

Bepton Parish Council

Winter 2019–20 Newsletter

Update on the Soft Sand Review Process

West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority have prepared a Proposed Submission Draft Soft Sand Review which will form part of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan. As mentioned in our previous Newsletter, the good news is that the East and West Severals sites have been dropped as proposed sand extraction sites in this review document. The Soft Sand Review has now been published, prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, to allow representations to be made on its 'soundness' and legal and procedural compliance. Members of the public can now make representations up until 11.59pm on Monday 2nd March, 2020. The following link will take you to the Soft Sand Review consultation process: www.westsussex.gov.uk/mwdf.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

As reported in our last newsletter, Bepton Parish Council has a small amount of CIL money to spend on infrastructure and we asked you all for suggestions. In 2018 we used some CIL money to restore the war memorial in St Mary's churchyard. No suggestions were forthcoming but the Council has decided to pursue the possibility of erecting village 'gates' at the main entrances/exits of Bepton as a method of traffic calming. Speeding in Bepton is one of the major concerns always brought to our attention. Gateways have been specified as one form of speed reducing measure and also have the added benefit of enhancing the environment, particularly in rural locations. The Council would like to erect 3 sets of white village 'gates'. These will be simple structures with 2 posts, 3 cross bars and a diagonal. We plan to have one pair at the junction of Bell Lane and Bepton Road, one pair near Frogmore on Bepton Road, and one pair at the beginning/end of the houses on Severals Road. We have the support of our County Councillor, Kate O'Kelly.

These village gates are part of a longer-term strategy to apply for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to reduce the speed from 40mph to 30mph along the Bepton Road (from Frogmore to Meadow View) and Severals Road (from The Country Inn towards the A272). If we are successful, this will increase road safety. During any TRO online application, the Council will be asked whether local residents support the idea and we will need their names and addresses. If you support such an application, please provide your details to beptongatebepton@gmail.com.

Bepton Road Signs

The Parish Council is aware that a number of the village's road signs have been damaged or knocked down. This has been reported to West Sussex County Council as well as the Cowdray Estate.

Winter Resilience Plan

The winter is not yet over and the Parish Council would like to remind parishioners that Bepton has a Winter Resilience Plan in place. The plan is designed to provide a framework for a Parish based approach to deal with severe winter conditions, so that residents can access and continue to use the roads in the event of heavy snowfall or obstruction from fallen trees, and to ensure best possible access by emergency services. To see the plan please visit the parish website: www.bampton.org and go to the News From Bepton page.

Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual meetings of the Parish Council will take place on 14th May at the Park House Hotel. Our guest speaker will be Ms Penny Plant, Cabinet Portfolio holder for the Environment and Contract Services, who will talk to us about the CDC plans for a Climate Emergency Action Plan which sets out a carbon reduction target of 10% year on year until 2025 within the Chichester District.

Bepton Parish Council Website

As you know we have a parish website which keeps residents updated on local issues that might affect you. You can also contact us with any problems or issues you might have about the parish. Please go to www.bampton.org and send an email to info.bamptonparishcouncil@gmail.com. Please 'follow' us by clicking on the button that appears at the bottom right-hand corner of your screen.

Bepton VE Day Street Fest 2020

Many of you may remember that in 2012 we celebrated HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee with our village's own version of a street party.

A group of residents, including members of the Parish Council, have mooted the idea of a Street Fest to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May this year. We propose a 'get together' along the lines of the previous occasion, which attracted close to 200 people despite the cold, wet and windy conditions.

The event would be very much open to families and friends of residents, and a potential site has already been offered. If you would like to know more or would like to help organise this event, please register your interest on the Parish website www.bepton.org/contacts by sending an email to the Parish Council email address, or contact Mike Balmforth at balmforths@yahoo.com, Mob: 07979 080120, Old Stocks, Bepton.

Eco Rother Group: Climate Change – Global Issue, Local Response (by Veronica Carter)

Are you interested in meeting with others from Trotton and surrounding areas who would like to explore what we can do (individually, as a household, through your local Parish Council, etc.) to respond to climate change? We are looking to start a group to share ideas, keep ourselves informed and to help inform decisions being made at Parish, District and County level. If you would like to know more and maybe become involved please contact: Veronica Carter veronica@vcarter.co.uk. The next meeting will be held on 24th February at Southdowns Manor, Dumpford Lane, Trotton at 10.30am.

The Blue Bell at Cocking

Now that The Country Inn will be closed for the foreseeable future, one of our nearest pubs is the The Blue Bell at Cocking. Owned by the local community, the village pub offers freshly prepared home cooked food, real ales and craft beers, and B&B rooms. Visit www.thebluebellatcocking.co.uk.

News from St Mary's Church

Carols for Christmas

As we move rapidly into 2020 we should recall our excellent Carol Service on the afternoon of 8 December 2019 in the warmth and beauty of our little church. The Christmas tree, kindly donated by the Cowdray Estate, had been secured in its usual position to the right of the altar by Alan Sadler and sparkled with the decorations put on it by Lavinia Milner and Linda Sadler. Red candles on the window ledges with lots of holly and other greenery added to the festive air created by Lavinia and Linda and all our helpers are warmly thanked. It was lovely to see several Bepton families with young children joining us for the first time and we look forward to seeing them again. The Chinwala family, who have been coming to the Carol Service since the children were tiny, contributed excellent readings (Zubin by himself) and his sister and brother (Zara and Theo) as a duet. They were supported by Mike Balmforth, Tessa Craddock, Richard Buckler and Duncan Hollowood and we thank them all. After the service trays of sweetmeats and mulled wine or tea disappeared in a flash and the contributors of goodies and the many helpers with distribution also deserve our thanks.

Looking ahead

Easter

With snowdrops in bloom in the churchyard and other signs of spring we look forward to the Church's principal Festival of Easter. Our main services to which all are welcome will be:

Good Friday, 10th April at 10am - a benefice service of hymns and readings

Easter Sunday, 12th April at 11.15am - Matins followed by a shortened Holy Communion

Summer Fun

Although it is a long way off please note that we will be holding a Jazz concert at the church on **Saturday 27th June at 3pm** followed by refreshments outside, weather permitting. Do not miss this opportunity so enter the date in your diary now. More information will follow in due course.

Bepton Parish Councillors:

Chairman:	Rosalind Hart	815473	Carey Bower	816738
Vice-Chairman:	Julia Wilkinson	812041	(Newsletter - Email: careybower@gmail.com)	
	(Footpaths & Byways)		Linda Sadler	815535
Planning:	John Beckett	813003	James Beaumont	813737
Clerk:	Lorraine Grocott	01428 74133		

