

BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT
NOVEMBER 2011 to JANUARY 2012

Allotments – The water was turned off at the allotments at the beginning of December. Rents for the 2012 renewal have been held at the same rate as for 2011. However, if the water rates bill is as excessively high again as it was for the last quarter, the Parish Council may need to consider a charge for water usage in 2012 in addition to the rent.

Grange Meadow Crossing – The lights on the crossing are finally working. The new Plough Inn sign has been repositioned so as not to block the sightlines for those using the crossing.

Hevers Pond: A work party, under the supervision of SARG members, took place in November with more clearance on the peripheries of the pond undertaken. The resultant rubbish, which included a motorbike, plastic chairs, brooms and weights were removed by Tandridge District Council. Work is currently being undertaken on the wording and design for a notice board to be displayed at the pond.

Highway Issues – The 25kg bags of salt purchased by the Parish Council arrived and some have already been distributed amongst willing volunteers and were used over the early February snow incident. Any new volunteers should contact the Clerk for more information. The vegetation along Rabies Heath Road was cut back by Surrey County Council. Any potholes should be reported direct to Surrey County Council using the online reporting system. This does tend to produce results. One in Rabies Heath Road was notified using the online reporting system and was repaired within 2 days.

Outwood Lane – The vegetation along Outwood Lane as you enter the village has finally been cut back by Surrey County Council.

Minerals: The Surrey Minerals Plan progresses. In March there will be a hearing before the Government Inspector to set the sites for Aggregate Recycling. We have reserved the right to speak at the hearing: as consultees, we had objected to the inclusion of Copyhold at Cormongers Lane, on the grounds of it being in the Green Belt and the generation more heavy goods vehicles along the A25 through Nutfield, Bletchingley and Godstone. The traffic issue will be strongly challenged by the Traffic Action Group for the A25 (TAG-A25), which consists of members of the parish councils and community groups of the 3 villages. To provide evidence of the current heavy use of our village High Streets, TAG-A25 recently commissioned a traffic survey of the A25, an exercise jointly funded by the 3 parish councils. TAG-A25 is looking into the County's HGV records for Copyhold to compare them with our traffic survey data. The latter have indicated an excessive use of the A25 at the Cormongers junction even without the addition of more traffic following new development. The development of Copyhold would affect all 3 villages and the parishes acting together on this issue sends an important message to the County Planning Department.

The plans to extend the Sibelco's sand quarry to Pendell are still being discussed. We remain concerned about the risk to our water supply should this development be permitted. We will next be meeting with the quarry operators in February and expect the County Planning Committee to make a decision on their application soon afterwards.

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. There is also a new section on the War Memorial, including the names of those it honours and those named on the boards in the Village Hall and in the Church. 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.

Precept – The Parish Council agreed at its meeting in November that the precept for 2012/13 would remain unchanged at £38,500.

Olympic Torch Relay: You will all have seen the news that the Olympic Torch relay will be coming through Bletchingley on the 20th July 2012. It is hoped that the Community will come together for this momentous occasion and find ways to celebrate the day and cheer on the torch bearers.

Sally-anne Ray – Chairman