

BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL EXTRAORDINARY COMMITTEE MEETING

10.30 pm, Saturday, 22 October 2022

Those present: Ian Earl (Chair), Sue Earl (Secretary), Rick Blackman (Treasurer), Dave Austin, Steve Burt, Gareth Fulton, Fred Gregory, Chris Moore, Ben Pullen.

Apologies for absence: Charlie Kirby, Katie Potter, Tom Sisley.

With the post delivered, the boot (base) constructed and the sign itself expected soon, this meeting was called to make a final decision on the location of the Village Sign. After meeting outside the village hall committee members toured potential sites beside the A251 main road and discussed options.

1 The Village Sign.

- 1.1 Location of the village sign. Consideration was primarily given to three locations alongside the main road. In general terms these were opposite East View, midway along, and opposite Falcon Farm. Siting the sign nearer the middle of the Lees (as the beacon is) was dismissed unanimously. The Lees Court Estate would allow the sign to go wherever the committee chose. The distance from the road edge was of concern – citing the need for the sign not to interfere with traffic should it fall down (for whatever reason). Criteria such as visibility from the road, being a focal point for visitors (such as walkers, wherein the use of the lees and ramblers arriving via public footpaths were taken into consideration), centrality to the village. Specific features of each location such as mounds/dips in the lie of the land, the nearness of laybys, the location of existing signs on the verge, and the visual effect of the trees in the avenue that parallels the road, were also considered. The removal or relocation of the northern layby was discussed as a possibility. A vote showed equal preference for the midway and northern end options. Taking into account of the known views of those unable to attend (although they had not had the benefit of hearing others' views or participating in the discussions), those present did then achieve a consensus. It was agreed that the sign should be erected ~6m in from the roadside, opposite the entrance to Corner Cottage, and equidistant from the two nearest avenue trees. This assumes the tree that fell in a storm a few years ago will be replaced. IE to inform the Lees Court Estate. SB to organise the digging of a hole and the erection of the sign.
- 1.2 Within the discussions described above, it was agreed that due to the home-grown sapling failing when planted where the tree fell a suitable young tree should be purchased. This would also allow the correct type of oak tree to be planted to ensure that when mature it would have the same shape as those in the rest of the avenue. Since the distance between the first pair of trees to the south was 80 feet, the new tree would be planted the same distance to the north of the northernmost existing tree (a little north of the present, dead sapling). This will in turn determine the location of the village sign – see 1.1 above. SE to identify the existing oaks, and suggest the type to purchase and a source.

Next committee meeting: Monday, 21 November, at 7.30 pm in the village hall.