

Dear xxx,

Thank you for your e-mail dated xxxx Oct 2020, and for your comments regarding the replacement of the bollards on HCC land by George House.

I hope that you will find the information below useful. It covers the main issues raised by yourself and other residents. The Parish Council discussed them at length at its meeting on Monday 02 November, and thought it might be useful to give you a breakdown of points raised and decision made, as follows:

Cllr Tony Higham proposed a revised motion to 'pause' the contract to replace the bollards at George House (the original proposal on the agenda had been to cancel the project and contract).  
Main points:

- He has been in contact with several villagers who were surprised at the overall cost and considered that the work did not need to be done.
- The PC has sufficient buying power with other contracts that the contractor would not balk at a 'pause' with this one.
- The bollards that had been manufactured could be sold.
- A pause would allow village-wide consultation on this project.

The Clerk, as Responsible Officer, confirmed that the contract was signed in September by both parties and that there was no provision for a 'pause', that the mediation clause was only useful for dispute rather than one party simply withdrawing.

In discussion, the main points raised by councillors were:

- The PC recognised the strength of feelings of those who had written or spoken at the earlier agenda opportunity.
- The project had been addressed in many PC meetings without challenge, indeed the previous meeting had addressed a minor identified shortfall in the specification.
- The Chair had mentioned work at George House in the PC's bi-monthly report in the Hambletonian, with no comments.
- A legal contract had been signed in good faith, was in place, and it would be deeply dishonourable to pull out, which is what a pause would be.
- JK Engineering had sub-contracted elements of delivery complicating the picture. There was no legal basis to assume we would keep the bollards.
- Although the project has been raised over a number of years the lack of an Annual Parish Meeting this year was unhelpful and the PC needed to significantly widen its consultation to ensure village confidence. This has already begun with the bus-stop which has not been raised at an APM. This was agreed by all councillors.

I trust that the above helps to explain why councillors voted against Cllr Higham's proposal (2 votes for; 4 votes against).

You will see that I have also attached a copy of a document produced by the Village Improvement working group, which gives important background information on the inception and development of the overall project.

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Quinn*

Cllr Paul Quinn OBE (Chair, Hambledon PC)