

BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012 to JUNE 2012

Allotments – All plots at the Stychens Lane site are again rented out and being tended. At the time of writing this, there remain 3 vacant plots at the Little Common Lane site. Despite the recent rains, the hosepipe ban remains in place, although there is currently talk with some water companies about removing the ban. Tenants will be informed as soon as the Parish Council is notified of the ban being lifted. Please ensure that water usage is sensible in the meantime. The allotment cup competition will again take place this year with everyone automatically being included unless they request to opt out. All those tending the plots are requested to be mindful of the surrounding residents and to keep their plots in a tidy and cultivated manner as well as the area immediately surrounding their plot. There was no change to the allotment renewal fee for 2012/13.

Adult Education Centre – Surrey County Council are said to be actively looking for tenants for this site which has site guardians in situ at present. The Parish Council are keeping a close watch on the future of this site.

BAGged – We were very pleased to hear at the Annual Parish Meeting that BAGged has succeeded in raising the funds needed to build the new and improved skate park at Grange Meadow. We understand that they will shortly be in a position to award a contract to a skate ramp supplier and hopefully have the park in place by the end of the summer.

CCTV – As some of you may know Metal Mickey is no longer operational and would cost around £6k to repair. As a result of this the Parish Council are considering the purchase of 3 fixed camera's which would utilise the latest CCTV-IP technology with recording up to 30 days. The system would be designed as a network with the ability for the Parish Council at a future time when budget allows too cheaply add additional cameras. Alternatively clubs, residents or streets could help fund a camera for their favoured location and join the network.. Discussions have taken place with Neighbourhood Watch members as well as the local PC and PCSO and residents attending Neighbourhood Watch meetings. More details will follow once finalised.

Cemetery – An adjoining neighbour to the cemetery, with the support of the Parish Council arranged for the Laurel hedge at the western end of the cemetery to be cut back, greatly improving the outlook of that area of the cemetery. We have continued with the year round maintenance of the cemetery and continue to open out previously overgrown areas in the cemetery. The mapping of the existing grave stones continues to be undertaken in the winter.

Street Lighting – The old street lights continue to be changed through the village in phases. The old swan neck versions along the High Street will be replaced with an agreed similar version at a later date.

Highway Issues – the missing bollard at the Stychens Lane island was finally replaced in May after being first reported back in July 2011. Some of the damaged utility manhole covers have been repaired. Any damaged manholes or drain covers need to be reported, either to SCC or to the named utility company, although the owner is not always easy to ascertain.

Annual Report - This was well received and the Annual Parish Meeting well attended on the 17th May 2012.

Annual Return – The Financial Accounts were agreed and the Annual Return completed ready for sending off to the external auditor at the end of June. The precept was not changed from that set for last year of £38,500. Whilst the balance remained high at the end of the year,

this was mainly due to the fact that the £10,000 agreed contribution for the Skate park had not been called upon before the end of the financial year.

Diamond Jubilee – The Parish Council purchased 500m of bunting and 2 flags which were put up in the High Street and near the village sign in time for the Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June. It was good to see many other households and businesses following suit.

Bletchingley in Bloom – The small band continue to improve and maintain the appearance of the village. This year has seen the creation of the 4 Jubilee beds in Grange Meadow which were fortunate to have been planted just before the long period of wet weather which ensured that the plants got a good start. All other existing beds are tended at the monthly meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. New volunteers are always welcome.

TAG (Traffic Action Group) A25 - This formed last October to deal with traffic build up on the A25 through the three parishes, Godstone, Bletchingley and Nutfield. The group comprises representatives from the 3 parishes, and community groups. A recent survey was undertaken in December 2011, funded by the 3 Parish Councils. This showed the expected traffic increases, including nearly a 19% increase in HGV traffic through Nutfield above levels recorded with an official survey undertaken in 1994. MP S Gyimah was very supportive and in January he attended a meeting with representatives of County Planning, Highways and the Environment Agency where TAG-A25 discussed the evidence of our concerns. In March TAG-A25 attended a Surrey Mineral Plan hearing which included a waste recycling development at Copyhold Works on Cormongers Lane. Our objections, largely on the grounds of increased heavy goods traffic on an inappropriate road, were presented to the Government Inspector Jonathan King. A subsequent site meeting with the Inspector was attended where the Inspector was shown the areas of concern along the A25, including junctions and pinch points on the High Street and the one way triangle in Godstone. Emphasis was also given to the damage to the historic buildings along the A25 as a result of the traffic vibration. A report is not expected until the end of the year when the Inspector will give his final decision on Copyhold.

In response to the report of the January meeting, Surrey County Council have now started work on a strategy and schedule of transport infrastructure measures to support TDC's Local Development Framework. They include traffic studies for town centres and key transport routes such as the A25. There will be a new route study of the A25 between Redhill and Limpsfield, building on the previous study carried out in 2000. TAG-A25 will now be kept informed of progress.

The next concern is an application to quarry sand at Mercers Farm on Nutfield Marsh which could generate 240 additional lorry movements daily on the A25. The group are recording all traffic-related problems on our section of the A25, along with deterioration of air quality.

TAG-A25 will have a stand at the Village Fair should you wish to learn more about the group.

Minerals – The Pendell Farm application had been approved, despite the concerns re the penetration of the aquifer and subsequent contamination. It is hoped that the Conditions put in place are appropriate. Work on the extension has already started. Following discussions with the Liaison Group and QOG (Quarry Observation Group), Sibelco UK had agreed that the conveyor belt area would be sterilised and therefore once Pendell was finished, they would not come back and quarry the area underneath the conveyor belt. The Pendell application TA/2012/560 contains the further information requested of Sibelco by SCC to meet the Conditions required for the Access Track, Noise and Surface Water Drainage. There is now detailed information on the access track route across Whitehill Lane as well as the

conveyor belt route. It gives details of sight lines and confirms the width of the track as 5m. The conveyor crosses Whitehill Lane over a prefabricated steel bridge. It also covers additional details about the surface water drainage scheme and noise monitoring. They have already monitored background noise levels, which include noise from road and air. SCC request that the noise survey is done every 6 months.

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.

Olympic Torch Relay: The latest details on the events on the 20th July are available on the Bletchingley Village website including the torch relay times through the village as well as the Big Village Sports Day at Grange Meadow. . The Community is encouraged to come and celebrate this event and take part in many of the activities that will be available in the afternoon.

Sally-anne Ray – Chairman