

NEWS

from Broadbridge Heath Parish Council



Keeping you informed of the work of the Parish Council and the community of Broadbridge Heath

KEEP BROADBRIDGE HEATH CLEAN AND TIDY



Jim has been serving the village as our Litter Warden for 12 years. He works 18 hours a week and can be found pounding the streets with his barrow and pickers most days. His primary objective is to keep Broadbridge Heath looking clean and tidy. In addition to litter picking and inspecting our play areas, he can often be seen with secateurs in hand tidying up brambles or small branches which may pose a danger to pedestrians. Not only does Jim keep the village tidy, he also

reports matters such as potholes and blocked drains spotted on his travels for the Clerk to pass on to WSCC Highways. All in all, Jim is a real asset to the village. **Your Clerk asked Jim what he liked about the job? He replied...**

“I really enjoy my job as I like giving something back to the village and I must be doing something right as the Parish Council and residents are always happy with the work that I do. I enjoy the flexibility and freedom to use my own initiative whilst covering my weekly schedule and of course it’s great to meet people and have a laugh and a joke, and if I can help our older residents out then that’s good too. Sometimes just by stopping to say hello can make a difference to their day!

I also take pleasure in keeping our play areas safe for our young people and take great pride in my work knowing that the village is a cleaner and safer place as a result of the work that I do.”

... and what don't you like?

“Dog poo (faeces) on the pavements and in bags that are left in hedges or on the side of the road. Why can't some dog owners just bag it and bin it or take it home to bin it?

Vandalism and broken glass anywhere but particularly in the play areas; whilst I pick up what I can, I can never be certain that I have got it all.

Obstructions on the footpath, like overhanging hedges and vehicles parked on the pavement that mean I have to take my barrow on to the road.

Also on collection days where bins are left strewn all over the place and when the Acorn lorries have not emptied the bins properly leaving rubbish behind on the footpaths or in the road for me to sweep up.”

The Parish Council is very lucky to have Jim on board.

Thank you Jim for all your hard work and also to those residents who take pride in keeping our village clean and tidy.



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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

When I wrote this, the Olympic Games was in full swing and I am pleased to say that Broadbridge Heath can claim to have had some involvement, as the Leisure Centre was used by the Grenada Olympic Team for part of their pre-Olympic training and Kiraini James of the Grenada team won the gold medal for the mens 400m. The future of the Leisure Centre has been the subject of heated debate over the last few months, but at their meeting in June, Horsham District Council agreed to provide a new £7.3m district leisure facility to be located to the south of the existing building, and also gave a commitment to provide an outdoor athletics track. The Parish Council, whilst welcoming this decision, will be monitoring the situation to make sure that this does not impact on the new leisure and social facilities that the village of Broadbridge Heath should receive as a result of the development to the south of the village.

The construction of the access road to the development, which is off the existing bypass, is well under underway and is being built on a 'left in, left out' basis to try and keep disruption to through traffic to a minimum. We envisage that the first houses will soon start to appear on the western side of the development.

Unfortunately, our Clerk for Strategy and Development, Helen Dayneswood, left us in May. Having been with the Parish Council

since the current development site was first mentioned as a strategic location in the WSCC Structure Plan (adopted in 2004), she will be a hard act to follow. Her sound guidance and advice will be much missed, but we wish her well for the future.

As a nation we are often said to be obsessed with talking about the weather, but I am afraid I must mention it, as the variable weather we have experienced recently has given rise to unprecedented growth of hedges, shrubs and grass in our own gardens and in public areas.

As a result, WSCC (who are responsible for cutting most of the verges) and our own contactors have struggled to keep up with the planned maintenance. This, combined with WSCC reducing the number of grass cuts per year due to budget constraints, has resulted in many areas, particularly the verges and entrances to the village looking very untidy. We are working hard to try and resolve this immediate problem and hope that by next year (weather allowing) we will have systems in place to ensure that this does not happen again.

On a positive note, I am delighted to welcome Rebecca Clay as a co-opted member of the Parish Council. Rebecca is keen to become involved in the work that we do and is already making a valuable contribution. This just leaves us with one vacancy; so if you are interested in joining us, please do get in touch. **Viv Edwards, Chairman**

Broadbridge Heath Village Centre Social Club

Forthcoming Entertainment

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Sun 26th August: Wii Afternoon
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YOUR TREES

In 2011, the Parish Council commissioned a health and safety inspection of all the trees on parish land to include The Common, Village Centre, the cricket, tennis and dirt jumps area and a loan oak tree in the Singleton Road play area. Some 250 trees were inspected and a schedule was drawn up of required works.

Unfortunately, 17 trees had to be removed as a result of extensive bark damage, severe decay/rot at the base, hollow at ground level, honey fungus on an apple tree or as a result of extensive squirrel damage. 78 other trees had maintenance work undertaken. Dead wood and excessive weight on extended tree limbs

were pruned back, crowns were lifted above head height and ivy was removed.

This type of work is essential and needs to be undertaken every two to three years. It only costs a pound or two from each household every year – a small price to pay to preserve our trees which include, oak and red oak, horse chestnut, lime, ash, walnut, sycamore, maple, alder, cherry, apple, pear, hawthorn, sorbus and silver birch.

Sadly, there are another six trees on The Common that may well have to be removed in the coming years. This is due to substantial vandalism, i.e. damage to the lower trunk thought to be caused by dogs. If anyone witnesses dog owners allowing their dogs to deliberately



scratch or attack our trees please report it immediately to the police as it is criminal damage.

On a happier note, the 11 new jubilee trees in the Charrington Way green area are thriving. The Parish Council is working on providing a jubilee seat and plaque to look out over the trees (further details to follow on the noticeboards or in the local press).

OVERHANGING VEGETATION

NOW THAT THE BIRD-NESTING SEASON IS OVER, ARE YOUR HEDGES OR TREES OVERHANGING A FOOTPATH OR ROAD?

Please spare a thought for the elderly, visually impaired, and especially the users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs who are often forced to use the road because of narrowed or obstructed footpaths. Ensure that your hedges and trees are trimmed back regularly and do not overhang obstruct narrow our pavements, footpaths and roads. WSCC advise that there should be 1.2m of passable footway available and overhang should be higher than 2.1m. You run the risk of formal notice from the County Council if you fail to keep overhanging vegetation under control, and could even face legal action from an injured member of the public. Please keep Broadbridge Heath safe and tidy.



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CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

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Email: clerk@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Chairman: Mrs Viv Edwards

Tel: 01403 240414 Email: viv@rh12.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council Meetings are open to the public and the press (who have a right to attend) and are preceded by a session for public comments. All Council meetings take place in the St. John's Community Centre.

Visit our website at www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk for agendas and minutes of previous meetings or view the notice boards at the One Stop shop, Billingshurst Road or The Village Centre, Wickhurst Lane. Forthcoming Parish Council meetings are on 3rd September, 1st October and 5th November starting at 7:30pm.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PCSO ROY MILLARD

I am aware of the various parking issues in Broadbridge Heath and am endeavouring to get them sorted out. If anyone parks on footpaths and blocks them, please be mindful that they are not only breaking the law but causing an inconvenience to people wanting to use the footpath.

I know that speeding in the village and in particular Billingshurst Road is something that is regularly raised in Community questionnaires. I recently spent time in Billingshurst Road with a PC using a speed gun, the result being that no one was caught speeding on that particular day. You could say it was bad luck, or the wrong day or that our high viz jackets gave us away, but suffice it to say, we will be back! Unfortunately, because of certain checks that need to be carried out on any sites that we use, we can only give words of advice to anyone that we catch speeding. Once a site has been deemed fit for purpose and safe to use that is when we can issue Fixed Penalty Notices. We are currently looking at specific sites.

We will be looking at the current standing of Neighbourhood Watch in the near future and how we as a force can make better use of it. If you are interested in becoming a street coordinator in the village please contact me on roy.millard@sussex.pnn.police.uk and I will be pleased to visit you and explain what is involved.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID SHELDON

The two issues that I get asked about most frequently are speeding and parking and they are often the hardest to resolve. The priority of work that requires a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) (as these issues often do) is now decided by County Local Committees (CLC's). Broadbridge Heath comes under the North Horsham Committee and we meet once a quarter at County Hall North in Horsham. The meetings are open to everyone and I would encourage anyone who wants to raise these sorts of issues to come along and have your say. Visit the following for details:
www.westsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/meetingsanddecision-making/countylocalcommittees.aspx

If you are involved with any community or voluntary group you may also be interested in the Community Initiative Fund run by the CLC. This fund aims to provide small grants to assist local community projects. Again for more detail go to the website, or get in touch with me directly.

Email David.Sheldon@westsussex.gov.uk, Telephone 01403 263504 or write to 5 Cricket Field Road, Horsham, RH12 1TE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT

The PC's annual accounts have now been signed off by Mazars, our external auditors and can be viewed on the PC's website www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk. The next newsletter will be distributed in November, by which time the PC will be considering the precept (the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council) requirements for 2013-14. The PC is always keen to ensure that its priorities and initiatives reflect the wishes of the electorate. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we spend the annual precept we would be most pleased to hear from you.

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