

Planning & Environment Committee

Date:	5 November 2019
Title:	29 Roundhead Drive
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To provide background on the proposed stopping up order at 29 Roundhead Drive.

Background

2. A larger area than that proposed for stopping up was initially enclosed in May 2018. Subsequent enforcement action ensured that the enclosure was put through due process.
3. At the Planning & Environment Committee meeting on 23 July 2019, the conversion of highways land to private garden was objected to on the grounds that Thame has a declared shortfall of such public open space.
4. At the Planning & Environment Committee meeting on 24 September 2019, a reduced area was proposed, as now also defined in the proposed stopping up order. The Committee noted that the principle of the removal of such open space should continue to be objected to.
5. The Town Council was notified by SODC that Planning Permission had been granted on 5 October 2019, and this contrary decision was noted at the Planning & Environment Committee meeting on 15 October 2019.
6. The Town Clerk was expecting that before such a decision, that the Town Council would have its opportunity to express its objections at an SODC Planning Committee. On 22 October 2019 it was established that because the application was defined as "Other", rather than "Minor", the SODC Constitution allows such a delegated decision. It is noted that this may mean the Committees Officer has to organise even more pre-emptive "Call-ins".
7. The Town Council was notified of the proposed stopping up order on 24 October 2019 and it is included for discussion at the Planning & Environment Committee meeting on 5 November 2019.
8. It is the Town Clerk's view that given that due process has been followed, and that OCC Highways have had no objection throughout that due process, there is no point in maintaining an objection, but instead a letter expressing our concern that due process has removed further Thame public open space would be an appropriate response.