

NOTES FROM THE BEENHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER 2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO BEENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Parish Council congratulated the Primary School on another Good Ofsted Report.

The school has invited the older generation of the village to come to the dress rehearsal of their Christmas production on 8th December.

Please reserve a ticket on 0118 9713397.

PUBLIC FORUM

The following issues were raised by parishioners at the meeting:

- The danger of parking at the junction with The Strouds, and close to the junction between Back Lane and Stoneyfield was raised. PC said that this matter had been passed to WBC for action some time ago, but nothing has happened yet.
- The problem of blocked sewage pipes was raised. This has occurred several times, and in different locations in the village. PC said that this was the responsibility of Thames Water, but the PC would ask TW to take action to solve the underlying problems. They would also ask the district councillor to take action.
- A parishioner was concerned about very loud fireworks close to pets, and also remains of fireworks falling into a garden. Please be considerate.
- Several parishioners raised the recent planning application for the change of use of the site at Awberry Farm to a flexible events venue, including the provision of overnight accommodation (Ref 22/02625/FULMAJ). This application will be considered by the PC at their next meeting. The main concerns raised were related to noise and traffic. The applicant is holding an open meeting on 14th November to answer any queries. This is not a PC meeting: if you would like to comment to the PC then please email to the Parish Clerk or come to the PC meeting on 5th December.

PLANNING

WBC send us details of some planning applications from neighbouring parishes, if they think they may impact on Beenham. The PC normally only comments if there is any direct impact on Beenham residents.

We had no comment on the following applications:

- Englefield – Wildlife ponds
- Lambdens Hill – Fish Hatchery Building
- Cods Hill – New garage
- Land west of Frouds Lane, Aldermaston. New storage building
- Aldermaston Wharf, Padworth. New window.

The PC considered the following planning application in Beenham:

22/02406/LBC *Awberry Farm, The Green*. Retrospective application for retention of unauthorised works (carried out in 2006) to the derelict barn at Awberry Farm. This application refers to renovations to the barn carried out by a previous owner without listed building consent. The PC had no objection to the renovations carried out in 2006.

Other planning issues:

- Solar Farm on landfill site near A4. WBC have given their ruling on the scope of the EIA that would be required with an application for a solar farm at this location. The main impact identified by WBC was visual intrusion within an AONB. The applicant must complete the EIA before submitting a formal planning application.
Thank you to several people who sent their comments to the Parish Clerk.
- West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan. This plan for the next 20 years has been finally approved. There will be a large sand and gravel quarry south of A4 and north of the railway between the road to Ufton Nervet and The Spring Inn.

ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

- WBC have recently carried out a speed survey in Beenham. Full details are awaited, but the results show that the 85% speed (ie 85% of vehicles are slower) is 29mph in the northern part of the village and 35% in the southern part. WBC recommends that a Speed Indicator Device (SID) is installed to see if this will reduce the speeds (we are currently arranging for a SID to be installed).
- The closure of Stoneyfield has been postponed until 6th December to 31 January (excluding the Christmas period). It is understood that the bus stop will not be affected. Residential access will be maintained.

FREE TRANSPORT

➤ **CAREBUS**

Carebus Community transport is now free for pensioners. Transport provided to individual pensioners by the volunteer drivers at Carebus is now free of charge, thanks to a grant under the government 'Cost of Living' support scheme for elderly people. Under the scheme, Carebus Community Transport will waive the usual 60p a mile contribution requested from passengers for the rest of 2022, or until the grant is exhausted.

The free transport - whether by volunteers' own private cars or the group's two wheelchair-accessible cars - will be of particular benefit to those travelling to medical appointments or visiting relatives in care homes where public transport is not a practical option. Further details and bookings: Phone 0118 930 4837 Email: bookings@carebus.org

➤ **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING BUSES**

Local buses will be free on Saturdays from 19 November until 24 December.

In addition, WBC is providing a free bus service from Beenham on Saturday 26 November and 17 December. The pick-up point and destination are flexible, but it must be booked in advance.

To book phone 01635 519394 or email transport@westberks.gov.uk

FINANCE

- Charities in Newbury are asking for people who can afford it to donate to the Cost of Living Crisis Appeal to support residents in desperate need. Greenham Trust awarded £50,000 of match funding to the appeal via its funding and fundraising platform The Good Exchange, alongside West Berkshire Council, which means any grants and donations made will automatically be doubled up to £100,000. All funds raised will go directly to emergency food, energy poverty and homelessness prevention charities. The PC agreed to donate £200 to this fund.

To donate to the appeal please visit <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/19728/greenham-trust/west-berkshire-emergency-cost-of-living-crisis-appeal>

- For several years WBC has asked for a contribution to the Library Service to enhance the services that they can provide. The local libraries in Theale and Thatcham provide a range of services in addition to just loaning books. The free computer facilities are very good, and documents can be printed out or scanned. There are activities for adults and children, including craft times, bridge club, seated exercise sessions, Lego Club etc. The mobile library visits Beenham every three weeks. The van can only carry a small stock of books, but any book can be reserved either at the van or online and then collected from the van. In addition, there is a Library at Home service for those not able to get out.

The PC agreed to contribute £1,000 to the Library Service.

- The PC budget (2022-2023) for grants to local organisations has not been fully utilised. If you know of an organisation that can justify a small grant then please contact the Parish Clerk.
- The PC budget must be finalised by the end of this year, and with it the Precept that is paid by every household in Beenham. If you have any projects that you would like the PC to consider for inclusion in the budget then please contact the Parish Clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 5th December, starting at 7.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/.

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

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher (Chairman)	Tel. 07557967575
Peter McEwen	Tel: 077177 18608
Graham Bragg	Tel: 0118 9713688
Tanya Bunce	Tel: 07962 985 592
Dieter Hinke	Tel: 07488 258374
Alex Cother	Tel:

District Councillor; Dominic Boeck Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: Jennie Currie
Tel: 07495 123 353
Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

CR Bookings: Paula Read
Tel: 07793116937
Email: info@beenhampreschool.org

Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk
Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>

Christmas is Coming

Advent Windows - Two windows (one children and one adult) will be revealed each day from 1st to 24th December. See if you can spot them!

Friday 2nd Dec - PTFA Christmas Fayre. 5-7pm at the school

Thursday 8th Dec - Dress rehearsal of school Christmas Production. Tickets available for the older generation.

Sunday 4th Dec - Christingle Service at Church (4pm), followed by Tree Lighting (5pm), and carols with Beenham Wind Orchestra.

Saturday 10th Dec - Christmas Market at Victory Hall

Sunday 11th Dec - Carol Service (4pm)

Friday 16th Dec - Father Christmas around the village. Check posters for times (from 5pm).