

Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 37 - September 2019

Chairman's introduction

Amazingly it's six months since the last edition. At that time I had just about got over the excesses of Christmas and now, with the nights drawing in, I'm starting to think about putting the sprouts on to boil to make sure they are thoroughly cooked for Christmas Day.

What has been happening in the intervening months? Well in May, of course, there were the local elections. I was very pleased that all the existing parish councillors were happy to stand for re-election and even more delighted when we were all re-elected unopposed. Hopefully this means people are happy with the job we are doing. So on behalf of all the councillors I would like to say "thank you" for your continued support.

The main focus in the previous four years was the Neighbourhood Plan. To some extent we've been able to sit back and say "phew, so pleased that is over and done with". I make no apologies for re-stating the point that the volunteers who worked on the Plan are owed a huge debt of gratitude from the community for three years of committed hard work with a successful outcome. There is more to do on planning (see the article below) but it's also now time to consider what the parish council might achieve over the next four years. We'll start to work on this but clearly if there are any projects or things that you think we can do to help the community then please let us know and we can give them proper consideration. You can e mail me or the parish clerk, talk to a parish councillor or (best of all) come along to a parish council meeting. These are almost always on the first Tuesday of every month and start at 8pm in the village hall. Agendas and previous minutes are easily available on the web site.

Steve Murcer, Chairman, HBPC

Planning matters.....and it really, really does

I guess we all thought that when the Neighbourhood Plan was approved after all those years of hard work by the volunteers that we could relax. However, we should have remembered that the planning system and rules never stand still. Government makes changes and developers try to push the boundaries of what can be built and where. We can take heart from the fact that without the Neighbourhood Plan it is most likely that permission would already have been granted for the development of 120 new homes in the village. Having the Plan gave the old North Dorset District Council the ammunition it needed to refuse these applications. What we now find is that in three cases the applicants are appealing against the decision and these appeals will be judged by a Planning Inspector. We have made very robust cases to argue that the appeals should be refused and we wait to see the outcomes. We believe the appeal for the Churchfoot Lane site will involve a public hearing on 9th October but we have no further detail at this stage.

When we comment on planning applications and appeals we can only use arguments based on planning laws and policies. These are set by central government and every organisation making decisions and passing comment has to do so based on these rules. If the rules aren't carefully observed the decisions will be overturned either at appeal, by the Secretary of State or by judicial review. The latter is an expensive process but developers have deep pockets, deeper than local government planning authorities.

We know there are many aspects to an application that worry people – traffic volumes, road safety, school places, doctors facilities, noise, loss of views etc but in most cases anything we might say on these matters is irrelevant. It won't be taken into account by decision makers. If County Highways are happy with the traffic and road issues then nothing we say counts; similarly, Dorset Council has an obligation to provide school places and the planning assumption is that this will be done.

Central government is putting great pressure on all local authorities to build more homes. Local authorities have to demonstrate they have a "deliverable" 5 year supply. Even if they have only a 3 year supply, where there is a Neighbourhood Plan that is less than two years old then the Plan is considered to still be valid. Our Plan came into force in March this year. However, two of the appeals currently being heard are arguing that our local authority doesn't have even a 3 year housing supply. (cont)

(cont)

It's a confusing state of affairs. There are different methods for calculating the supply and the demise of North Dorset DC into the new Dorset Council has left it uncertain as to what area should be used to calculate the supply – complicated ain't it! We envisage there might be more appeals in the pipeline. This obviously causes distress and concern for all those potentially affected and the parish council will continue to resist inappropriate development as vigorously as possible.

Community environment day

At our meeting in May a suggestion came from a member of the public that there should be a "community environment day" in the autumn– litter picking, road sign cleaning, vegetation cut-back etc. If this is a success it might be done twice a year, spring and autumn. Mr Jervis is happy to organise this and it would be helpful if any volunteers could contact the parish clerk by e mail so their name and details can be added to a list of volunteers, As yet a definite date has not been selected.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is a small but keen group in the village but activities are largely restricted to passing on "Alert" messages and a newsletter by e mail. The existing coordinator, after nearly 20 years, needs to hand on the responsibility. If anyone would like to get involved please contact the parish clerk who will put you in touch.

Hedgehogs

This popular species is now endangered. There are many things that can be done to help reverse the decline in numbers. Put out appropriate food – dog or cat food, including biscuits are good, and a shallow bowl of water, but NOT milk. Allow access to your garden by having a 5 inch gap under your fences – encourage your neighbours to do the same to create a large roaming area. Leave an area of the garden wild and neglected. This provides a safe nesting area; also potentially great for pollinators like bees and butterflies. If you are going to have a bonfire try and pile the material just before the fire. Avoid using slug and snail pellets. Hedgehogs are great natural predators but the pellets are hazardous. Try and keep your dog away from hedgehogs. If they do pick one up then then contact your vet for advice. Hedgehog Rescue in Hazelbury Bryan has looked after 190 hedgehogs in the last two years making a great contribution to preserving these wonderful creatures.

Dog waste

Yet another plea for dog owners to pick up their dog's waste. We invest a lot of your money in providing and servicing dog waste bins so please use them, especially on the recreation ground. For the football and cricket teams it's a very unwelcome potential hazard - diving for a catch or making a slide tackle are hazardous enough without coming across you know what. So "scoop the poop", there is no excuse.

School Fun Run – 29th September 2019 from 10.00 am: The School PTFA is organising a race day consisting of a 5k, 10k and children's fun run. Join in and do one of the routes on the day – the 5k can even be walked, and the 10k is a more scenic route at running pace. Don't forget to collect your medal when you finish. Entries cost £10 for 10k; £5 for adult 5k and £1 for accompanied children 5k; children's fun run is 50p. Contact Natalie at toutedouce100@gmail.com or the Hazelbury Bryan Race Day Facebook page for more details on how to enter.

Parish Councillors 2019			
Name	Role	e-mail	Phone
Steve Murcer	Chairman	stevemurcer@talk21.com	817919
David Maughan	Vice Chairman	d_ajmaughan@btinternet.com	817805
Phil Dimmock	Councillor	info@aviationsecurity.co.uk	01344 638666
Ken Huggins	Councillor	kenhuggins@hotmail.co.uk	818223
Sarah Meeks	Councillor	sarah.meeks78@gmail.com	817437
Martin Richards	Councillor	tractorbits@gmail.com	817372
Val Rubie	Councillor	valrubie@btinternet.com	818293
Parish Clerk			
Malcolm Wilson	parishclerk@hazelburybryan.net www.hazelburybryan.com 4 The Orchard, Ibberton, DT11 0EL		817786
DCC/NDDC Representative			
Pauline Batstone	cllr.p.batstone@btinternet.com		472583