

Notes from Beenham Parish Council Meeting: Monday Nov 3rd

Public Forum

- It was reported that Beenham Tea Party have raised £200 for MacMillan.
- It was reported that the Community Connect bus service now operates a route to Royal Berkshire Hospital. The PC will obtain a full list of new services for parishioners.
- The new owners of the field to the left going up on Beenham Hill introduced themselves.
- The recent accident on the junction of the Bath Road at the Beenham turn off was raised in the context of the junctions danger. It was explained that only 3 months ago WBC reported back to the PC that they considered the junction to be safe if drivers followed road marking directions.

Library Services

-In the context of WBC's decision to stop the mobile library, their Library services manager gave a presentation of the options available to Beenham parishioners. There are three options, the first two of which were previously reported upon.

1. A pop up service.
2. Use of a Community bookshelf.
3. WBC's e-book service.

The PC felt that the e-book service may be a positive option with parishioners able to receive up to 7 books at a time on line for reading on their electronic devices over a two week period. Beenham Tea Party offered the potential to hold tutorials for the e-book service. It was suggested that a survey of parishioners wishes be set up, with more details of what is available, to pursue the matter further.

Councillors

- The recent vandalism at the school was discussed, which resulted in obnoxious graffiti in the playground. It was agreed that children must be protected from such behaviour and that WBC, who are aware of the incident, be approached for ideas to help. CCTV is possibly an option as it is installed in many schools now.
- The issue of possible Give Way signage on the single track section of Back Lane was discussed. As the section is not straight, this could cause more confusion as line of sight is not possible. WBC will be approached for guidance.
- The need to repaint the parking bay lines for the School/Community Room was discussed. As the land is owned by WBC, they will be contacted.
- A report was received from the parishioner who has volunteered to monitor road and footpath issues.
- SID (Speed Indication Device)

Further to ongoing discussion with West Berkshire Council, we will be using the SID to record traffic speeds at approved sites in the village later in this calendar year. Please be assured that any data recorded by the machine will not be used for traffic enforcement purposes. We plan to share the findings at a future Parish Council meeting prior to further discussion with residents regarding our ongoing work to review the speed limit within the village.

-Parking on Footpaths/Pavements

As has been previously reported there is a continuing increase in vehicles being parked on footpaths/pavements in various locations in the village, which obstruct the passage of the disabled, mobility scooter users, parents and children in buggies and general obstruction for walkers. It should be noted that it is an offence for parked vehicles to obstruct footpaths this way, so the PC strongly urges parishioners to be considerate of others and refrain from parking in such a manner.

- Aldermaston Wharf/Mallards Way parking congestion.

-It was noted that WBC have proposed various options to the ongoing serious parking congestion on Mallards Way. Our Parish Councillor for Aldermaston Wharf has considered all the options and concluded that the proposals will not resolve this matter. A letter from the PC has been sent to WBC detailing the perceived flaws in these and asking for a meeting to discuss the matter face to face.

Planning Matters

- 25/02231/FULMAJ: Pips Way, Beenham. Wording of condition to be amended. The PC will leave it to WBC.
- 25/02041/HOUSE: Fairview, Bath Road. Demolition of conservatory and erection of rear extension. No objection
- 25/02313/FUL: Butlers Farm, Beenham. Erection of barn and diversion of footpath. No objection.
- 25/02243/NONMAT: Hillside Cottage, Bourne Lane, Beenham. Non material amendment to planning permission 19/02959/HOUSE internal alterations. No objection.

District Councillor

-It was reported that dangerous driving incidents have been reported to WBC on the Bath Road between the Ufton turnoff and Beenham Village turn off.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday December 1st at 7.00pm.

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

Your Parish Councillors are:

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District Councillor: Dominic Boeck... Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk

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Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>