

BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

JULY 2014 to November 2014

Allotments – Only 3 vacant plots remain available on the Little Common Lane site. Anyone interested in growing their own vegetables but not having enough space at home should contact the Parish Clerk for more information about using an allotment plot.

Allotment Cup Competition – Tim Pierce very kindly was able to do the judging at short notice for which we are very grateful. Liz Wise of Plot 2 Little Common Lane won first prize. Ron Napper of plot 4, Little Common Lane won 2nd prize and Colin Morgan from plot 10 Stychens Lane received 3rd prize. All three were presented with a Certificate and Liz received the cup.

Cemetery –The recommended tree work following the survey was carried out in the Cemetery. The mapping of existing headstones is now almost complete with only checking for accuracy still to be undertaken.

Town Meadow – Unfortunately due to repeated occurrences of the fence being cut in a number of places, the cows had to be relocated from Town Meadow. It is unclear at this stage whether they will be returning.

Tilgate Common – The tree work following the tree survey was undertaken on Tilgate Common and the whole area has been cut again. It is unfortunate that there are still inconsiderate residents who are putting their garden waste outside their properties on the Common. The large pile of what appears to be old fence panels and other garden paraphernalia will be moved by the Parish Council with the help of Tandridge District Council. The Parish Clerk would like to encourage residents who use Tilgate Common to contact her with a view to participate in a Litter Pick to remove any remaining litter. All residents are requested NOT TO DUMP their garden waste on Tilgate Common, but to dispose of it appropriately themselves, either through their own composting system, taking the waste to one of the waste recycling centres or contacting Tandridge with a view to obtaining a brown vegetation waste bin which get's collected on the same day as the recycling generally.

High Street Trees – The Parish Council has instructed an Arboriculturalist company to undertake a survey and provide the Parish Council with a report on the condition of the trees in the High Street, together with recommendations for a future maintenance schedule. Once this report is in, any recommended work will need to be notified to Tandridge District Council. As these trees are located within a Conservation Area permission from the Planning Department has to be sought prior to any work being undertaken.

Bulb Planting – Members of Bletchingley in Bloom were out planting bulbs again ready for a bigger display of spring welcome to the village. This year the verge as you enter Bletchingley from Godstone has been planted. A resident from Barfields also very kindly donated a sack of 100 daffodil bulbs which have been planted in Tilgate Common.

Winter Maintenance – The Parish Clerk will have been in touch with those of you who have put your names down as volunteers for snow clearance should the need arise this year. More volunteers are always welcome as more snow can be cleared if we have more volunteers. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information. More information on how Surrey County Council manages snow clearance and gritting can be found on their website using the following link www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/salting-and-gritting/salting-routes-in-surrey. <http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-and-cleaning/salting-and-gritting/salting-routes-in-surrey>. As with last year, Surrey County Council have issued the following advice relating to snow clearance of your own drives, paths etc.

“As with all actions taken by members of the public, people should act sensibly and consider the effect their actions might have on other highway users. Provided any salting or snow clearance is carried out responsibly and without creating further hazards which could lead to a passerby injuring themselves, then there would be no liability for such actions.”

Air transport – Some parishioners have mentioned to Councillors that they believe more flights have passing over the village since Gatwick changed to the PRNAV system for aircraft taking off from the airport. If you believe this to be the case you are urged to either e mail the Civil Aviation Authority complaining at airspace.policy@caa.co.uk or to write to Airspace Policy Directorate, CAA, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6TE. To date we have no knowledge of a time scale for such correspondence, therefore you are urged to make your views known as soon as possible.

North Park Quarry should have finished production at the end of this year, as the Pendell extension comes in to operation. However, as expected, Sibelco has submitted an application to extend the time for sand extraction until 2020, saying that the recession has reduced demand, delaying production. This means that both sites would be in operation together for 6 years. The Parish Council has objected as the increased area of open sand faces and more stockpiles could vastly increase dust generation; there would be greater adverse impact on our local community, with a delay in the reinstatement of rights of way, and a longer-term loss of visual amenity, particularly from the Surrey Hills. The quarry restoration is planned largely as woodland, part of a scheme to create a tree corridor with important wild-life habitats stretching from Merstham to Godstone. Delayed restoration would seriously impact upon this scheme. The planning decision is awaited, but we have asked that, should this application be permitted, conditions be applied to minimise dust generation and prioritise restoration.

The Sibelco community liaison committee met in October. Production from North Park Quarry is of fine quality glass sand and blended sands for horticulture and sports grounds, the different qualities coming from faces at Kitchen Copse, Place Farm and near the Golf Club. Restoration has begun in the southern area. Some tree planting is expected in March. Although sand extraction at Pendell should already be under way, the conveyor linking this site to the processing plant at North Park is not yet operational. The ongoing archaeological work prior to any sand extraction has recently uncovered areas with pottery from the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Mercers Park - The planning application to develop a sand quarry on Mercer’s Farm, Nutfield has been granted permission. This will bring more traffic through Bletchingley as over 80% of the anticipated 150 lorry movements per day will travel from the site access just west of the M23 bridge east along the A25. The Parish Council has complained to Surrey County Council about the handling of the application by the Planning Authority, as relevant documents were published late, and some letters of complaint appear to have disappeared

Website updates – Bletchingley is in a conservation and greenbelt area and as a result additional planning regulations apply for everything from trees to buildings. Failure to abide by these rules could result in prosecution. To find out if you live in the Bletchingley conservation area and what this means to you, please read the Local Information section of the Bletchingley Village Website (<http://www.bletchingley.org.uk>) which now has a new section called Living in a Conservation Area or read the Village news section ‘are your trees protected’.

Sally-anne Ray – Chairman