involves getting a good relationship with the planners and the local councillors, which I hope we have now achieved.

That does not mean that we all agree all the time. As has happened this year we had surprise decisions not only from the District Councillors over Wetherspoon's but also from the Town Councillors over Redrow. That does not mean that we fall out but that we put over our point of view to ensure that at the end of the day the issue has been fully debated and properly considered by those bodies, normally the council planning committee or planning appeal which need to make the final decision.

Last year—Redrow ...

To put that into context, this has been a momentous year. This time last year we were wondering how to put a stop to the last unacceptable proposal for the development of the Redrow site. A public meeting was called and that that public meeting Redrow agreed to reduce the units from nearly 300 to approximately 160. This did not mean that they tore up their previous permission which they have protected by commencing works. They said they would not proceed with it but only on the basis that they got a reasonable permission instead.

A new design was developed which was imaginative, possibly not everyone's choice, but at least it had a vision. To provide the 160 units it will have 3 to 4 stories but it will incorporate facilities needed by the town and hopefully will not be an isolated development. The Committee has given its encouragement given the circumstances. It was surprising that some Town Councillors

do not agree with the current plan, but understandable. It is also understandable that a single issue organisation such as "Lymington Last Shores" using a website to attract support, fights on to get a much lower density.

The Committee however feel that it has adopted a reasonable and responsible approach which prevents the Town from the risk of the 300 unit development rising to 4 to 5 stories.

...and Wightlink...

On the issue of the ferries the Society has finally seen to a conclusion, in the recent public enquiry, its efforts to ensure that the introduction of the ferries was carried out on the basis of all appropriate investigations being carried out by the authorities rather than the presentation of a fait-accompli by Wightlink.

...and Wetherspoons

On Wetherspoon's we have been surprised and shocked at the Council's decision to grant the application in the teeth of local opposition and have expended some of our funds in establishing whether there were grounds to challenge that decision. There were, but on a pragmatic basis when it was clear to us that the decision would be likely to be repeated if set-aside after a very risky and expensive judicial review, the right decision was not to go further. Jonathan Hutchinson would like me to say that if any members criticise that decision he would like to know whether they were one of the few members who responded to his request for their views in making that decision.

This is your opportunity to say whether the Committee is doing what you think is right. The Advertiser and Times suggested that we were raising a white flag over Wetherspoon's. I have sought to justify our position in the local paper. If you have any views let us have them tonight.

The Committee have to act on your behalf. I sit on various committees and I have to say that this is one of the most active and well integrated committees that I am involved with and I am lucky to be Chairman of it. I hope you will continue to support it.

Lymington Society Social Programme 2012 - 2013

Christmas Drinks - Stanwell House Hotel.

6.00 – 8.00 pm. Monday the 10th of Dec 2012



Stanwell House Hotel

The second Social Meeting of the year will be the Christmas Drink Party held as before at the Stanwell House Hotel in Lymington High Street. This year it is on Monday the 10th of December from 6 p.m. -- 8 p.m. As usual Stanwell House will be serving their wonderful high quality canapés as well as a choice of wines, soft drinks etc. The Committee looks forward to meeting as many members as possible and engaging in discussion about any issues that members might wish to discuss. A lot has happened this year, so please come along and catch up.

Please feel free to bring friends as guests to help make this a really sparkling occasion helping us all to get into the festive mood.

Cost is £7.50 to include refreshments. Limited numbers of tickets also available on the Door

AGM with Illustrated talk by Jude James - Railway History around Lymington

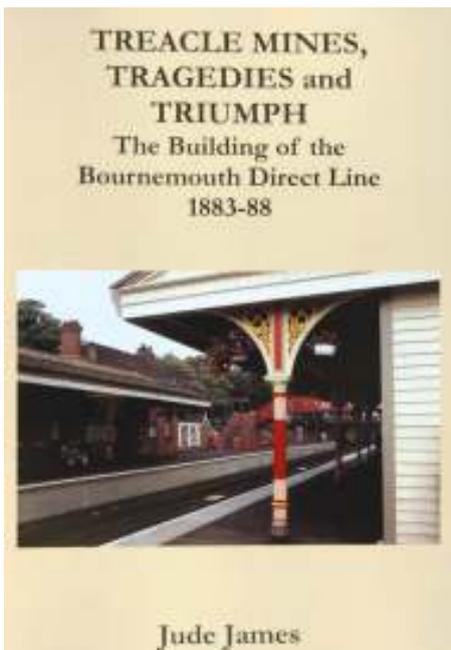
7.00 pm—9.30 pm. Tuesday the 26th of March 2013.

Lymington Community Centre

Lymington Society AGM is the main business meeting of the year when Members get a chance to stand for the Committee or nominate fellow members to the Committee. Election of officers takes place for the year ahead and following a report from the Chairman on

the Society's activities in the year; current important issues are debated and discussed.

Following the business section of the meeting we are pleased to announce that well known local historian James Jude will be giving an illustrated talk on the development of the railways around Lymington



Visit to Berthon Boatyard followed by Drinks in the Berthon Boardroom
6.00 PM to 8.00 PM Tuesday the 7th of May 2013



By kind permission of Brian May, MD of Berthon Boat Company, we are pleased to have been able to arrange a visit to look round this major and very important local business which occupies such a significant and historic site in the heart of Lymington. The Berthon Boat

Company has been in operation on the site since 1877 and the Lymington Shipyard is reputed to have been in operation since Roman times.

The visit will comprise a guided walk around the yard in several groups if numbers determine, followed by a Drinks Reception in the Berthon Boat Company boardroom.

Entry £5.00 to include refreshments.

Summer Garden Party

Elm House, Church Lane, Lymington
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm. Tuesday the 18th of June 2013



Elm House Crinkle Crankle wall

With the kind permission of Mrs Joan Harkness the Society's Garden Party will this year be taking place in the historic garden of Elm House in Church Lane. Hidden behind the historic crinkle-crankle walls built by Napoleonic prisoners of war, this large and beautiful garden will provide a wonderful venue for this year's garden party.

To Purchase Tickets for Social Events, Please Contact:

**Solent House Dental Surgery,
Cannon Street, Lymington.
01590 672986**

Please see our website for the latest on recent and upcoming events:

www.lymsoc.co.uk/Events.htm

Competition The Bell Tower from Cannon Street School



The Cannon Street school was demolished in 2007 to the dismay of many of our members. Your Committee strongly opposed the

Planning Authority's decision to demolish but was over-ruled.

We did, however, rescue the bell tower with the aid of your funds and a donation from a member of your committee.

The bell tower still resides in your chairman's garden and a new home must be found.

Where should it go?

Send your (*serious*) suggestions to info@lymsoc.co.uk

THE PRIZE

A brass plate engraved with your name to embellish the tower in its new situation.

Membership

New members always welcome.

Membership £10.00 per member. Application forms available from our Web Site www.lymsoc.co.uk or from Derek Sheffer.

Please send Completed Membership to:

Derek Sheffer

Lymington Soc. Membership Sec.
Lorne Cottage, Navarino Court,
Lymington, SO41 9AE

Efforts To Protect Lymington Bear Fruit A Successful Lymington Society Campaign To Improve Legal Protection Of Lymington's Special Character

By Donald Mackenzie

Since the current Committee was formed fifty years ago, one of the ongoing battles the Society has been waging has been to try and control unsuitable developments from ruining our beautiful and historic market town.

Lymington is known as a Georgian town, but that is just the core of the town, and these areas are protected by Conservation Area designation, which has proved quite successful in combating unsuitable developments. An example of a Conservation Area working well has been the refusal of the NFDC planners, supported by Planning Inspectors at appeal, to allow overdevelopment on the Bath Lodge site in King Salterns Road.

However, much of the rest of the town, including the attractive entrances to the town such as Southampton Road, typified by large detached 1930s houses in large gardens, have enjoyed no protective designations. A few areas of the town have, for reasons which are not entirely clear, been designated as Areas Of Special Character. Unfortunately planning inspectors have not given much credibility to this designation, leaving much of the town without any protection from developers in the way that the conservation areas have enjoyed.

Having failed to persuade NFDC Planners to extend the Area Of Special Character designation to more of the town over the years, the Society used a Public Meeting held in June 2006, and a petition of over 1000 signatures, to put pressure on Councillors to put in place more rigorous protection of the special character of the town.

This Public Meeting, together with the accompanying petition, did result in a major change of tack by Councillors, who issued a written instruction to the planners that in future they must take more account of the effect of proposed developments on the character of the area, and be prepared to refuse unsuitable developments, even if this did lead to more appeals by developers to the Planning Inspectorate.

As part of his new policy an Appeals

Officer was employed, whose job was to ensure that unsuitable developments were vigorously opposed at appeal - if necessary by the employment of a QC to take on the heavyweight legal advisers brought to bear by developers during the appeal process.

The Council also undertook to review the planning guidance produced by the council, to ensure that areas which needed protection from unsuitable developments would receive it.

From this, the Council brought forward its policy on Local Distinctiveness. But what is Local Distinctiveness? Essentially it is a written description, compiled on an area by area basis by Council Officers and approved by the appropriate NFDC Committees, which then becomes Supplementary Planning Guidance which developers have to take into account when formulating development plans.

This process has now been completed for New Milton and Lymington with further areas of the NFDC Council area gradually being covered.

Having lobbied hard to get this policy put in place, the Lymington Society took an active part in this process. Jonathan Hutchinson and others drafted an extensive submission looking at all the areas of Lymington, and making an assessment of which features made each area attractive, and required protection.

Following its consultation process, the NFDC adopted almost word for word much of the submission supplied by the Society, and incorporated it into the Local Distinctiveness Assessment of Lymington.

This has now been incorporated into the "Lymington Local Distinctiveness Supplementary Planning Guidance" which developers and Planning Officers must take account of when bringing forward developments.

The big test for this policy, however, was the reaction of Planning Inspectors when unsuitable applications turned

Contd. on page 8 col 1

Planning—The Last Year

By Nic King

Grp Cptn Hutchinson on sabbatical

Well we hope he is...Jonathan announced his decision to step down from the Lymington Society Committee before last year's AGM claiming he needed more time for his other numerous activities (also known as sailing). He remains a member of the Society and an influential voice on major policy issues. He also continues to compile an authoritative record of local planning applications and outcomes, a very valuable resource. We hope he'll reconsider his decision and return in some capacity as we miss his company as well as his hard work, expertise and judgement. One of Jonathan's achievements was to see that the Society played a major part in the production of the NFDC 'Lymington Local Distinctiveness' planning guidance, which is proving to be a significant factor in improving the quality of planning proposals, in terms of their contribution to the town's character. For the moment at least we'll have to manage without him and would like to express all our thanks for his very considerable work on behalf of the Society and the town.

Round up of significant Planning applications over the last 12 months

1. Travis Perkins site, Grove Road/Queen Katherine Road

97325; development of 23 dwellings comprised 8 houses; 4 pairs of semi-detached houses; 7 flats; refuse and cycle store; garages; parking; new access; demolition of existing building (Outline Application).

LymSoc action:

requested NFDC's Local Distinctiveness team to correct their omission of this site from any of the 'character areas'

submitted LymSoc objection

spoke at Town Council 27.07.2011.

Lymington & Pennington Town Council unanimous recommendation to refuse: too much, too high, insufficient detail.

NFDC refused application under

delegated powers.

APP/B1740/A/11/2163151/NWF; ref 97325; Appeal decided by a 3 day Public Inquiry starting 6th March 2012 Lymington Town Hall.

LymSoc action: submitted objection to Planning Inspectorate; prepared proof of evidence and gave evidence at Public Inquiry.

Status: refused.

The Inspector commented that "Redevelopment provides an opportunity to knit this fairly open site into the surrounding urban fabric by reflecting and reinforcing the distinctive character of the town...".

However he concluded that the current proposal "would not be properly integrated into the existing urban form, in clear conflict with the Council's key policy objective of retaining and reinforcing local distinctiveness". He found that it was in conflict with the objectives of Core Strategy policies CS2 and CS3, saved Local Plan policy DW-E23 and the Council's design guidance, as the proposed development would significantly detract from the distinctive character and appearance of the area.

LymSoc comment

They'll be back. Hopefully with something more appropriate to the character and context of this part of town.

The application sought to justify the height and density of the proposed development by reference to the site's proximity to Captain's Row, Nelson Place and the Town Centre Conservation Area where density is greatest. It failed to take a hint as to the scale of dwellings that would be appropriate from Alma House, a Grade 2 listed mid-19th Century building of some character, which defines the corner of this important site. A three-storey terrace with no setback fronting Grove Road would stand in contrast to Alma House and overpower the 2-storey dwellings opposite.

We contended that the design should draw on its immediate context, Queen Katharine Road and Grove Road. Recent development immediately adjoining the

application site in Queen Katharine Road and South Grove shows respect for what is considered appropriate in this area: two-storey houses set well back from the road within a well-designed layout.

2. Former WEBBS factory site; Bridge Road; Lymington Conservation Area

NFDC granted permission for an approx. 300 home development in 2004

LymSoc action:

Held public meeting 04.03.2011 Redrow, NFDC and Town Council represented; Redrow proposed new application for 140-150 dwellings with 30% affordable; announced that Brian Avery appointed.

LymSoc representative attended working group meetings.

Invited Brian Avery to LymSoc social meeting 08.11.2011 where his design was well received.

97849; mixed use development comprised: 168 dwellings; restaurant; retail/commercial space (Use Class A1 & A2) boat club; art gallery (Use Class D1); jetty with pontoon; access alterations; pedestrian bridge over railway; riverside walkway; car parking; landscaping; drainage. Number of dwellings now 168 with 15% affordable.

Application re-presented at DC meeting 13.06.2012. Town Council recommends refusal; 'Lymington's Last Shore' claims more than 400 objections.

LymSoc action:

submitted LymSoc comments to NFDC

spoke at DCC meeting 11.01.2012 and provided qualified support.

Status: granted subject to legal agreements.

3. 47-48 St Thomas St

96974; change of use to public house (Class A4); J D Wetherspoon PLC.

Status: NFDC DC approved 14.09.2011.

LymSoc action:

consider grounds for challenge/JR

supported by funding from LymSoc & neighbours

requested minutes of DC meeting

written to Councillors about the outcome

submitted response to LymSoc criticisms in Lymington Times

sought commitment to funding from neighbours

took advice from Counsel

sent a protocol letter preceding a potential claim to the administrative Court for judicial review of the decision (copy to JDW).

4. Lymington Car Ferry Terminal, Shore Road, Boldre;

LymSoc Action:

gave evidence at Public Inquiry. NFDC and NPA opted to give no evidence at Public Inquiry 11.10.2011.

Appeal APP/B1740/A/11/2152093 re 96387; Shore works including replacement & upgrading of the existing berthing arrangement; modifications to the ship berths; passenger ramps & linkspan bridges; new fender piles on main berths & standby berths.

Appeal APP/B9506/A/11/2152094 re 95896; (NFNPA application number); Intertidal Zone at Boiler Marsh, Boldre; WightLink application for a 'Project' comprising: 1. operation of the 'W' Class Ferries; 2. Shore Works; 3. Recharge and Habitat creation works.

Status: Inspector approved shore works, re-charge scheme and WightLink operational proposals with some restrictions.

5. 2-4 Gosport Street;

98162; proposal: change of use to restaurant & hot food takeaway (Use Class A3 & A5); flue; create doorway. Applicant: Deep Blue Restaurants Ltd.

LymSoc action:

submitted objection on grounds that people sitting on railings outside and opposite could reduce footfall at other shops; increase litter and vermin; fears that vehicles pulling-up outside could cause traffic hazard.

Status: NFDC refused: reason 1) proposed use would not be "complementary to the retailing function and enhance the overall vitality of the centre". (policy BU-TC1) as it would result in the loss of an A1 retail unit within the Primary Shopping Area. Reason 2) flue to the northern elevation would be visually intrusive and harmful to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area".

6. High Meadow, Undershore Road

97351 (NFNPA); outbuilding. Comment: Planning Officer questions whether: 1) proposed building is within curtilage of High Meadow; 2) it would be of incidental or habitable scale and purpose; 3) the proposal would affect the character of the area; 4) the building would enhance character of Conservation Area.

LymSoc action:

submitted comment that if NFNPA find the proposal acceptable there should be a condition against the outbuilding being used for residential.

Status: withdrawn.

7. Caffe Nero Cardinal House, 29 High Street (Lymington Conservation Area);

97358; single-storey rear extension; outside seating area; roof-lights; roof garden; access stairs.

LymSoc action:

spoke against the proposals at Town Council and at NFDC DC who recommended approval.

Status: NFDC approved 9-6.

Enforcement actions at 09.09.2012

8. Bridge Cottage; Bridge Road; Lymington Conservation Area.

[96521](#); Bridge Cottage, Bridge Road; Raise garage roof; single-storey extension - retrospective.

Status: NFDC refused.

LymSoc action:

submitted objection; raised lack of enforcement with NFDC.

APP/B1740/C/12/2175912 (against Enforcement Notice EN/09/0270).

submitted LymSoc objection to Planning inspectorate.

chased target date for outcome.

Status: not yet decided.

August 2012: new proposals made in anticipation of appeal result:

99087; retention of single-storey extension with alterations to form hipped roof; retention of 1.8 metre high boundary wall.

99089; retention of rear conservatory with alterations to lower lean-to roof

99089; retention of garage including accommodation in roof space with alterations to remove front projecting gable feature and create hipped roof form.

Status: not yet decided.

9. Buffalo Bar, St. Thomas St; neon signage.

LymSoc action:

wrote to NFDC encouraging enforcement action and asking for target timescales; chased NFDC for progress report.

Status: NFDC has written to occupiers giving notice that there is no planning permission. Case Officer says they are "seeking resolution within a few weeks" and are likely to threaten prosecution if signage not removed within 14 days.

10. 6 Ellery Grove

97926; 4 houses; associated parking; access; demolition of existing.

Comment: NFDC refused previous application (95716 for 1 three-storey block of 3

flats; 1 detached house) as cramped and intrusive and out of keeping with character,

contrary to Policy CS2. This application appears no less cramped.

LymSoc action:

Contd. on page 8, Col. 3

2012 AGM Minutes

By Ivor Johnston

66 members attended the AGM on 20th March 2012. Minutes of the 2011 AGM had been circulated by post and on the website. Apologies received : Lt. Col. Chitty & Mr. Beaumont.

Mr. Sutton welcomed the Mayor and gave the Chairman's Address (to be published in the newsletter and on the website). He reminisced on the 50 year history of the Society and its involvement in the preservation of Buckland Rings and in the controversy over the site of the new hospital.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Mr. Sheffer. He explained the expenditure on legal fees and the need to advertise important meetings concerning the Redrow site. Dr. Mackenzie appealed for members to send emails to info@lymsoc.co.uk to reduce postage costs. The accounts were then approved by a show of hands.

Mr. Sutton then opened the meeting for questions. Mr. Dixon ask about the maintenance of flower beds and verges, and Mr. Walrock commented on the poor state of pavements and parking areas. Cllr. Rostand explained the difficulties of dealing with the multiple agencies involved. She congratulated Dr. Mackenzie and the Christmas Lights Committee.

Questions were asked about the licensing of Wetherspoons. Cllr. Lewis said that opening hours had been reduced, but could not be blocked once permission for a pub had been granted by the planning authority. She asked that neighbours keep a careful log of any problems. Mr. Sheffer reported the British Legion had similar licensing hours.

Mr. Hebard spoke of the £23m. Coastal Community Fund. Cllr. Rostand replied that the Council is aware and will appoint an events manager.

Mr. Sutton then paid tribute to the expertise and hard work of Jonathan Hutchinson, who is retiring from the Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, re-election of current members of the Executive Committee: Clive Sutton, Derek Sheffer, Ivor Johnston, Nic King, Donald Mackenzie, Nigel Seth-Smith and the co-opted member Tim Kermode was proposed by Cllr. Elizabeth Lewis

and seconded by Wendy Couch and passed unanimously.

Dr. Mackenzie then reported on the social activities of the past year and announced the Summer Garden Party in the garden of Chawton House on 19th June 2012.

Cllr. Rostand than gave a brief account of preparations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and explained that the preparations for the Olympic torch were imposed from on high with no input from local councils. She praised Cllr. Lewis' organization for the Arts Festival on 18th – 24th June.

After refreshments, **Angela Trend** gave a talk on **Lymington Town Tours** illustrated with photographs of the many historical buildings and features demonstrated on the guided walks of the town conducted by volunteers.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Some Questions Posed to the Treasurer by Members

- Q. Why does the Society not have Charitable status?
- A. The minimum turnover of an organisation to qualify for Charitable Status is £5000. The Society has not yet achieved this level but we constantly review the situation.
- Q. Why do we collect subscriptions by Standing Order and not Direct Debit?
- A. We keep this under review but the current cost of collection for our relatively small membership is unjustified as we very infrequently change the subscription rate.
- Q. Why do we receive hardly any interest on our deposit account?
- A. Our Account has to be a Business Account as we do not qualify as a Personal Account holder. To open an interest bearing Business Account the organisation must be incorporated as a Company limited by shares or by guarantee. The cost of doing this would be unjustified at the present time.

Chairman's Comments

Contd. from page 1

and support of local distinctiveness supplemental planning guidance. As I have said we are not single issue organisation nor a multiple issue organisation but we are a continuing body ready to support good development in Lymington and oppose plans for development which will damage its character. In support of that aim the Society maintains and supports its membership with social activities which hopefully are instructive, as was our recent meeting and talk at the Museum as just one example.

However the engine room of our Committee is the continual monitoring of the local planning applications and consultations which we receive, to ensure that those which have wider impact on the character of the town, are considered and commented on; if appropriate encouraged and if appropriate discouraged and sometimes with the decision to make no comment.

However major applications arise without any warning and we are require to be able to respond or call assistance to respond at short notice which is why the committee needs to be on its toes and continues to meet every month.

At the moment we are having a period of housekeeping to put ourselves in the position of being able to bring our communications up to date with a modern website and be able to communicate electronically by e-mail as much as possible, although we obviously want continue to involve those who feel that the e-mail revolution has passed them by.

It is a good moment for those who feel they have something to offer to the committee to be able to play themselves in as observers or new committee members.

Please support the social events have and the next AGM. Things are not as exciting or, for the committee, stressful, as they have been, but no doubt those times will return and until they do let us enjoy the benefits of the organisation which has now run successfully since 1962 and provided so much benefit to the character of Lymington.

Lymington's Special Character
contd. from Page 4

down by the NFDC went to appeal.

One of the first times that this Supplementary Planning Guidance came into play was in association with the proposed development by Penny Farthing on the Travis Perkins site south of the High Street.

In his assessment of the Penny Farthing appeal, the Planning Inspector quoted heavily from the Local Distinctiveness criteria for this area of the town in his reasoning for refusal.

Only time will tell, and whisper it quietly, but, after almost 10 years of lobbying the NFDC Planners to put in place planning guidance which really protects the special character of the town, we may now have such protection in place, which will be extremely useful in the future to ensure that developers are not allowed to continue their previous overdevelopment and destruction of the beauty of Lymington, which we all wish to see preserved rather than gradually destroyed.

New Committee Members Wanted

Your committee remains as committed as our name suggests, but we have been at it for quite some time, and would welcome some new members.

Now is a good time to join the committee. The major projects of Redrow, Wetherspoons and Wightlink are behind us, and we are looking for new ways to contribute the town, promoting and encouraging positive changes, as well as continuing to protect it against unwelcome ones.

If you feel that you would like to help make Lymington a better town please contact a committee member—either in person or through an email to info@lymsoc.co.uk. You can then come along to a committee meeting or two and see how you like it.

Postal Costs and Emails
The future of communications for the Lymington Society.

By Jim Kermode

Following the recent increase in postal charges the committee have been considering the implications for the society. A significant part of your annual subscription can be used just for mailing the newsletters, so we would like to send as much as possible by email – in this way we will be able to provide information more regularly in a more cost effective manner. We are also considering whether we should consult the membership more regularly, particularly on any controversial planning matters – this is only practical by email – please let us have your views.

We understand that some people do not have email, or would prefer to continue to receive newsletters in the post, if this is the case please let any committee member know or write to the secretary.

Please let us know your email address

We have email addresses for the majority of members, but if we have not got yours, or it has recently changed, please send an email to:

info@lymsoc.co.uk.

We will send this newsletter to all of the email addresses we have, so if you did not receive it by email, then we don't have your address.

Your email doesn't even have to have any contents, although we are always pleased to hear from members about any topic at any time. We will extract your email address and add it to our records. This will enable us to contact you by email about upcoming public meetings, social events, etc.

We will assume that you are happy to receive future newsletters and notices by email. If this is not the case, let us know in the email and we will continue to post them to you.

Depending on the response we may need to phone members to check addresses for undelivered or missing email addresses.

Planning Roundup
contd. from Page 6

submitted objection.

APP/B1740/A/12/2173541 (ref 97926);

submitted objection to Planning Inspectorate. Chased target date for outcome.

Status: not yet decided.

11. NFDC Sites and Development Management Development Plan

This sets out detailed proposals to implement planning strategy for the area agreed through the Core Strategy (adopted in 2009); includes the allocation of greenfield land for new development required to meet need for additional housing, affordable housing and employment land.

LymSoc action:

liaised with Pennington Residents Association; submitted LymSoc comments.

Status: NFDC acknowledged our submission.

New Look Website

By Nigel Seth-Smith

The task of maintaining the website has proven rather too much for your webmaster this summer, as I'm sure you will have noticed only too keenly.

To the rescue comes Mark Lanigan, a society member with expertise about modern communication techniques. He knows all about twitter and facebook and all that clever stuff.

Mark will bring newer technology to the website, so that the news reports, which are so important to our kind of website, are a great deal easier to keep up to date. We are also looking at ways for you, the members, to have your say online, with areas for members' comments and approval ratings. We will start work on it immediately, and hope to be ready to launch by Easter 2013.