

## **Notes from the Parish Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

### **Gigaclear**

Several residents expressed concern over the routes taken by Gigaclear's contractors when installing cables and that they were digging up the verges instead of the road. The meeting was reminded that the Gigaclear business model relies upon them carrying out their works where digging is cheapest. The Council will remind Gigaclear both through West Berkshire Council (WBC) and directly of their responsibilities for 'making good' the mess.

### **Community room**

Concern was expressed regarding the lease and general charging arrangement that form a joint use agreement on the Community Room. The Parish Council shares the concern and is currently in dialogue with WBC and the School. The PC are having in discussion to safeguard the rights of the parishioners.

### **Recreation ground youth facilities**

During an update on the Parish Plan refresh, parishioners living near the Rec sought further information about the zip wire and where it would be sited. Councillors urged all interested parties to attend the public meeting on the Recreation Ground on 25<sup>th</sup> March where the proposal will be discussed further.

### **Parking around The Strouds**

Concern was expressed regarding parking at the junction of the Strouds and the obstruction caused. The Council urged all residents and their visitors to park considerately but that if the problem continued the issue would be referred to the Police.

### **Parish Plan refresh**

Further information was shared regarding progress made. The questionnaire is currently with WBC but should be available within the next few weeks.

### **Libraries**

A WBC representative has been invited to the next Parish Council meeting to share their plans regarding funding and the service delivery. The Council has set aside funds to support WBC but requires clarification as to the proposed service delivery that will directly benefit Beenham residents.

### **Footpaths**

The Council is seeking quotations for remedial and improvement works for the footpaths across the Recreation and is intending that works should be completed during this year.

### **Electoral Review of West Berkshire: Warding Arrangements.**

It is suggested that Beenham Parish transfer to Aldermaston Ward as part of the electoral review currently being undertaken by the Boundary Commission. This redistribution could be a result if Sulhampstead Ward is removed. The Council is generally supports this arrangement. The next election, where this would take effect will be in 2019. Feedback is welcomed, by 3<sup>rd</sup> April online at <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>. Or via email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

Another review is under way about parliamentary constituencies which may involve Aldermaston ward joining Wokingham constituency. More information and a chance to comment can be found at <http://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2018-review/>

### **Beenham events update**

The Council understands that the Village Fete is planned and organised by the PTFA. A 'Beenham in Bloom' competition is planned to run alongside it. A number of village properties will participate in Open Gardens scheme on 18th June and it's proposed that the Scarecrow competition take place at the same time with scarecrows based on gardens. Discussions are underway about expanding the Christmas Tree lights switch on event.

### **Community Room matters**

The Parish Council is intending to increase the hire charges for the Community Room and School Hall. Increases have been kept to a minimum for Parishioners with a slightly higher increase applied to use by non-parishioners. The increase is due to the need for more pro-active maintenance as the property ages and services begin to deteriorate. It is intended to fell the trees adjacent to the Community Room due to their size and proximity to the School.

### **Comments from the West Berkshire Councillor**

A West Berkshire Council budget meeting was held recently at which it was decided to increase Council tax by 4.99% which was as expected. 1.99% for revenue in the district and 3% for adult social care as recommended by central government. Bills will come out shortly. It was also reported that Beenham's "Members Bid" for funding towards a 'Youth Shelter' on the Rec has been successful.

### **Planning.**

#### **Applications for consideration:**

<b>17/00249/FUL &amp; 17/00250/LBC2:</b>	Noted
<b>16/03168/FULD:</b>	Noted
<b>17/00172/FULD:</b>	No objections
<b>16/01925/FUL:</b>	No objections
<b>17/00117/HOUSE:</b>	No objections
<b>16/03615/RESMAJ:</b>	Objection
<b>17/00169/FUL:</b>	No objections
<b>17/00351/FULD:</b>	No objections

#### **Additional planning correspondence:**

**16/03054/FUL:** Noted, **16/03180/FUL:** Noted, **16/03056/HOUSE:** Noted, **16/03633/HOUSE:** Noted

### **Highways.**

It was noted that several roads and bridges will be closed due to Bridge maintenance over the next few months.

More information and updates can be found at [www.beenhamonline.org](http://www.beenhamonline.org) and [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

### **New Councillors**

The Chairman urged prospective councillors to put themselves forward as there are vacancies. Any interested parties should contact either the Clerk or the Chair for more information.

### **Date of the next meetings:**

**Parish Council: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 Annual Parish Assembly: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

### **Your Parish Councillors are:**

Alex Cother (Chair) 07764 637190  
Philip Leitjen 0118 971 4020  
Jackie Johnson 07922 068646  
Graham Bowsher 07788 584807  
Gynis Harman 0118 971 3368