

BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

JULY 2012 to OCTOBER 2012

Allotments – With the amount of rain we have had this summer, this season has not been a good one for having an allotment. All plots at the Stychens Lane site remain occupied with only one vacancy occurring for a short time before being taken over by a new tenant. At the Little Common Lane site however 3 plots remained vacant for most of the season but following a publicity drive, these plots now have new tenants and there is once again a waiting list. All tenants on both sites are requested to ensure that they compost all their waste on their own sites or take it away, keep their plots in a suitably cultivated state and maintain the boundaries. The use of the overflow area at the Little Common Lane is no longer suitable for composting. Any containers or structures of any kind should be kept to within the plot boundaries. The Parish Council continue to keep the plots available for Bletchingley residents only despite a number of requests for plots from non-residents as other areas have long waiting lists. Judging the best kept allotment was again undertaken this year with all tenants being included in the process unless they opted out. The winner was Colin Morgan of Plot 10 Stychens Lane and 2 runners up, namely Plot 19, Little Common Lane and Plot 12 Stychens Lane. The certificates and cup were handed out at the Horticultural Show. The Parish Council have again confirmed their commitment to no sheds other than low level tool sheds, i.e. no higher than 4ft and all these have to be kept within the plot boundaries.

Stychens Lane Playground Field – work was undertaken to clear the undergrowth and raise the level of the trees at the bottom end of the field. This has resulted in opening out the field further and allowing the TDC contractor to mow this area of vegetation as well. Upon closer investigation when the work was undertaken it was noted that a large tree in the centre needed to come down due to disease. This was undertaken by Turners Hill Tree Surgeons. .

Adult Education Centre – The Parish Council continue to keep a close watch on the future of this site.

BAGged – The new skate park ramps have now been installed at Grange Meadow and while the official opening is the 24th of November we are pleased to see that the youth of Bletchingley are already taking advantage of this great new village facility.

CCTV – Work continues on this project and we are hoping to have 4 new CCTV camera's installed in the village by early next year, Initially they will be located in the centre of the village, one overlooking the War Memorial and the pavement up the High Street, one at Church House looking towards the High Street and two outside the Whyte Hart Public House, covering the Bus Stop and looking up and down the High Street. Once installed the Parish Council can when budget allows install additional cameras cheaply and easily anywhere in the village. If you would like to nominate a future CCTV location please contact the Clerk. Alternatively clubs, residents or streets could help fund a camera for their favoured location and join the network. More information will be provided on the Bletchingley Village Website in due course.

Cemetery – The cemetery continues to be maintained throughout the year with the mapping of the grave stones being undertaken during the winter.

Finance – The Bletchingley Parish Council Annual Return was completed and signed off by the external auditors at the end of August 2012. The 2012/13 budget will be reviewed and the forecast for the 2013/14 precept discussed and agreed at the December meeting.

Hevers Pond – The wording and design of an information notice board has been agreed and is now awaiting confirmation of its manufacture and installation date.

Highways – the pedestrian crossing at the top of Little Common Lane has been restructured to make it easier to cross the junction. The new 30 speed limit signs have now been installed at the start of the village following an initial petition put to SCC a couple of years ago. The speed limit change for Outwood Lane is still being pursued by County Councillor Tony Elias.

Street Lighting – The new swan neck style lamp posts have been installed in most of the High Street. The standard posts are also being replaced by new ones. A few still remain to be replaced and the programme of replacement works schedule can be found on the Surrey County Council website under Roads and Transport / Road Maintenance and Cleaning / Street Lights Traffic Signals and Signs / Street Lights. There is a section called Street Lighting Replacement Programme which has some interesting information and is updated regularly with the planned works. Castle Street, Church Lane and Church Walk are scheduled to have their lamps replaced in November.

TAG-A25 - Following a further workshop meeting with Surrey Highways, also attended by Sam Gyimah MP's researcher, we now have a reduction of the speed limit to 40mph on the A25 between Bletchingley and Nutfield, and an expanded area of the 30mph limit from Bletchingley on the Godstone Road. At the workshop, the poor air quality along the A25 was raised. This is a District Council responsibility. Tandridge currently has no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). This is now being looked into by the Nutfield District Councillor.

We are continuing to log problems on the A25 such as accidents, the parking of large numbers of HGVs, particularly towards the Cormongers Lane junction, and damage to pavements and verges caused by vehicles.

We await the planning application to quarry sand at Mercers Farm South, which, although largely in Nutfield, also includes a small area of Bletchingley parish. Major potential concerns are the still-undecided position of the site access and the 240 daily HGV movements.

North Park Farm Quarry: At their October community liaison meeting Sibelco reported that restoration has been completed at the south of the site. A hedge will be planted 100 metres from Place Farm. In 2013 sand extraction will continue from the south-east faces. Archaeological investigations along the proposed line of the new sand conveyor for Pendell have uncovered a system of walls and possible building foundations, most probably associated with the Tudor palace. This research is currently continuing as the weather allows. The conveyor will be built above the archaeology at a level to ensure its conservation.

Pendell Farm Quarry: Crossing points on White Hill Lane to connect North Park Quarry with the quarry extension at Pendell are under construction. Further work at Pendell will not begin until April 2013. This will entail diversion of the footpaths that cross the site.

Star Energy: Permission has been granted for further appraisal work at their site on Bletchingley Oilfield on Tilburstow Hill. The gas-flow testing started in October.

Website: A new section on Allotments and the Church House Appeal has now been added to the Website under Local Information. 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: This was very well attended, followed by the Big Village Sports Day. The streets were lined with people the whole way through the village with some taking up vantage points earlier in the day.

Code of Conduct: – As a result of the new Localism Act 2011, Bletchingley Parish Council have adopted a new code of conduct to meet the requirements of the Act. The Code deals

with the conduct that is expected of members and co-opted members of the council when they are acting in that capacity. The Code also makes provision for the registration and disclosure of interests as provided for in the Act. The document can be found on the Bletchingley website.

Sally-anne Ray – Chairman