

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 5th JULY 2021

The Parish Council held its first “physical” meeting since March 2020 in the School Hall on 5th July. The Council had an informal online meeting in June, but due to a change in the law these online meetings can no longer be taken as formal meetings. There is still a vacancy for a councillor. If you would like to join us please speak to the Parish Clerk or any of the councillors.

PLANNING

➤ Planning Applications - June

Four planning applications were considered at the June informal meeting. The PC comments were confirmed at the July PC meeting.

Applicat	Location	Proposal	Beenham Parish Council comments
21/00885 /COMIND	Beenham Landfill Site, Grange Lane, Beenham	Temporary change of use of land to allow for the creation of a laydown facility for the storage of materials and light fabrication operations, including welding to support the construction of the SSE Slough Multifuel Combined Heat and Power Facility.	OBJECTION Request that a noise mitigation report is completed to address concerns of noise pollution. The Council is also concerned that the lights will create light pollution; that the hours of use are too long; and that a hedge is not enough, taller trees would be preferable. The Council also requests clarification on the temporary nature of the laydown facility.
21/01004 /FUL	Braeburn Lodge Care Home, Bath Road, Beenham	Single and two storey extensions to create nine resident care bedrooms, and additional dining, kitchen and laundry space.	NO OBJECTIONS
21/01084 /FUL	Beenham Grange, Grange Lane, Beenham	Provision of a new single storey commercial building for Newbury Mobility Ltd.	NO OBJECTIONS Concern that the development is close to residential properties. The Parish Council would like to see the remaining grass areas to be maintained as amenity use for the residents.
21/01185 /HOUSE	Coronet, Avon Way, Padworth	Single storey extension and conservatory added to rear.	NO OBJECTIONS

➤ Planning Applications - July

The following applications were considered at the July PC meeting. No comments were made by the council.

21/01456/HOUSE 45, Stoneyfield. Single storey side and rear extension.

21/01424/HOUSE Woodcock Cottage, Upper Woolhampton. Swimming pool.

➤ Planning Enforcement

Members discussed the Planning Enforcement enquiry 21/00263/13HOME regarding a new fence at the front of the property at Wentworth, The Green, Beenham.

The District Council has confirmed it is a breach of planning although are unable to take immediate action. Members are concerned that as the fence blocks the view of vehicles leaving the adjacent property and restricts the view of road users registering a vehicle is joining the road that there is a serious risk of a road traffic incident taking place.

Members asked the Clerk to follow up the matter with the road safety team and copy in the District Councillor.

➤ Housing Development at North-East Thatcham

The draft local plan issued by WBC includes a large development of 2,500 houses on a greenfield site on the north-east of Thatcham (either side of Harts Hill Road). The draft has not yet been issued for consultation.

This development was discussed at the meeting, and the District Councillor outlined the advantages of having the required new housing in one place (eg improvements to infrastructure and facilities) rather than spreading the new housing over many smaller sites. It is not known if the development will have any direct impact on Beenham, but it may increase the through traffic using the road as an alternative route to the A4.

The PC decided to invite WBC Planning to a future open meeting to explain the proposed development.

HIGHWAYS

➤ Speed indicator

Beenham Parish Council has jointly purchased a Speed Identification Device [SID] with Aldermaston and Padworth Parish Councils. You will no doubt have seen such devices in local villages where they visually record your speed often accompanied by a smiley face if you are obeying the legal limit. SID also has the function of recording the number plate of any offenders with this information then being available to the police. SID cannot be used for prosecutions but can assist the police to prioritise the deployment of their safety teams. The data from SID can also be used to plan future improvements to the road safety in Beenham.

The Parish Council would like to know from Beenham residents where they believe the best location would be for placing SID as the locations need to be risk assessed and agreed with WBC Highways. Good candidates would be: Beenham Hill, Back Lane, outside the school and The Six Bells. ***Please let us know of your thoughts.***

➤ A4 Junction

PC has written to WBC, requesting that the road markings at the A4 junction are repainted as they are now illegible. WBC have replied that this work will be done as part of their normal maintenance programme.

➤ **A4 Closure**

The A4 will be closed from 7pm to 5am on 12-23 July between the A340 Aldermaston Roundabout and Woolhampton. The District Councillor said that traffic diversions will not be through Beenham.

RECREATION GROUND

Quotations have been received for refurbishment of the equipment on the Rec. This will include new ground surfacing in the playground, repainting and general repairs. The quotations were discussed at this meeting, but a final decision will be made at the next PC meeting.

The path running past the playground will be resurfaced during July.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Community Room and School Hall will be available for booking during the school holidays (21 July – 1 September), provided that the move to Step 4 is confirmed. A decision on openings next term will be made in August.

FINANCE

- The District Councillor reported that WBC will contribute £3,500 to resurfacing the car park at the Victory Hall. The PC has already agreed to contribute £1,000.
- Spotlight has been running free dance classes in the School Hall since April. The applied for a grant to cover the hire cost. PC agreed to a grant of £225 to cover the period April to July, and will consider a grant for a further period at a later date.

REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Parliamentary Constituencies are reviewed every 10 years. The latest review has been published for consultation on <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/> . Beenham will be moved to a new constituency called Mid Berkshire. The constituency will run from Aldermaston to West Isley, and from Bucklebury to Tilehurst. If you would like to comment on the proposals you can do so online. The Parish Council has no significant objection to the proposals, and decided not to comment.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room or School Hall on Monday 2nd August, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend, but please wear a mask if possible and observe social distancing.

**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/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 8th August – Lord’s Taverners charity cricket match at Douai Park

Saturday 14th August – Woolhampton Annual Show

Saturday 4th September Beenham Fun Day

Games, races, Pimms, beer tent, cakes teas etc.

Sunday 5th September Aldermaston and Wasing Show