

Land between Harrison Rd and the Surgery.



At the end of January we heard that this land was going to auction on the 10th February. We sought advice on what the Parish could do, and armed with that advice, in a closed session at our meeting on 3rd February, the Parish Council decided unanimously to bid at the auction.

It had to be kept confidential so as not to tip off developers and the like of our intentions, or our maximum. The reasons for buying the land for the village are:

- 1) Most obvious, to prevent this land falling into developer's hands.
- 2) The surgery is desperate for expansion, and we are in informal talks about leasing some land to the Practice.
- 3) There are other community uses that could be justified on Greenbelt land.
- 4) as this part of the village gets more urban by the day, it is important to preserve these small green spaces for public amenity, and to remind people we are still a small rural village
- 5) There have been many instances in recent years of people who buy these odd plots of land, and then seek to develop without Planning Permission, and it can take years to fight these to an unknown conclusion.
- 6) if there were an illegal incursion onto the land, as owners we have immediate redress through the Courts to evict any trespassers.

Cllrs Wray & Taylor attended the auction, were able to outbid considerable opposition, with a final bid of £70,000, with completion in about 28 days.

Because of the time scale we were forced to take precipitous action, but we have adequate reserves to pay the cost immediately, and once we have a clear perspective of the Parish Council's overall financial position in April, we can convert some or all of that purchase price to a long term Public Works Loan, spreading the cost over many years, as we did with some of the Potters Mede build costs.

This is OUR village, and this is now OUR land

We have now been given the extra strip along Harrison Rd by Cooper Estates

