

Beenham Parish Plan – Progress on Action Plan April 2016

Strength of Community

Village Hall bookings are very healthy. Monthly Beenham Market now has input from younger members of the community who are making suggestions for improvements in the Hall itself. The committee are actively taking these suggestions forward. It is possible that Community Room bookings have some potential to increase bookings.

Beenham Village Events committee is now in place, summer festival and Xmas tree organised by them. This is a chance for the community to meet and take part.

The Parish website is well managed and informative. The village also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account which are managed outside of any parish council influence. The Allotments Association has a Facebook page and regular updates from the committee go out via email. There is a noticeboard for use by the community outside the Victory Hall.

Young people – some involvement with Victory Hall, but no other. This should take a higher priority now. Rec area equipment is being looked at, so input by young people is needed.

Vulnerable residents. Village agent scheme was advertised earlier this year and now has a Village Agent in place. Some discussion around using the current Beenham Club as a coffee shop/meeting place took place 2014/2015 but no agreement was reached.

Emergency planning – nothing formal in place

Healthiness

Village walks leaflets were produced by Dick Greenaway and are now in the local Doctor's surgery, Bradfield Stores and The Six Bells pub. Launch event was very well attended. Disabled/pushchair access was considered on footpaths and a new gate was put in from Clay Lane to High Wood to facilitate this. A footpath was also laid to one side of the Rec area, connecting the pathway running parallel to the road to the footpath to Clay Lane.

Problems with footpaths are reported when brought to the attention of the Parish Council and the West Berks Council details are on the village website

Village play area does require some improvement – there has been some work done on looking at what other villages have, although this does need to be taken forward (see previous section – young people)

Safer

Speed limit signs are now in place, priority signage outside road restriction by The Six Bells pub.

Pavement and paved parking area are now in place outside the bungalows opposite Butlers Farm.

No known additional passing places

Reduced HGV through village – improved signage and GPS information.

Refuge point provided on A4 to assist with pedestrians crossing to Aldermaston station.

Grit boxes at sites around the village – monitored to ensure that they full and free from damage

Neighbourhood Watch scheme no longer exists, but villagers can sign up to TVP alerts and the Parish website gives details of who to contact for help

Mobile phone coverage is adequate, although there are blackspots with no coverage for some networks. High speed broadband is available in most areas of the parish as part of the Superfast Berkshire initiative.

Prosperous

Field Barn Farm and Awberry Farm have a number of small businesses on their premises. Improved broadband speed to most areas within the parish have improved the possibility for people to work effectively from home.

Learning Skills and Activities – very comprehensive page of information on the parish website

Greener

Routes from village to station – no improvement apart from refuge on A4. No footpath – alternative is bridleway from Clay Lane

Clean footpaths/bridleways. Dog bins at 4 locations around village (well used) but some people persist in allowing their dogs to foul public highways/areas and not clear it up. No Fixed Penalty Notice scheme in operation.

Home-working – see above regarding broadband and previous about meeting place in Beenham Club

Integrated bus & train timetables. West Berkshire Council find it difficult to have integrated timetables as the rail companies do not share their rail times in line with organising contracts for bus routes.

Preserve/improve Woodland within parish. Greyfield Wood active with volunteer support recently organised and activities planned in. Programme of improvement in place. Work recently started in Old Copse.

Bio-diversity – no evidence of a real plan.

Recycling – centre at Padworth, kerbside collection, but some people rely on the use of a vehicle to be able to recycle more items (books/batteries/clothing for example)

Reduce carbon footprint – no plan on information sharing concerning renewable energy & reducing carbon footprint.