

St Wilfrid's Hospice Charity Shop on the Chidham Garage site?

Revised Article from Parish Council 22 July 2016

PLEASE SEE NOTE AT END ABOUT CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL (CDC)

The Parish Council was surprised and disappointed to learn recently that St Wilfrid's Hospice was negotiating a 15-year lease for the retail unit in the Chidham Garage Site development. Right from the first planning application, the Parish Council has been dealing with the developer 77 Property Ltd on the basis that the retail unit proposed in the development would be a grocery convenience store. On the second occasion that 77 Property Ltd addressed a Parish Council meeting, the company handed out a 'Note to Parish Council' which stated: *"In response to the Parish Council's desire to have a local shop on the site the proposals have been fully informed by a commercial agent and representative of supermarkets which has resulted in an increase in the floor area required to deliver a viable unit for a mainstream convenience shop, such as the Co-operative or Tesco."*

Initially, the Parish Council objected to the development application, but withdrew its objection when 77 Property Ltd responded to the suggestion made by the Council that the size of the retail unit be increased so that it would be of a viable size.

St Wilfrid's Hospice does magnificent work, but a Charity Shop is just not the type of retail facility this Parish needs. A grocery convenience shop, with the sufficient, but not excessive, floor area agreed through the planning permission granted would fill one of the large gaps in the Parish infrastructure.

The Parish Council feels let down by the developer and is very disappointed that the company has had discussions leading to the present unhappy situation without involving the Parish. Judging from the high number of enquiries from residents as to which mainstream grocery chain would be taking over the retail unit, it is clear that most residents will be equally disappointed.

At present, there are some uncertainties regarding St Wilfrid's Hospice's proposed use of the site and the Parish Council has been in discussion with the Hospice about this.

The Council will continue to update you via the Village Website as and when the situation becomes clearer. Meanwhile, the Parish Council asks all residents to send their views as soon as possible to the Parish Clerk at:

clerk.chidhamandhambrook@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Following the Parish Council's article of 24 June 2016 on the Village Website and subsequent discussions with Chichester District Council (CDC), an email was received from Andrew Frost, CDC Head of Planning Services; there follows an extract from that email:

"Can I also make it clear that the District Council as local planning authority has not had discussions with the developer or their agent in respect of the nature or identity of the retail operator. Both the Section 106 agreement and a number of the conditions attached to the planning permission require the submission of

further material so that they can be discharged. Solely as a consequence of those requirements, the Council has been made aware that St Wilfred's Hospice appear to be arranging to take the unit. There is an important distinction here and I would invite the PC to adjust the statement on its website to acknowledge this."

The Parish Council now acknowledges that the references to CDC in the 24 June article were inappropriate and regrets their inclusion. There are no references to CDC in this Revised Article.

Cliff Archer Chairman, Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council
22 July 2016

END