

The contents of the email below will be discussed and suitable responses agreed at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016.

Dear Parish Councillors one and all,

I thought it might help ahead of your meeting to cover a few issues we have and also reiterate a couple of others on agenda

1. What is the position of the PC on public footpaths across the estate? We have long sort your help to lobby SCC on this issue, whilst they seem hungry to put up signs marking footpaths as soon as they fall over, they never repair internal directional signs nor give any clear guidance to users if they are open to horses or indeed increasingly mountain bikes. We are not against either per se but are left have to litter pick them on everyone's behalf including plastic bags full of dog shit which should be anyone's job, and endlessly repair vandalised nip gates, styles and fences – which should be done actively by the county council and should be actively campaigned for by the PC on our behalf or in conjunction with us.
2. Litter – another increasing problem endemic along our roads and footpaths and other trouble spots. We appreciate the villages annual spring litter pick but surely our residents, private and rented need to be encouraged to do much more and surely we ought to be campaigning hard with the district councillor and or county to do more – we deserve to be litter free just as much as the towns even if we don't yield as many votes.
3. The footpath through the village especially below the school but also opposite station road gets narrowed by leaf litter and litter making them less accessible and by the school more dangerous – surely this should be done by the council more regularly?
4. The village green and school cars, we have been on about this for over a year – whilst we are big supporters of the school we are not of lazy parents and despite ongoing efforts SCC still have not coughed up their contribution to surfacing – we cannot see progress here and soon the time will come when we have no option but to ban all but disabled drivers or those with disabled children and of course teachers. Having done the school run for a year, there is absolutely no need whatever to use the village green it is pure laziness.
5. On the back of that we have again tirelessly argued the stretch of road between the two sharp corners should be a 20mph zone – it is astonishing SCC and the Schools councillors ignore this point as if waiting for a tragic accident to happen – this is negligent and we should unite to get it changed for the safety of all children and parents especially as they will need to use the road more due to 4 above.
6. The new parish signs are a great success – thank you
7. *Redacted as it contained personal comments*
8. It is great news the broads authority have won their lottery grant for the southern gateway projects and the Mill is clearly an important part of that. However we are at this stage cautiously keen rather than anything more about their proposals. Whilst safeguarding the mill and improving access is a core part of our vision, having just battled for two years with SCC to win reparations for their derisory upkeep of the mill in the final 20 odd years of their long lease which we will be spending this year, it may be an independent route suits us better and we certainly expect to chair any charity committee as the mill owners. That said, it is exciting and if certain conditions

are met we are likely to work with them and would be delighted to do that with anyone from the PC who love the mill enough to get stuck on a charity committee with me!

9. On that subject, we are hoping to secure a fencing grant for both sunnybanks and Herringfleet hills this year to allow for better habitat and grazing management and this winter has reminded us the need for good outdoor winter grazing – these hills are perfect for that and grazing will enhance their biodiversity – the parks are literally under water. The restoration of the old school house is well underway and eventually having some one living there will make keeping an eye on it and the car park much easier. We welcome any views the PC may have about they feel is a fair fee for the car park as we do feel however small an annual amount, raising some funds to help manage the litter on site and to help the Mill is no different from any National Trust site.

10. The Estate Christmas card was very carefully and I hope non confrontationally but conversationally prepared. The fact is, for 12 years we have had a clear blue print we shared with some of your number but which appears to have been discounted for unclear reasons and not shared with the wider village community since the last LDF (local development framework – now ongoing again) I would also remind you all, whilst every village big and small around us has since then undertaken some development however big or small, the PC at that time deliberately blocked Somerleyton's bid as a key service area despite the clear fact it qualified and we have therefore been preserved in aspic. In many ways like many of you I would not only rather never build in Somerleyton but more to the point would love to tear down Morton Peto Close and the new brick fields both of which I feel scar the traditions of the village – THAT SAID, they are here and my family built both of them so who am I to complain and most of you live in them – our vision has been steered by

1. Those two building experiences
2. The fact we have many elderly tenants who cannot use the upstairs of their houses so bungalows are in clear need
3. Mill farm is no longer suitable for modern agriculture and is an obvious place to develop a small number of starter size homes
4. Peto had a vision and we all live in it and love it every day, his was bold and radical including bulldozing houses already there to make way for the green and moving the road as well as building the village street and hall – so rather than fill mill field up with a suburban style close like Morton Peto close lets follow the Peto tradition and do something inspiring and exceptional that truly adds architectural merit as well as being a wonderful place to live to help fund the less commercial development AND our new community village hall.
5. The need for a new village hall
6. The inevitability that as night follows day in a 20/30 year cycle, building will take place so let's make it beautiful and vastly improving for the village.
7. The village hall IF it is to SERVE the COMMUNITY as the one my family donated to the community all those years ago MUST surely unarguable be on the village street access rather than cut off from those who are elderly and wish to walk or the young with prams or even just slightly older children who won't have a pavement to walk on
8. There is NO evidence in any village anywhere that a brave new Victorian world of sport is going to return and we felt then and feel now that a relatively narrow band

of professionals living in the village in the new houses are putting their desire for a sports hall over the true needs of this or any village community. In 30 years there have hardly been any sports matches of any kind on the playing field and even now with Blundeston cricket club (nothing at all to do with Somerleyton) it still is possible the most under used wasted asset in history – so too is the tennis court hardly ever used.

9. EVEN IF there is a great cry for a sports hall/community centre and we passionately disagree but hold no grudge against anyone sporty – we still fervently believe Mill farm field - the whole of which we have offered to community use together with the existing playing field is STILL the best place for ALL peoples activities from pre school to silver thread to film or quiz nights and we fervently believe it would be a disastrous waste of public money to build effectively OUTSIDE the village when a site BANG in the middle is being given to the community in the tradition of my family.

10. I challenge anyone of you to deny if you could afford it you would not jump to live in a stunning light house with good garden and views in the style of livingvillages etc if they existed as part of a new village green concept.

11. This is why we sent out the card, lets not get stuck on the fact the community association own a small parcel of land on the playing field as the only good reason to build there – there are simply NO other good reasons for not leaping at the Mill field site whatever it is you truly believe we need for our community – it too needs to be an inspirational subtle building wherever it is and I have seen none anywhere near exciting architecturally anywhere around EA so we remain concerned as a vested interest this also need BIG community involvement lets make it whatever it is OUR building – lets argue disagree but work as a community together on doing something amazing.

I think I can claim to have been here the longest pretty much now and we have for generations tried to serve the best interest of Somerleyton often through acts of generosity that would stagger today, I may heckle and harry but don't mistake this for being against you collectively or individually, I am not, I act on instinct and experience and have a reasonable amount of both and these very well formed thought and ideas are well researched and just a point of view, if I am wrong so be it – but lets work together and move on from the Herringfleet debacle.

We offered to come and be part of your meetings (not the public part I think we are bigger more constant voicer than that) or for you to join our monthly managers meetings so we can understand and respect each other better – this was rejected by the clerk. The other method of course and one which I feel has sadly fallen away is perhaps trying to get more estate people (tenants or employees onto the PC to help mutual understand and balance.

It of course your decision

Somerleyton