

## Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting: Monday November 4th

### Public Forum

- Due to the increase in traders at the Village Market, it was asked if stallholders could use the school car park. It was noted that this was possible by arranging with Community Room booking.
- It was reported that the footpath surface near The Strouds was very poor. WBC Streetcare to be contacted.
- It was noted that The Six Bells was now under new management, and it was important for the Community to support it.
- It was reported that land near Cod's Hill was being used to store many commercial vehicles..was this subject to planning approval? PC to contact WBC Planning.
- It was reported that Clay Lane, from the Bath Road to near Hall Place Farm was flooded and impassable on foot. PC to contact WBC Footpaths.

### Councillors

- A report was received on the success of the recent parishioner meeting regarding potential Affordable Housing. About 50 people attended and were given the opportunity to share their own housing needs. Results of the survey were shared which illustrated a definite need. It was noted that existing insecure rental housing was an issue..that opportunities to downsize were limited..and that there is a need for the School to attract more children. Maps of Beenham were distributed with the request for attendees to identify 3 of their preferred potential sites. After full analysis of these preferences, and if the decision is taken to proceed, the PC will begin to approach the landowners of those sites.
- An update on the issue of parking on the pavements around Back Lane and Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf was given. Our local PCSO will visit to see the extent of the problem that pedestrians are encountering.
- The changes to the bus services that WBC have introduced were discussed. There are no direct services and the impact on the elderly was considered an important issue. WBC have since decided that the afternoon bus from Thatcham to Aldermaston Wharf will run on to Beenham, if requested by passengers already on the bus (including any boarding at Aldermaston Wharf itself). West Berks have now also agreed that, if requested by phone to 01635 519650 by 2pm, it will also pick up passengers for Beenham at the stop on the Bath Road opposite the Shell garage. The impact is that people can now catch a later Jetblack 1 from Reading (just before 4) or Calcot (just after 4:30), and won't have to walk across the bridge at Aldermaston Station in the dark to make the connection. Our District Councillor will take the issues up with WBC.
- The suggested 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of the school was discussed. The PC would like to hear from parishioners their views on the proposal. Comments may be sent to the PC Clerk on the email address below.

### Planning Matters

- 24/02020/FUL : A4 Metal Recycling Grange Lane. Erection of replacement buildings and storage of skips. The PC objects. There are questions about the transparency of the application and the lack of noise mitigating measures, amongst several other issues. The PC has drafted its full objection document and will submit it to WBC. Our District Councillor will also take the matter up directly with WBC.
- Grundon Solar Farm: The application for the reduced size of the solar farm has been submitted. It was noted that this remains within the AONB. It was also noted that whilst Solar is environmentally favourable the impact on the AONB should not be ignored, and should not be allowed to expand further into the AONB, if an application for this be submitted in the future. The PC will not object and will express their concerns on these issues. Our District Councillor will also take this up with WBC.

### Parish Council Assets

- The use of the WiFi connection by those hiring the Community Room and School Hall for private functions was considered. It was agreed that two sets of passwords be established..one for PC official business and the other for hirers, along with the conditions of use.

### Other Matters

-Once per year WBC provides a budget of up to £5000 to District Councillors for capital projects that deliver the Council Strategy Priorities. This is known as the Member Bidding Process. It opened on November 1st and closes next Spring. Parishioners may submit their requests for consideration by the District Councillor. Please submit these to the PC Clerk on the email address below.

And finally...

-It was with great sadness that Graham Bowsher advised us of the passing of Winston..the White Park Steer who had become a mascot of Beenham and was loved by so many parishioners. RIP Winston.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday December 2nd at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

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

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Bowsher (Chairman) Tel. 07557967575

Peter McEwen Tel: 077177 18608

Graham Bragg Tel: 0118 9713688

Dieter Hinke Tel: 07488 258374

Alex Cother Tel: 07764 637190

Peter Hamblin Tel: 0118 9712959

David Hancock Tel: 07471 148256

District Councillor; Dominic Boeck [Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk)

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

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: [clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk)

CR Bookings: Paula Read Tel: 07793116937

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Parish Council website: [www.beenham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beenham-pc.gov.uk)

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>