

Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 30 - April 2017

Chairman's introduction

It's been nearly 6 months since the last edition of Bryan Bytes was delivered and much has happened in the intervening period. We've seen the rise of a new community building, good progress with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, a replacement fingerpost for Kingston (at last!) and some well attended parish council meetings, particularly those relating to the potential Vodaphone mast in Wonston and the Judd's site in Back Lane. We've got the full story on each of these in the following pages so read on and enjoy! We've also included a flyer titled "Call For Sites". This is explained in the Neighbourhood Plan section, but if you do have any land that you feel might be suitable for development in the future then do complete and return the form.

Steve Murcer, Chairman, Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council

Community building

At the time of writing the main structure of the new building is almost complete and by the time you read this we hope to have taken on the building from the contractors. We've been pleased with progress. Inevitably there have been minor changes and alterations to the specification during the building phase but nothing significant and we've been pleased with the co-operation from Snooks throughout. It was always the intention that the internal fitting-out would be done by community volunteers and this work will be underway shortly. It involves building benches etc in the changing rooms, installing the kitchen etc. We'll also purchase tables, chairs etc and we really hope it will be a multi-use building and not just a sports pavilion. To fund the fitting-out and equipment, letters were sent to many local businesses asking for donations and we've been very pleased with people's generosity. Others will give their time and materials and the names of all those who have made a contribution over the years will be recorded on a suitable plaque in the building. We also await the result of various grant applications which, if successful, will enable further facilities to be provided within the building. A formal opening is being organised, details will be publicised locally.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Neighbourhood Plan committee has been meeting each month. Membership and attendance has fluctuated but we have a hard-core of about 8 – 10 people to share the workload. You will recall the last edition of Bytes included a Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire covering a wide range of topics. There is not space here to give the full analysis of responses but they are available to view on the web site. Some key points though are as follows:

- 500 forms were delivered, 164 returned (32.8%, not bad)
- The majority felt between 11 – 50 new homes would be needed over the next 15 years
- Smaller homes are most needed
- The most requested improvements to local amenities were transport, mobile coverage and footpath/cycle routes
- The most popular sites for development were “brown field” (47), Kingston “margins” (18) and the Antelope field (14)
- The most popular green spaces for protection were Alex Field and the green spaces between the hamlets.
- Sadly, but not surprisingly, the vast majority of respondents were aged over 55

The committee are now working on a number of fronts, including housing need, amenities, parking/traffic, green spaces/environment and design/character. The aim is to draft policies to be incorporated into the Plan. All these policies will be subject to extensive consultation with everyone in the community. It is planned that by the end of the summer we'll be in a position to present the first draft of a Plan which will be shared at consultation events so you can have your say. Ultimately the final Plan needs to be approved by a majority in a local referendum so it's vital that the policies in the Plan have local support.

With this edition of Bytes, you will also have received a flyer called “Call for Sites”. This is a chance for any landowner to put forward land for consideration for development during the life of the Plan – up to 2031 as things stand. It's important that as many sites as possible come forward so they can all be considered against similar criteria. We anticipate that there will be an over-supply of possible sites compared with the local (cont)

(cont) housing need. One of the tasks facing the Committee will be to look at the sites based on all the elements being gathered and considered in the Plan and produce preferences. These will then form a very important part of the summer consultations. We know that whatever options are finally chosen we can't please everyone but we do hope that a broad consensus of community support can support the final Plan.

Call for Sites Forms should be returned by post or e mail to our clerk, Malcolm Wilson, by Friday 19th May – contact details are on the final page.

Handley Cross site in Pidney

North Dorset District council has given approval for the development of this site with 14 homes and 3 live/work units. 6 of the housing units will be deemed "affordable" and a contribution of £100k towards education in the area will be made by the developer. Whether the local school benefits from this remains to be seen.

Judds Transport site and the Vodaphone mast

Although these are completely unrelated they are both examples of how any local government organisation – parish, district or county council - must work within the legal framework. Councils cannot just refuse or object to something because they or their communities don't like something; there have to be valid grounds to object. The Judds case was for an application to the Traffic Commissioner by the prospective purchasers of the business, Hunts Foods of Sherborne, for a licence to operate up to 35 vehicles from the site. Many local residents were opposed and the parish council wrote to the Commissioner outlining these concerns. As expected, our letter was acknowledged but ignored as the parish council is not an adjacent landowner and could not make a valid objection. Hunts, however, have gone to great lengths to explain their plans for the site and reassure the community that their purchase will not cause major disruption to locals. See recent parish council minutes on our web site for more details. The Vodaphone mast was not a planning application as such – it was an "application for prior approval", which means the parish council was not formally consulted. NDDC has relied upon the approval for a mast given by a planning inspector in 2001 and comments could now only be made on grounds of height or appearance etc, but not on health grounds. The parish council received many comments from residents, some in favour and some against and we await NDDC's formal decision.

The Keep – what’s happening?

Those who walk regularly through the Keep will have noticed some changes – fruit trees planted, scrub cleared, fences mendedand horses! Guided by Nigel Spring from Butterfly Conservation we’re hoping to create a wildflower area and the fell ponies grazing the land for a few months each year should remove the longer tufts and mounds of grass and help the flowers to flourish – watch that space.!

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