

Chairman's Report – November 2024

The significant event this month was, of course, the meeting with Barrett Redrow last Monday. It was gratifying that 170 villagers turned out to fill Christchurch showing the strength of feeling against the ill-conceived development on Lyth Hill. The eight speakers from the public covered all the Parish Council Planning Committee's original objections and more. I was also delighted with the united front we presented with our polite but probing questioning of the Redrow representatives. Unfortunately, I don't think any of us were anything but unconvinced by their responses or indeed their attitude. My sincere thanks to all the councillors present.

Although Redrow stated that they owned all the land for the development, they later admitted that the land on which the proposed swale was to be positioned, was not actually theirs. They were not forthcoming on who did own this land and it was a bit of detective work by Cllr Markham which revealed it is our old friends, the Diocese.

As I sat down to write this (Thursday AM), news came through from Balfours that they were commencing fencing operations on the Glebeland tomorrow. If the Diocese are under the impression that Lyth Hill will distract public reaction to this tactic, then I think they will be proved sadly mistaken. Of course, I could be cynical and think this is a co-ordinated assault on our village!

I will give you all an update at Monday's meeting.

Rob Ruscoe.