

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 1st MARCH 2021

There is a vacancy for a councillor. Please let us know if you would like to join us on the Parish Council. A representative from Aldermaston Wharf would be particularly welcome.

Public Forum

- The footpath on the Rec past the children's playground is in poor condition. The PC said this in on the "to do" list.
- The children's playground "looks sad". PC said they are looking at refurbishment of the surfacing, which has gaps in some places.
- Several parishioners said that traffic has increased in the village, and in particular through traffic. PC said that they are getting a speed monitor (in conjunction with other villages) which can also measure the volume of traffic.

Planning

21/00238/HOUSE *Edgeworth House, Webbs Lane.* Single-storey rear extension. No objection.

21/00080/FULEXT *Comfort Inn, Bath Road, Padworth*

Change of use the existing Flexistay Hotel to residential use. The proposal is for 2 blocks x 20 flats (1-3 bedrooms) for affordable housing. The first block being the renovation and extension of existing Flexistay Hotel to accommodate 20 flats and the second block will accommodate 20 New build flats.

The Parish Council would be minded to support small scale affordable housing in this area but objects to this application on the following grounds:

1. The proposal is an overdevelopment of the site due to the total number of units being proposed and the excessive height of the 4 storey new build.
2. The proposed housing would attract families and there is no open green space provided onsite or in the vicinity of the development.
3. Insufficient parking provision has been included which could lead to the service road being used for parking which potentially would be very dangerous.
4. The proposed development would cause a significant increase of traffic at this dangerous junction of the A4. The application makes no reference to traffic flows joining and leaving the A4 which is already a major cause of concern due to the junction on the opposite side with Beenham Hill.

Additionally the Parish Council would like to request that this application is called in and that the Parish Council is provided with the opportunity to send a representative to the committee meeting.

17 comments been submitted to WBC (to date) on this application. You can comment on the WBC website or email planapps@westberks.gov.uk quoting the reference number.

WBC Active Travel

WBC have launched a new initiative called Active Travel (or Active Streets). *“We've launched a set of draft proposals of measures to help the public safely make walking or cycling trips part of their daily travel choices, and is inviting feedback from the community to help shape these plans. The public consultations can be viewed and commented upon via the Council's [new Active Travel consultation platform](#).”*

The first proposals are mainly aimed at urban areas, but do include smaller schemes such as restricting access to lanes in Thatcham and Theale. Any ideas/comments are welcome on the website – initial consultation runs until 2 July.

For more information search for West Berks Active Streets.

Community Facilities

- Following last year's refurbishment of the Community Room and the lights in the School Hall, the PC agreed to consider refurbishment of the toilets at the Community Room. *If you have any comments on what should be done (eg full refit or just repainting) then let us know.*
- PC will ask WBC for approval to install a grit bin at the north end of the village

Finance

- A grant of £200 was agreed to Padworth Newsletter.
- The annual payment to the school for shared facilities was agreed. However, the procedures for this payment should be reviewed before the next payment.

The next Parish Council meeting will be online on Monday 12th April, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend, but please contact the Parish Clerk beforehand if you wish to speak.

Full details of the Councillors are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk: Jennie Currie

Tel: 01635 580190

Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read

Tel: 07793116937

Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

New Parish Council website:

www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website:

<https://www.beenhamonline.org/>