

Donald Mackenzie

From: The Lymington Society <donald@donald-mackenzie.co.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2022 11:08
To: Donald Mackenzie
Subject: [Test] Autumn Update from the Lymington Society

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LymSoc September 2022 Email Update

Dear Lymington Society Member,

Welcome to our email update for Autumn 2022

This is the first major update since the handover of the role of Chair from Clive Sutton to Don Mackenzie and we have a lot to report starting with the Chair's Message below. As you will be

able to read there has been a lot going on and the forthcoming period is going to be a busy one for the Society.

We are also pleased to announce the details of a very active Social Programme for the year 2022-2023 and hope that members will support the events that have been planned.

Editor

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Message from Don Mackenzie, Society Chair

Dear Members

Welcome to our Autumn update which I am sure you will find packed with interesting information about the activities of the Society both recently and also our planned activities in the future.

This is my first opportunity to communicate with our Members since becoming Chair of the Society at the AGM at the end of March, and I am happy to report that the Society has thankfully emerged from the challenges of the pandemic in good shape due to the fantastic and ongoing support of our members, who despite the lack of meetings and the confinement of lockdown, stuck with the Society through that traumatic period and for that the Committee and I are very grateful.

We were able thankfully to restart our Social Programme and this March we had our first AGM in person since 2019 which was one of our best attended with the new venue of the Malt Hall at the Lymington Centre just big enough to hold the almost ninety people who attended. We were also able to hold our Summer Garden Party without the restrictions on numbers of last year and were able to welcome over sixty people to the wonderful garden of member Pauline Davies – to whom we express our sincere thanks for welcoming us into her garden and home.

At the AGM Clive Sutton stepped down after over 20 years as Chairman and I was able to thank him for his immense service to the Society and for his steady hand on the tiller guiding us through some important times in the history of the Society. Clive has accepted the position of President of the Society and I am grateful that he has offered to give his help and advice where needed in the future.

I am also grateful to be supported by a very strong committee with several new members having come on board recently who have very relevant and helpful experience in areas such as planning and developing community engagement and I look forward to working with them to further the aims of the Society in the future.

The Society is engaged in a number of important issues at the moment of which the forthcoming draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) being prepared by the Town Council is top of the list. Brought in by the Cameron

coalition government to help persuade communities to accept more housing in their area in exchange for a bigger share of the levies paid by developers, NPs have been adopted by many communities already.

Whilst accepting that the pandemic did not help, progress in Lymington has however been very slow and the lack of consultation and community involvement in the process has been in marked contrast to the way that NPs have been developed elsewhere. We will be making further comment on this in due course.

Finally, we are pleased to announce our programme of social events for the year ahead and we hope that you will add these to your diary and join us for what promise to be fascinating events.

Don Mackenzie

Chairman

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Lymington Society Social Programme Autumn 2022 - Summer 2023

The Social Committee of the Lymington Society are pleased to announce that we have been able to arrange another full year of social events from now through until June next year. Please make a note of these events in your diary and come along to meet fellow members and talk to Committee Members about your concerns for Lymington in the future.

Wednesday - October 5th Private view of Exhibition - Small Wonders - St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery. 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm. Drinks served from 6.00 pm. Cost £5.00 to include refreshments. Tickets on the door or on Eventbrite. [Private View Tickets.](#)

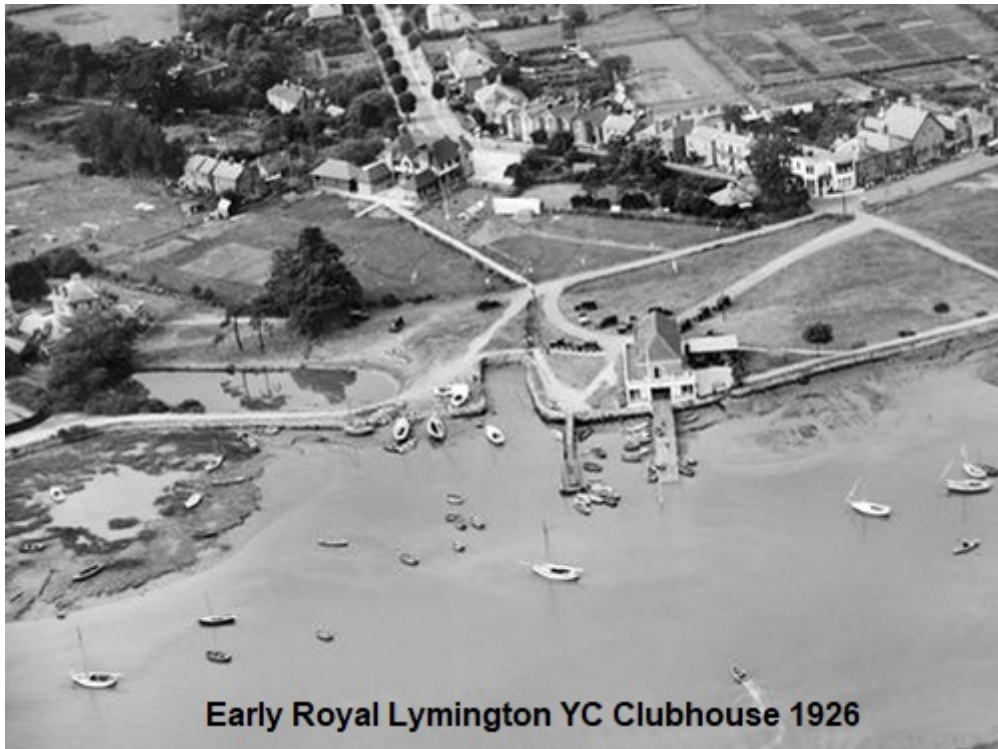


Angie Lewin - Machair, screenprint (copyright of the artist)

We are pleased to return again to St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery, where curator Steve Marshall will guide us round this year's major exhibition curated by St Barbe Museum entitled "Small Wonders".

Small Wonders celebrates plants, animals and habitats which are sometimes overlooked but nevertheless remarkable in their own way and most likely under threat from climate change, sea level rise, pollution, development or intensive farming methods. Based around the work of contemporary artists the exhibition reminds us of the richness of British wildlife while highlighting the precarious situation in which many species are now found.

Monday 7th of November Talk – History of the Royal Lymington Yacht Club at 100 Years. Talk by Graham Clark Club Historian. The Lymington Centre - 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm. Drinks served from 6.00 Cost £5.00 to include refreshments. Tickets on the door or on Eventbrite. [Click Here for Tickets](#)



Early Royal Lyminster YC Clubhouse 1926

Early premises of the Royal Lyminster YC. Bath Road - Lyminster 1930

As the Royal Lyminster Yacht Club celebrates its centenary, Club Historian Graham Clark and Neil Eccles , Club Archivist, will present a fascinating glimpse into the history of this prestigious yacht club which does so much to encourage especially young people to become involved in sailing and which has done so much to support sailing at both local, national and at international level

From the earliest days as a coastguard boathouse to the present extensive clubhouse, the club has continued to develop and the talk by club Graham and Neil promises to be interesting look at one of Lyminster most important institutions.

Thursday 15th December Lyminster Society Christmas Drinks Party St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery. 6.00 PM
Tickets £8.00 online only at Eventbrite. [Click Here for Christmas Party Tickets](#)

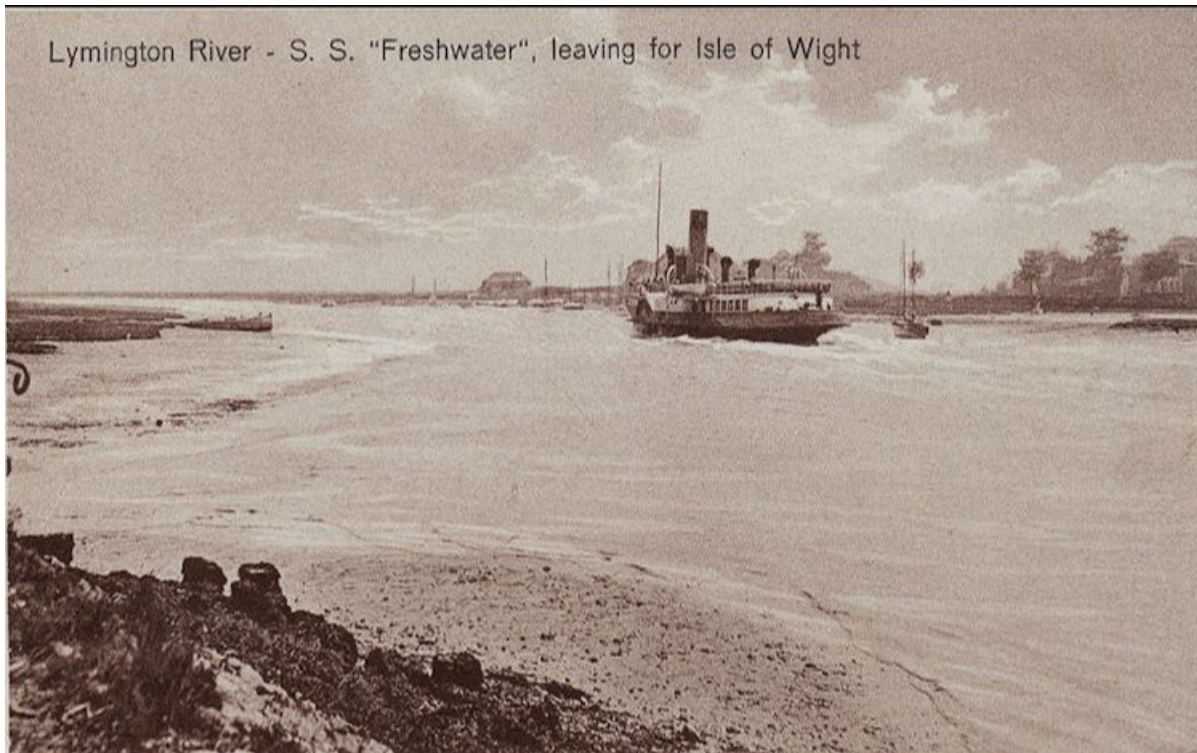


For the second year we are returning to St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery for our Christmas Drinks Party after last year's successful party. Please come along and kick off your Christmas in great style at the Lymington Society Christmas Party, viewed by many as the most exciting Christmas Party in Lymington.

Always a popular event, the Christmas Party is your chance to meet other members and to chat to LymSoc Committee members and local Councillors about the ongoing local matters of concern.

As usual the catering will be provided by outstanding local caterer Di Morley who produces the most delicious canapes. Make a date to join us for this popular event in the LymSoc calendar.

Monday the 6th of February. The History of the Lymington to Yarmouth Ferry. Illustrated Talk by Alan Doe. The Lymington Centre - 6.00 pm for 6.30 pm. Drinks served from 6.00 pm. Tickets £5.00 to include refreshments available on the door or on Eventbrite. Details to be announced later



Dr Alan Doe will introduce a talk entitled "The Lymington-Yarmouth Passage"

Alan will talk about the Lymington -Yarmouth Ferry from the first steam paddle boat introduced in 1830 up until the introduction of the new ferries in 2009 but with a very personal twist as every generation of his family, including Alan himself, have worked on the ferries.

Meet Captain Henry Doe who worked on the ferries all his life and who allegedly drank a bottle of whisky a day to overcome his gout. Pictures and stories from the family treasure trove.

Wednesday the 29th of March. Lymington Society Annual General Meeting. The Malt Hall – The Lymington Centre 7.00 pm for 7.30. Followed by an Illustrated Talk – The History of the Lymington Sea Water Baths by Barry Jolly. No Charge.



The Malt Hall, The Lymington Centre.

Members are invited to attend the AGM of the Society where the Chair will present a Report on the activities of the last year since the previous AGM. Following this, members will be invited to vote on the appointment of the officers of the society and to vote for the members of the Executive Committee. There will then be the usual chance for members to ask questions and have their input into the future priorities for the next year's activities.

Illustrated Talk – The History of the Lymington Sea Water Baths by Barry Jolly.



Bath House 1850

Following this, well known local historian Barry Jolly will present a short presentation on the fascinating history of the building and history of the Lymington Sea Water baths which are now listed, and which are so loved by local people.

Friday the 2nd of June 2023 The Lymington Society Summer Garden Party. Bays, Captains Row, Lymington. 6.00 – 8.00 PM. Tickets are £10.00 and are available only on Eventbrite. Details to be released later.



Garden of Bays, Captains Row, Lymington

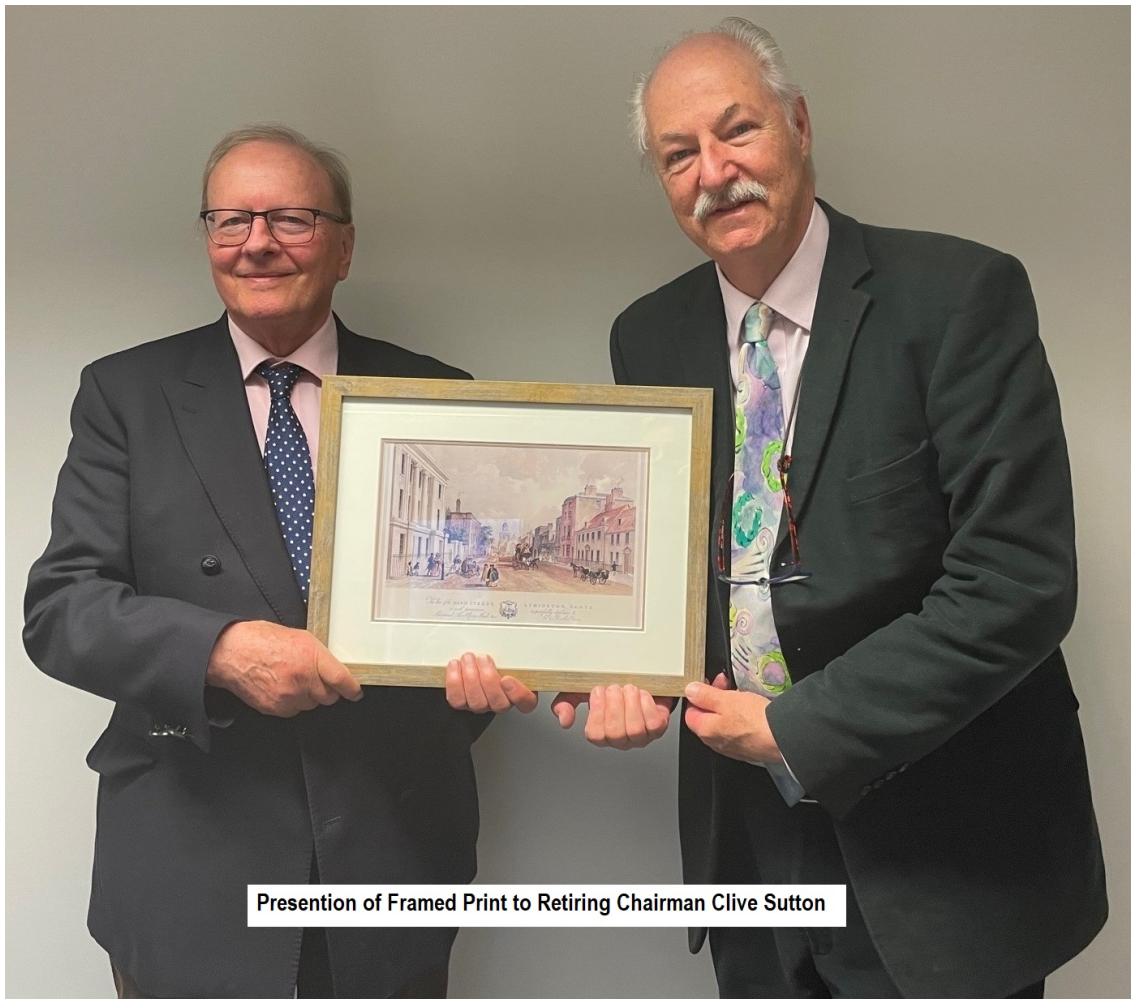
By kind permission of LymSoc members Lesley and Mark Pidsley the Summer Garden Party will be held in the wonderful gardens of Bays, Captains Row, in the heart of Lymington.

Please join us for a delightful summer's garden party with Pimms , Prosecco and fantastic canapes in this unique garden tucked away just off the High Street.

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AGM Report 30th March 2022.

Clive Sutton Steps Down After over 20 Years as Chairman



Presentation of Framed Print to Retiring Chairman Clive Sutton

For the first time since lockdown ended, the Society was able to hold its AGM in person rather than on Zoom as over the last two years. Hopeful of a good turnout by members after the gap of two years, the Society booked the Malt Hall at the Lymington Centre and sent a printed newsletter to all members setting out the agenda and urging members to attend in good numbers if possible. We were rewarded with a packed meeting of over ninety people and the Committee was very grateful to receive such strong support from the members. As usual the meeting began with a short drinks reception where members were able to mingle with the Committee members and discuss matters of concern and interest.

The meeting was marked by the stepping down of Chairman Clive Sutton who has guided the Society for over 20 years. Clive announced that he was stepping down and that he hoped that the new Committee would support Don Mackenzie as the new Chair of the Society. Deputy Chair Donald Mackenzie, thanked Clive for his tremendous service to the Society and described how he had kept the Society on the straight and narrow with his legal training coming in useful in ensuring that the Society had a balanced approach to contentious issues over the years.

Don proposed that the Members would now elect Clive as the new President of the Society, a position previously held by Dr Ivor Johnston who for so many years had been the Hon. Sec. of the Society until his passing two years ago.

The motion was proposed by Don Mackenzie, seconded by Tom McEwen, and agreed unanimously by members. Following this a framed coloured print of the High Street in 1832 was presented to Clive.

Reports were given by acting Treasurer Jerry Weber, Social Sec. Pam Morrissey, Oliver Dunne Membership and Chair of Planning Don Mackenzie.

Town Council members present included Anne Corbridge, Andy Ash-Vie and Barry Dunning, and their lively contributions ensured that a range of issues were then discussed during the Planning Report.

Following this, the usual business of an AGM took place with the Committee, including some new members, being voted in by those present. Existing Committee members standing for election again were Don Mackenzie, Peter Stone, Pam Morrissey, James Bull, and Oliver Dunne and new previously co-opted members, were invited to say a few words of introduction, before they were also proposed and voted onto the Committee.

Following the main business of the meeting, members raised a series of queries during "Any Other Business" including issues such as:

- The proposed development off Ridgway Lane and the increase in traffic it will bring,
- Creek Cottage Barns
- Traffic along Ramley road
- Charges for parking in the High Street.
- Wheelie bins

Don Mackenzie replied to these queries and the Town Councillors present were also able to help with further information on these points.

The formal meeting was then closed at 9.30 pm, following which Steve Marshal from St Barbe Museum gave a fascinating talk on the history of the High Street and its businesses over many years, taken from the then current exhibition at the museum. This was well received, after which a vote of thanks was given to Steve for his excellent presentation.

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Redrow & Lymington Shores Update



- **Redrow Denied Judicial Review on Lost Bridge Planning Appeal. Still No Resolution of Impasse Lymington Shores Site**
- **Change Of Use for Unused Commercial Units/Restaurant Still Undecided**
- **Resolution Of Unused Work Units at Ampress May Be Nearer Following Changes to Law on Use Classes.**

Following recent detailed discussions between the Chair and Claire Upton Brown, NFDC Chief Planning Officer, over the various unresolved planning issues on the Lymington Shores site, we appear no further forward on the main issues although finally there may be a resolution of the long running saga of the unused work starter units at Ampress.

Redrow Refused Judicial Review of Appeal. Still an Impasse on Finishing the Site

As set out in some detail in the last edition of the Lymington Voice newsletter in March this year, the Society played an active part in developing the plans for what is known as the Lymington Shores site from its earliest inception developing the supplementary planning guidance for the site through to our recent appearance at the appeal held by the Planning Inspectorate into the application by Redrow to have all the previous planning conditions removed - including the obligation to build the bridge over the railway.

As we have reported, Redrow lost that appeal, and we can reveal that Redrow took this decision by the Planning Inspectorate to Judicial Review (JR) earlier this year and we can

report that this request for a JR was in fact refused. It would appear that the request for a JR was on the procedure adopted by the Planning Inspectorate, rather than the actual decision, as this cannot be the subject of a JR.

In our discussions, the Chief Planning Officer suggested that the next likely step on this site might see Redrow making a further planning application, which would again involve a scheme to remove the bridge from the original planning application, on the basis that it was no longer required. So far this has not happened, and we will keep members informed. As long as Redrow do not go over the agreed 125 units that they have sold, the NFDC do not have any legal way of forcing them to complete the rest of the site as agreed in the section 106 agreement.

Change of Use for Vacant Commercial Units on Lymington Shores site. Still Not Decided!!



As we previously reported, Redrow have also applied for permission to convert the vacant unused commercial units which include retail units, a gallery and a restaurant, which were intended to bring some economic vitality to the site, into nine more apartments. Despite this application being made well over a year ago, the application has still not been put before the Planning

Committee. The Society understands that a new flood risk assessment as well of evidence that the units have actually been properly marketed, have still not been supplied by the Redrow - despite the long delay.

The Society has objected to this application, which goes against all the Supplementary Planning Guidance agreed for this site many years ago, which had the intention of creating an attractive site to visit, rather than it being simply a dormitory area. We hope that the council will also resist this application to remove the commercial units on the site and convert them to more apartments.

Workshop Factory Units at Ampress. Movement at last on the use of these unused factory units.



The Society has been in communication with the NFDC over the years about the shameful fact that the much needed work starter units built at Ampress as part of the job replacement plans for the Lymington Shores site, have sat empty for about 5 years - apart from temporary use as a Covid testing centre

Redrow and the NFDC have both blamed each other for this, with Redrow claiming that the "easy-in easy-out" leases agreed as part of the original planning permission with leases no longer that 28 days, have made letting the units out impossible. The Council wished to ensure that local people had less onerous leases to encourage local people to take the units without making long term commitments. This disagreement has meant that the units have been empty and overgrown now for years.

A compromise now seems to be imminent following recent changes to the planning system which has brought in a new class of uses by the government to encourage job creation and Redrow have now applied for application of this new usage class E,.

In order to allay Town Council concerns that this new use class could result in retail units undermining the Town Centre, Redrow have agreed to changes to the previous planning permission to restrict the new uses to prevent damage to the High Street and the Council are now recommending that permission is granted. If agreed at the next Planning Committee this should result in these valuable work units finally coming into use after years of sitting empty.

The Society will be supporting this application and hope that these units can be put into use creating jobs in the near future.

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Still No News on Police Station Appeal Decision??



One of the most eagerly awaited planning appeal decisions in many years is still in the balance as the Planning Inspectorate has yet again deferred any decision on the contentious police

station appeal.

As the Society has advised members previously, and as has been reported in the local press, the Society has been trying extremely hard to prevent yet further retirement flats being built on the site of the former police station in Southampton Road

Following the refusal by the NFDC Planning Committee of the application by Churchill to build 32 retirement flats on this site, an appeal was held in the last week of April and the Society instructed local planning consultant Bob Hull to prepare evidence for the Society, to be used both in the written submission made to the Planning Inspector, and also to additional evidence to be presented at the Appeal hearing.

On behalf of the Society, Chair Don Mackenzie attended the appeal together with Mr Hull and presented our extremely detailed evidence to the Planning Inspector. Members of the Committee together attended throughout that week.

The crux of our argument was that the building was totally out of character to the area bearing in mind the Lymington Local Distinctiveness Supplementary Planning Guidance which the Society had so much input into when it was developed almost a decade ago.

It was agreed on all sides that the police station whilst not a listed building, had considerable architectural merit and could be considered what is known as a non-designated heritage asset.

The damage to the nearby Conservation Area likely to be caused by the loss of a non-designated heritage asset and its replacement by an ugly, over-dominant block of flats right on the edge of the Conservation Area was also pointed out both by the Society and the QC representing the NFDC.

We also made the point that these flats were simply not needed with so many apartments already being for sale in the town on the second-hand market.

The Society prepared evidence on the total numbers of apartments in the town and the number of those which were currently for sale, taking into account the Stanford Hill development of 44 flats which is now being constructed.

Unfortunately, nothing in the current NFDC Local Plan prevents the building of large numbers of retirement properties in one town in the district and this is something that the Society will be coming back to in the near future

Although the result of the appeal was expected months ago, the Society has been advised by the Planning Inspectorate that there have been further delays in completing the evaluation and coming to a decision. We will of course advise members when the decision is finally made.

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Lymington Society Concerns About Forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan.



The idea of a Neighbourhood Plan to enable smaller communities to have input into the planning process was first introduced by David Cameron and the coalition government in 2012 to try and persuade local communities to embrace new housing developments, rather than resist attempts to increase the level of much-needed housebuilding in the country.

The advantage to communities which embrace new developments through the process of a local plan referendum is that an increased proportion of the so-called Community Infrastructure Levy, would flow to the community to be spent on local priorities, rather than go to the District Council, as is currently the case.

The Lymington Society has been urging the Town Council to produce a Lymington Neighbourhood Plan from these early days and it is extremely disappointing that whereas many communities around the country have produced Neighbourhood Plans, Lymington is seemingly still quite some way from finishing theirs.

The Society understands of course that the pandemic and its effects on the staffing and level of activity at the Town Council has resulted in delays in moving forward with this process.

The Society is aware that the Town Council is now making an attempt to resurrect the Neighbourhood Plan process and that a working group of Councillors is taking forward planning

for a draft Neighbourhood Plan to be issued for consultation in the next month or two.

The Society was involved in early workshops in 2017 in respect of the heritage and design elements of any future housing developments that were brought forward, and more recently we were involved in two meetings designed to bring forward a vision for the town centre which was produced by consultants for the Town Council.

However, the Society is extremely disappointed that since the initial consultation phases of the Neighbourhood Plan in 2017, there has been little or no engagement by the Town Council with the wider community. The Society feels that the current process involving a small working group of Councillors working seemingly behind closed doors, is not in line with the recommended way of producing a Neighbourhood Plan which should have involved widespread and ongoing consultations with the local residents on the improvements they would like to see in their community.

We await the promised first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan in the next few weeks following which we will be commenting publicly on the process and whether we can support the plan that the council has developed.

As part of our consideration of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Society intends to consult its members and the wider community to ascertain their priorities in the vitally important development for the future of the town and will be circulating members on this shortly.

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Listed Salt Barns adjacent to Creek Cottage, Moses Dock Pennington

Creek Cottage Update. Positive Discussions with Conservation Officer and the Owner.

The Society has been concerned for some time about the poor state of maintenance of the listed salt barns at Creek Cottage near the Salterns on the Solent coast, and we have been in regular dialogue with the Conservation Officer for the National Park Authority (NPA) urging them to take action to stop further deterioration.

We are pleased to report that we have now had extensive conversations with the Conservation Officer, as well as the owner of the barns, and can confirm that a plan is emerging for these properties to be restored as residential properties, subject to planning permission being obtained. The owner of the properties has informed us that he has had structural surveys carried out confirming that the property has not undergone any further structural damage compared with a previous survey some years ago.

The Society agrees with the owners that in order to fund their restoration, a viable use needs to be found for these buildings and we understand that discussions between the owner and the Conservation Officer have got to the point where their use as residential properties is viewed as the best route to secure their future.

The principal difficulty lies in the fact that the Environment Agency is reluctant to approve new residential properties in a flood risk area and therefore ongoing discussions are taking place between the NPA and the Environment Agency to come to an agreement on their future use.

The owner has agreed to make the structural engineers' report available to us so that we can be satisfied that the buildings are being monitored effectively. We will continue to press the owner and the Conservation Officer to follow through with an effective restoration programme

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Photo of Old Lymington circa early 19th century

Lymington Society Taking Forward Creation of a Local List of "Non-designated Heritage Assets" Please Nominate Buildings for the Local List

Lymington and Pennington have many outstanding buildings; many of the building in the High Street are listed by English Heritage. What about those many other buildings or other attractive features such as parks or even street furniture that are not listed?

Many local authorities have a Local List of Heritage Assets that recognises buildings, structures, landscapes, and archaeological sites that fall below the national criteria of listed status but are considered locally to be heritage assets.

We have been discussing with New Forest District Council the need for the district to have a Local List and they have now agreed for us to go ahead and we hope that it will be approved by your Councillors. Once approved, the Council will take into consideration those properties for future planning with the aim of retaining their character.

Vote for your favourite building

Go to the Lymington Society's website (lymsoc.co.uk) for more information and send your favourite buildings to lymsoclocalist@gmail.com

Tell us why you made this choice, perhaps a bit of history and a photo would be ideal. Please avoid putting forward buildings in the High Street as almost all of these are listed buildings. Of course, put forward as many as you like. Tell us why you made this choice, perhaps a bit of history and a photo would be ideal. Please avoid putting forward buildings that are already listed as many building in the High Street are already.

Please check here first to see if you building is one that is already listed. [Listed Buildings in Lymington and Pennington](#) and please don't nominate a building that is already listed.

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44 More Retirement Flats coming to Stanford Hill

LymSoc to Press NFDC to Review Local Plan to Try and Halt Retirement Flats Oversupply

Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), such as the New Forest District Council, have by law to

produce what is known as a Local Plan which sets out the priorities for the LPA in the area covered by the authority in regard to allocations of land for housing, employment land, as well as numerous policies which cover every aspect of the planning process in their area.

The current New Forest District Council Local Plan which runs for the period 2016 to 2036 was finally approved after a Public Inquiry in 2020. However, at the NFDC Planning Committee hearing considering the Churchill application for more retirement apartments on the site of the former Police Station in Lymington in earlier in the year, many Councillors described the Local Plan as “not fit for purpose” due to the lack of any guidance in the plan which might limit or control the number of retirement apartments being built in the district.

Due to the lack of any controls in the Local Plan on where retirement apartments can be built or how many can be built, Planning Inspectors will often overturn the decision by Councillors to refuse permission for more retirement properties in an area such as Lymington, on the basis that nationally there is a shortage of such accommodation, despite their appearing to be oversupply in specific communities such as Lymington.

The Society has therefore recently raised with the NFDC Chief Planning Officer, the suggestion that an urgent review of the Local Plan is needed so that tighter controls can be imposed on the number of retirement properties built in the New Forest District.

The Chief Planning Officer has indicated that review of the Local Plan is something that they might consider, despite the plan only being approved in 2020 and the Committee of the Society will be considering whether the Society should publicly call for a review of the Local Plan to be brought forward sooner rather than later, in order to see what control could be put in place to prevent Lymington and other communities in the district, being flooded with more retirement properties.

A full review of the Local Plan would allow either a complete reworking of the plan or just certain polices and if a review does go ahead, the Society will be examining whether other aspects of the plan should be altered to suit the changing circumstances brought about since the original Local Plan was agreed in 2020.

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Proposed Development for 110 homes off Milford Road Approved in Principle Despite LymSoc Objections to New Junction Near Road to the Tip



Two sites, north and south of the A337 Milford Road have been allocated for at least 185 homes in the adopted New Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036.

An outline planning application for 110 dwellings on part of the southern area (reference 20/1192) was approved in principle in May 2022 by the Planning Committee subject to conditions and a legal agreement. The Society does not oppose the development in principle but argued that permission should not be given because of the failure of the District Council and Hampshire County Council as highway authority to require a full pedestrian & cycleway linking the development to the town and the inadequate turning arrangements onto the A337 which is already overloaded and heavily congested at peak times with queuing vehicles.

Whilst only the access arrangements have been included in detail so far, the Society are concerned to ensure that any higher density flatted development is contained within the site and not on the main road frontage where we have worked so hard to resist dense, urban development along the green and verdant main arterial routes into the town. Our concerns were reflected in the comments of the Urban Design officer and we will be closely monitoring the detailed plans when they are submitted.

The Society also expressed concerns regarding flooding and odour and also a concern that in the absence of any information regarding the second phase of the development to the south overall housing numbers on the site could substantially exceed the Council's allocation undermining the design criteria, spaciousness and amenity for residents of the development.

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Royal Mail refuse LymSoc Suggestion for Community use for Large Windows in Old Post office.

Since the closure of the old Post Office in the High Street two years ago, the Society has been trying to persuade the previous leaseholder to allow the six large windows to be used for the display of information boards for community groups such as the Lymington Society, the Lymington Community Centre or St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery to promote their activities and events. We also made this proposal in our supporting comments to the NFDC Planning Committee.

With the transfer of the lease to the Royal Mail for use as a Delivery Office for parcels, the Society approached the Royal Mail to try and persuade them that the use of their large windows for community information boards would be better than simply placing obscure film over the windows as originally planned.

Initially the Royal Mail were sympathetic to this proposal and asked for more details which we also made in our submission to the planning application.

Following the granting of permission for the conversion of the Post Office to a Delivery Office for parcels, we again approached the Royal Mail to follow up and were disappointed to find that Royal Mail had been advised by the Case Officer at the NFDC that they would oppose this use for the windows and that planning permission would not be given for the windows to be used for community information.

However, having checked with the Case Officer, it transpired that this was not the case and that

in fact she supported the idea as an improvement on the large blank windows of the current plans. Having again approached Royal Mail, they are unfortunately still refusing to consider any departure from the agreed plan for fully screened windows and that appears to be their final position.

The Society still feels that this is a wasted opportunity to improve the area outside the old Post Office with some interesting information for local people, rather than large blank windows which have a dominating appearance on the street scene.

The Society still feels that the area outside the old Post Office could be improved to in effect create a small “town square” with space maybe for music and or seating and will be continuing to lobby for these improvements.

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Lymington Society Seeks Dialogue with The NFDC over use of Wheelie Bins in Historic Town Centre

The best way to collect and recycle the large quantities of waste that modern life produces has

been an important issue of local discussion recently following the decision of the NFDC to introduce wheelie bins in the district.

Members will be aware that the Society has contributed to this debate and has called publicly for dialogue on exactly where wheelie bins will be used and where the existing system of bags will be continued.

Whilst undoubtedly making the collection of rubbish quicker and maybe easier for the Council and possibly helping to improve recycling rates, wheelie bins can really blight the appearance of areas where the bins are not easily able to be stored out of sight.

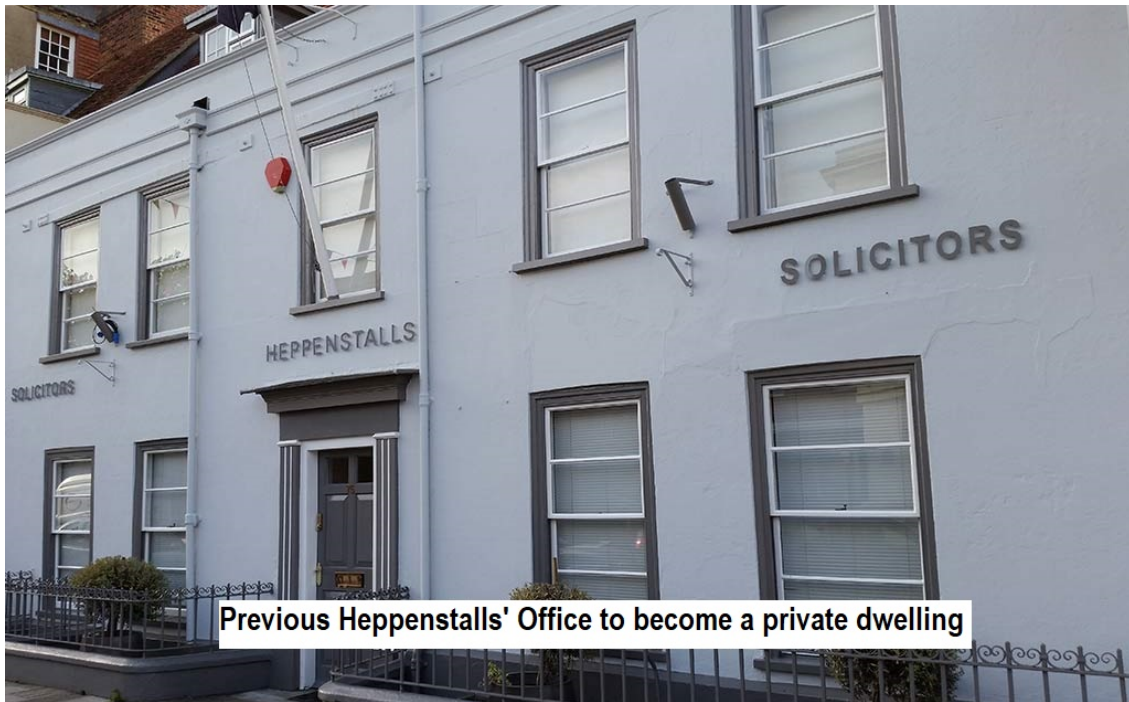
The Society therefore called for further consultation with the Council before they went ahead with the final decision on implementing this scheme, but this was rejected by the Council who approved the scheme in July this year and which will apparently start in 2024.

Although the Council have stated that they will be treating historic areas sensitively and that they will not introduce the wheelie bins where it is inappropriate, the society still has major concerns that wheelie bins may be imposed on areas where their appearance could cause considerable harm to the historic character of the town.

We have therefore written to the officers and councillors involved in taking this scheme forward and have asked for a meeting as part of the planning process for the introduction of the scheme so that we can share with them our concerns and if possible, play some part in helping to protect areas of the town where wheelie bins would cause unacceptable harm.

We hope that the Council will take up this offer of cooperation, so that the community can have more confidence that the new scheme will not be introduced in a way that does not causes unnecessary harm to the character of the area.

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Extensions take over from Pods and Garden Rooms in Planning permission Applications Planning Committee Report

Apart from the major planning applications mentioned elsewhere in this update, the main feature of planning applications over the last six months or more has been the large number of extensions and refurbishments of existing homes together with some level of demolition of houses and their rebuilding as bigger and or more modern properties.

Not surprisingly with the cost of properties rising and the associated large stamp duty payments needed when moving, many people have decided to extend their homes. During lockdown, the main trend was applications for building garden rooms and pods in the garden for working from home. This trend has become less apparent more recently with the move towards new extensions to existing homes becoming more prominent.

Another trend has been the change of some major buildings in the High Street from offices into new private homes. This has been seen for instance at the previous offices of Heppenstalls at 75 High Street, which is being converted back to a private dwelling. Monmouth House which used to be a care home is another example of this recent

trend and has been back on the market for a cool £5 million.

The Society will continue to monitor all planning applications and welcomes comments from members on applications that they feel we should consider and comment on.

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LymSoc Supports Traffic Safety Measures near Pennington School after Spate of Accidents and Urges Town Council to Support Reduced Speed Limits Where Needed for Safety.

The Society has been alerted to the concerns of residents of Pennington about the speed of traffic on Ramley Road, especially near the Catholic School, where there have been series of accidents and near misses, often involving heavy lorries that use the route regularly .

Traffic often exceeds the 30 MPH limit and concerns over the excessive speed of traffic has caused led to representations being made by Pennington Resident and new LymSoc Hon Sec Suzanne Clark to local Councillors and HCC Officers.

These concerns were raised by Chair Don Mackenzie with Councillor Nick Adams-King, Executive Member for Highways Operations at Hampshire County Council, who visited Lymington recently to meet a delegation of residents from the Bottom of Town Group who are concerned about the crossing of Captains Row at the bottom of the High Street.

As well as supporting the Bottom of Town Group concerns about the safety of this junction, Don Mackenzie was able to present Cllr Adams-King with a written submission prepared by Suzanne Clarke expressing the concerns of Pennington residents about the dangerous speeding that

takes place along parts of the road network at Pennington and especially outside the school. Cllr Adams explained that under HCC regulations, speed limits can only be changed due to costing limitations after a threshold of serious accidents has been reached. He is trying to fund speed safety reduction measures by using money given by developers under section 106 contributions, which are often underspent leaving Councils with unused funding. HCC recently held an online consultation on the introduction of more 20 mph zones in the county and the Society wrote to the Town Council urging them to support a move to introduce more 20 mph zones where appropriate to create safer residential roads in the Town.

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The Lymington Society

Protecting our Town and the surrounding area for the future

The Lymington Society was formed in 1968 with the aim of helping to preserve and protect the town and area of Lymington and its aims were set out at the time.

A Civic Society for all wishing to protect the character of our historic town

- To ensure new development is in keeping
- To encourage the maintenance and improvement of civic amenities
- To provide a forum where residents can express views on such subjects publicly

Often called a "planning watchdog" we look objectively at planning applications and try to stop what we and our members feel would be unsuitable development schemes. If members would like to recommend the Society we would be obliged if they could forward this email to their friends with a view to increasing the membership and influence of the Society.

Join The Lymington Society



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