

## **COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 13 MAY 2025**

### **ITEM 9 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR P MOULT TO THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

“I would like to know with regard to timescales when, if at all The Oak public house at Whitwick is to be developed, given that it was purchased in 2021 and the costs of security, clearance and designs are increasing daily?”

#### **RESPONSE FROM THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO COUNCILLOR P MOULT**

The site is within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) property portfolio and was purchased some time ago as a prospective development site. The Housing Service's new build capacity has recently been increased through the use of external contractors to start to address outstanding sites. The development opportunities for each site are currently being assessed.

This particular site has an expired outline planning permission for a housing development and requires a detailed application to be developed in line with current social housing standards if it is to be taken forward for development. A feasibility study is currently being commissioned. This means that it is likely to be some months before a revised planning application could come forward. The earliest anticipated date for completion is therefore likely to be some years away.

In the meantime, the site is being managed, along with the other small number of sites the HRA controls, awaiting development. The ongoing regular costs amount to c£1000 per annum, plus ad hoc litter and or vegetation clearance, the cost of which varies by visit. These costs are being met from the HRA and are not funded by the General Fund. This is in addition to the combined purchase and costs for design work and site clearances, fencing etc to date of c£480,000.