

BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

JULY 2011 to OCTOBER 2011

Allotments – It is good to see that the allotments are all under cultivation this year. The allotment cup competition took place with a new judge this year and the prize giving took place at the Horticultural Show. The cup was won by B. Kingsley of Plot 19, Little Common Lane. Certificates were given to the tenants of Plot 23 Little Common Lane and Plot 10 in Stychens Lane. Feedback from the judge has been forwarded to allotment holders via e-mail. Following discussions with tenants, future allotment cup competitions will automatically include all tenants unless they confirm they wish to opt out of the competition.

Bletchingley in Bloom – We will be supporting Bletchingley in Bloom members with their plans for the Queens Jubilee beds for Grange Meadow.

Grange Meadow Crossing – As of the 10th of October works have almost been completed on the Grange Meadow Crossing along with the changes necessary to the pathways and road lines. We are just waiting for the connection of the electricity for the lights and the subsequent removal of the barriers.

Skate Ramps – The Parish Council have confirmed their support for the replacement skate park and have pledged up to £10k towards the project subject to ownership details being worked out between BAG and Tandridge District Council who currently own the site.

Hevers Pond: Hevers pond is a permanent spring fed pond on the southern end of the Village, off Outwood Lane and is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is an important habitat for many species of animals and plants. In the latest torchlight survey undertaken on the 14th March 2011, it showed that five of Britain's seven native species of amphibians are present and breeding in Hever's Pond; and they are common toad, common frog, smooth newt, palmate newt and great crested newt. The other two native amphibians (but not present at Hever's Pond) are natterjack toad and northern pool frog. Other animal species that have been recorded in the pond include coot, moorhen, mallard, water scorpions (harmless bugs), caddis flies and their larvae, and various water beetles (Including a Nationally Scarce water beetle *Rhantus suturalis*). It is hoped to undertake another work party with the help of members of SARG sometime in October/November.

Highway Issues – We have received £200 from the Tandridge Local Committee which we have utilised for the purchase of 50 x 25kg bags of salt. We are looking for willing volunteers to be responsible for distributing the salt in times of need at agreed problem sites and junctions. If you have any sites that you would like to add to the list and are willing to be one of the volunteers, then please contact the Clerk for more information.

Outwood Lane – Along one side of Outwood Lane there is a lot of overgrown vegetation encroaching onto the highway. It is believed that the majority of this is actually on highway land and as such Surrey County Council Highways have been contacted. We are led to believe that Outwood Lane has been earmarked for hedge maintenance but we are awaiting confirmation of this before any further decision is to be made on the next step.

Hedges opposite Sunnybank Villas on A25 – Following an appeal by a resident, the Parish Council agreed to arrange for a contractor to cut the two sections of hedge in the laybys on the right hand side as you enter the village from Godstone. It has now been proved that these two hedges are the responsibility of Surrey County Council Highways and as such we will now be trying to ensure that these are maintained appropriately by Surrey County Council.

Cobbled Entrance to Lawrence the Auctioneers – The Parish Council are currently investigating the best way to arrange for the repair of the cobbled stones at the entrance to

Lawrence the Auctioneers. As the land belongs to Highways, we are waiting for the outcome of their site visit which we hope will lead to a subsequent repair.

Minerals: The Government Inspector's report on the Core Strategy of the Surrey Minerals Plan has now been published. Despite the concerns of Sutton and East Water regarding the potential pollution of the aquifer which underlies Nutfield Marsh and Pendell Farm and which supplies our drinking water, Pendell Farm remains identified as the primary source for silica sand in the county and Mercer's Farm on Nutfield Marsh is also under threat as a site for building sand. The blight of so much quarrying along the Green Belt corridor beneath the North Downs, even including some of the Surrey Hills AONB, the inappropriate road access on Nutfield Marsh, the possible effects of more heavy traffic on the A25 through Nutfield, Bletchingley and Godstone are all unfortunately dismissed in the Plan. The findings of the Inspector in this report, which justify the selection of these particular sites above all other alternatives in the County, are a disappointment.

Furthermore, the Aggregates Recycling Document is now under consultation and lists Copyhold Works in Nutfield as a potential site for aggregate recycling and storage, despite it being Green Belt land which should be restored. Development at this site would generate more HGVs along the A25 and through our village. We are hoping to participate in a joint action group comprising members from Nutfield, Bletchingley and Godstone in order to raise our joint concerns of such a development.

Currently the application to extend North Park Quarry to Pendell is under consultation. Negotiations within the quarry liaison group have taken place, so that this application has now been amended to provide a greater stand-off between the quarry faces and the nearby residences and an improved dust plan. By 2014 work at North Park Farm would cease and full restoration of the land here is expected to be completed by 2016. While the above changes are positive steps in the right direction, Sutton and East Water have again expressed their concern over risk to the aquifer from quarrying at Pendell. Because of this potential risk to the water supply, the Parish Council has raised its objections to the further extension of the quarry.

Website: Due to popular demand, a new section on the Village Hall and Community Centre has been added to the Website. This includes all the local clubs, events and meetings taking place on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Please take time out to have a look at what is happening in your village on [www.http://www.bletchingley.org.uk/](http://www.bletchingley.org.uk/). Anyone who wants to publicise a local event or club or has some local news to impart please contact sally.ray@btinternet.com. The same applies if anyone has any ideas of what they would like to see on the website.

Adult Education Centre: The Parish Council are still awaiting more information on the future of the former Adult Education Centre.

Finance – The Parish Council received its Conclusion of Audit, the notice of which was placed on the notice board on the 11th October 2011. The Parish Council have reviewed and amended its Standing Orders and associated documents. These will shortly be available on the website.

Newly Co-opted Councillor – Following the resignation of Cllr Katy Potter-Smith for personal reasons and the required notification procedures, the Parish Council co-opted Koula Crawley Moore as its 9th Councillor at its meeting on the 10th October 2011.

Sally-anne Ray – Chairman