

News

from Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

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Chairman's Message

As I write this, the leaves on the trees are changing colour and the Common and recreation areas in the village are looking very autumnal. Now is an ideal time to take a walk and enjoy the green areas and open spaces that we are so fortunate to have in and around our village. In particular, you might like to visit the recreation area at Charrington Way and see the Jubilee Stone and bench and the new play equipment that has recently been installed. Pictured right 'bringing in the stone'.

I am very pleased to welcome a new councillor to our ranks, Simon Collins, who joined us in October. Simon's particular interest is in planning and we are looking forward to working with him and drawing on his knowledge and experience. We still have vacancies for three councillors. If you are interested in becoming involved and having a say in what happens in your village, please consider joining us.

The development in the south of the village is moving on apace and some houses are already occupied. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new

News from your Parish Council

Welcome to Autumn/Winter issue of Parish Council News for 2013. This newsletter is delivered to every household in the Parish (around 1,400) and aims to keep all residents in touch with matters that may be of interest, including the Parish Council's activities and forthcoming meetings. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who provided an article last time and this. Don't forget, if you have something that you would like to see in the next edition please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details are on the back page).



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residents of Broadbridge Heath and hope that you enjoy being part of this small, but friendly community.

Welcome Packs with details about the village and various local organisations are being distributed to all households as people move in. Our thanks to Countryside Properties for printing the wallets and distributing the packs and also for the help they have given Matt and his team at the Dirt Jumps – see page FOUR.

As work progresses in the south of the village there will be changes in the road network in the surrounding area. The Parish Council is working with consultants to ensure that we put the right balance of measures in place, both to reduce the speed of traffic (a cause of concern for many residents) and to prevent motorists using the village as a short cut once the new road system is in place. We are currently considering various suggestions and hope to bring forward ideas for public

consultation next year.

I have mentioned just a few of the issues that we have been involved with over the last few months. Details of the work carried out by our various committees can be found in the reports from the individual Chairman.

Finally, I would like to wish you all, on behalf of the Parish Council, a Happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year.

Viv Edwards, Chairman

Gala Association Fireworks and Bonfire Saturday 2nd November

Despite the blustery weather, a large crowd gathered behind The Village Centre to enjoy a spectacular, dazzling firework display by Aurora Fireworks and a brightly burning bonfire. Prior to this, the popular torch light procession had set out from Sullington Mead gathering villagers as it wended its way through the village to the field. This really is an impressive sight, if you haven't been involved before make a note to join in next year – torches are provided for responsible adults to carry! Thank you to the 1st and 2nd Broadbridge Heath Brownie packs and Skylarks Playgroup for providing the guys who sat proudly on the top of the bonfire! *(pictured right)*

This is an extremely popular event in the village, but it is only made possible by the hard work and commitment of the committee, their friends and family, volunteers from various local organisations and of course our numerous sponsors. I would like to extend grateful thanks to everyone involved. As ever, we are looking for volunteers both to join the Committee and help on the actual day.

**If you would like to know more details, please contact me.
Viv Edwards, Chairman, Gala Association,
viv@rh12.co.uk, 01403 240414**



Have a crime free Christmas

With the Christmas holiday season almost upon us, now is a good time to remind people to take steps to make sure your Christmas is not spoiled by criminals who can take the opportunity afforded them by the extra shopping that we do, the hustle and bustle of town centres as we rush around, and the value of the goods we buy as presents and store in our homes until the big day.

Out Shopping – Guard against pickpockets; be extra careful with your wallet or purse. Try to park in a well-lit area; lock all doors and windows and do not leave presents in view.

At Home – Keep presents out of sight until Christmas Eve and, if you 'hide' or

store larger items such as bicycles in the shed or outbuildings, make sure that they are very secure. Remember, empty boxes left outside advertise that you have new goods inside! Expensive items may need additional insurance.

If you go out for the evening make it look as if someone is at home by turning on lights and the radio and lock all doors and windows. As a fire precaution, do not leave Christmas lights on in the house whilst you are out.

If you go away for the holiday period use an automatic timer for lights and ask a trusted neighbour to watch your home.

Have a happy and crime-free Christmas

Horsham District Council Health Walks

All are welcome to join these guided, free, sociable, walks led by trained volunteers; there is no need to book, just turn-up at the start point (if you are new to the scheme please arrive 15 minutes before the start time for registration). A programme booklet containing details of walks is available from the Walks Co-ordinator on 01403 215269 or can be downloaded from their website at www.horsham.gov.uk/leisure/2103.aspx (or enter "Horsham DC Walks" into a search engine such as Google).



Finance and Establishment Committee

This Committee is entering the busiest period in the financial year as it considers the budget for 2014-15 and prepares the accounts and related work for year end. Our auditors PKF Littlejohn, approved the accounts to 31 March 2013 in September and these are available for view on the website.

The precept, the amount of Council Tax requested by the Parish Council (PC), is due to be submitted to Horsham District Council (HDC) in January and as always, the PC is keen to ensure that its priorities and initiatives reflect the wishes of the electorate.

The PC currently funds a Community Youth Worker in partnership with Slinfold and Warnham, the cost of which for this first year, 2013-14, has been met from reserves and grants. At the PC meeting on 2nd December, members agreed that the cost for 2014-15, as well as other small inflationary costs, may be met by an increase in precept.

The PC would like to advise residents that they will be making the final 'precept' decision for next year at their meeting on 6th January but that the recommendation currently is, in principle, to increase precept by £4.70 per year (or 9p per week) for an average Band D property. An increase of £4.70 (around 11% more than last year), if agreed, will show on residents Council

Tax bills from HDC in the spring and the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity for residents to comment on this increase should they wish to do, by post, email or at the PC meeting on 6th January.

As residents move into houses on the new development the PC is working with HDC to establish how this will be recognised in its income so its expanding obligations can be met. For example, how will environmental services such as litter picking and inspections of play areas in the new development be funded? These discussions are on-going.

On the establishment front, we have a part time vacancy which will be advertised in the New Year and will involve supporting our clerk. The role will require good communication and administration skills and knowledge of local authority would be an advantage. Hours will be flexible as day and evening work is required but will be between 10 and 25 hours per month. The full job description and person specification is currently being drawn up. If you would like to register an interest in the vacancy please telephone our Clerk. If you would like to know more about any aspect of the PC's finances please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk.

Councillor David Trangmar, Chairman Finance & Establishment

Drains Now is the time to check your drain(s) outside your property but only if it is safe to do so!

Are they clear from debris? Can water exit freely down the drain?

Would a quick sweep help to clear the surface? Could you, your gardener or handyman unblock the drain at surface level?

If the drain is badly blocked and needs professional attention to be cleared please report this now to West Sussex County Council via their website 'LoveWestSussex' or call 01243 642105 and provide full details to the operator. Please do not delay; do not wait until the blocked drain results in flooding in the area. This is particularly important for residents living in areas where there has been flooding or surface water is not draining away from the road.

Bus travel

Many residents have asked why the Arriva and Compass buses arrive within minutes of each other and whether this could be changed. The Parish Council contacted both bus companies but unfortunately there is little leeway for them to change their timetables as these are scheduled to cover school runs or to link to other services. They also have to try to minimise problems at Horsham bus station as it is too small to cope with the number of services using it. Sorry, we tried!

Planning Committee

Recent activity has been dominated by a detailed planning application for the latest two parcels of land in the Countryside Properties 'Wickhurst Green' development (DC/13/1690).

This consists of 137 residential units, plus amenity/open space areas and landscaping. The Parish Council has raised various concerns and comments in relation to this latest phase.

During the last few months we have also considered the application from Lifestyle Ford (DC/13/1126) to redevelop the Kingfisher House site, the home of the former Peugeot/Citroen garage. This is to replace their existing showroom and workshop premises in the Bishopric, Horsham. The application was subsequently approved by Horsham District Council (HDC) and we expect the redevelopment of this site to commence very soon.

The Parish Council were somewhat disappointed to learn that HDC had approved the erection of 27 residential units at The Firs, Farthings Hill, adjacent to the Farthings Interchange roundabout, a proposal which, although not within our parish, we had objected to on the grounds of traffic and site access implications, taking into account its location.

The Parish Council are of course aware of the speculation surrounding the future of the land to the north of the Shelley Arms, which has been the subject of recent outline proposals by a potential developer. At this time there has been no planning application made to develop this site and therefore nothing for the Parish Council to formally consider. However, should this materialise then the Parish Council will consider all aspects of any application for this site.

It is fair to say that with the current level of development that the village is taking, we feel that any additional housing development may be too much for the village to absorb and certainly more than we need to meet our housing needs.

Finally there continues to be small applications, in the main for developments to private dwellings, for the planning committee to consider.

Also, just a reminder that the Planning Committee normally meets once per month, (unless there are no applications to consider) and all meetings are open to the public. The date of upcoming meetings will be posted on the PC notice board, outside of the One-Stop village shop, at the Village Centre and on the PC website.

*Councillor Geoff Clark
Planning Chairman*

Recreation Committee

A sub-committee, comprising six councillors, meets four or five times a year to consider issues relating to Recreation and the Environment. Our remit has involved too many initiatives to mention all, but some of what we have been working on this year and worth particular mention follows:

Play Inspections

All five of our recreation areas i.e. The Common, The Village Centre, Charrington Way, Singleton Road and The Dirt Jumps at Byfleets Lane are subject to regular inspection. Our litter warden checks these areas weekly, HDC every other month and once a year we have a full annual inspection by a registered play inspection company as recommended by our insurers. We are pleased to say that the annual report noted only very low or low risk items. Reported items are reviewed by this committee and repair or replacement is agreed and carried out as necessary. We are very grateful to Mr Hugh Bayne who carries out many of the repairs and much of the maintenance that is required. Any concerns regarding our recreational areas should be reported to the Clerk.

New play equipment

Recommendations were made to the Parish Council for replacement springers at The Common earlier this year and new equipment was installed in Charrington Way. The recommendations were agreed and new equipment has now been installed.



Don't forget that both Charrington Way and The Village Centre has fitness equipment for adults too.

Dirt Jumps on Byfleets Lane

After being closed for most of the year, we are pleased to announce that The Dirt Jumps should re-open next year when the better weather arrives. Enhancements to The Jumps have progressed well thanks to the initiative of a group of 17 year



olds; Matt Davis, Ben Kemp and Marcus King who enlisted the help of the Parish Council and Countryside Properties.

RoSPA visited The Dirt Jumps in July and commented that the enhanced site will offer an exciting opportunity for riders and young people and could be used after recommendations in their report had been implemented. These recommendations included moving some of the jumps to maintain a two meter boundary around the jumps, clearing vegetation and cutting back overhanging branches.

The jumps had mostly been created by hand with spades and shovels, and by a digger paid for by the Parish Council, but Matt and his friends wanted to extend the route to create a beginners and advanced course which needed further mechanical help and it is thanks to them securing grants from the Parish Council and West Sussex County Council that a digger was brought in to help build the jumps. Unfortunately, due to severe rain at Easter the works were put on hold and the track couldn't be finished. Countryside Properties volunteered their help during the October half term holidays to address some of the recommendations made following the RoSPA inspection and help finish the work and this will include a footpath around the edge of the site.

Viv Edwards, Parish Council Chairman, commented: "The Parish Council are firm supporters of the Dirt Jumps and we are delighted that Countryside Properties has kindly carried out some of the works recommended by RoSPA. The boys have worked extremely hard to raise funds to improve the jumps, and it is thanks to their dedication and hard work that this excellent facility will be open again next year for everyone to use."

Don't Tolerate it, Report it

Residents often contact the Clerk about problems around the village, which she duly forwards to the relevant authority. Please be aware that problems can also be reported directly to either Horsham District Council (for matters such as dog fouling, problems with the Acorn Plus Scheme, fly tipping or fly posting, full litter or dog litter bins) or West Sussex County Council (for matters such as pot holes, dangerous footpaths, hedges encroaching on WSCC's Highways, blocked drains and signs) etc. Their

contact details are:

Horsham District Council – 01403 215100
or visit www.horsham.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council – 01243 777100 or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk
or go to love.westsussex.gov.uk The site allows you to review and submit environmental issues via your computer or smart device (attach a photo if you can) and have Love West Sussex deal with it, and then let you know how they got on.





Getting ready for Winter

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council has an advisory team who work alongside Horsham District and West Sussex County Councils on an Emergency Plan for the Village. Part of this plan includes provision for 'severe weather' and was agreed with WSCC back in August on probably one of the hottest days of the year.

There are four salt/grit bins in the parish by the bus shelter opposite Kingsmead, on the corner Sleets Road, in the open garden space in St John's Crescent and at the end of Wickhurst Lane opposite the Village Centre. These have now been filled but if they require a refill then please contact the Clerk.

The bins contain a mixture of salt and grit that is intended primarily for use on public footpaths that have not been treated. It is not intended for use on private areas of land. We would encourage residents to help themselves to a bucket or small bag of salt/grit and clear the area outside their properties when pavements are slippery with snow or ice.

The Government has made it clear that those who do clear snow need have no fear of legal action if they clear and someone falls and is injured, so long as the clearance does not make the condition of the pathway more dangerous. Guidance on clearing snow can be found on www.direct.gov.uk

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) has a very good website which you may like to look at please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter. It provides some very useful advice for residents. You can sign up for severe weather email alerts and find out more about protecting your home, health and wellbeing, travelling in winter conditions and helping your community.

The Parish Council is keen to hear from any potentially vulnerable people in the village who may need support during severe weather. If you, or a neighbour, would welcome a call should the snow descend this winter, just to check that all is well, please provide details to the Clerk (01403 785864).

In the event of flooding, please contact the emergency services as appropriate and WSCC if drains are blocked and need urgent attention.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE IN DECEMBER

Sunday 15th:
Childrens' Xmas Party
(2 to 4pm)

Thursday 19th:
Xmas Quiz at 7.30p.m

Saturday 21st:
Xmas Draw & Disco

Xmas Eve: Disco

Committee & Staff wish all Members a Merry Xmas & a Happy New Year

www.bbhvc.co.uk

Update on Street Naming for the new development

In a previous newsletter we advised that our recommendation for street names on the new development was for the developers to take names from the War Memorial.

Horsham District Council, who work closely with the developers on this, has advised that Churchill, most prominent on the memorial, appearing three times, will be used for one of the main roads running through the development and will be 'Churchill Way'. Other names chosen to be used so far are Carter, Ellis, Tullet, Wakeford, Chantler, Langridge, Pelling, Harding, Heydon, Sargent, Palmer, Thompson, Wells, Worsfield, Ottley, Farley, Kilhams, Nye, Beale and Harris. Edwards has been chosen for the Heath Barn Development (Edwards Close).



THE WAR MEMORIAL IN BILLINGSBURST ROAD

Environment

Horsham Green Gym, a group of volunteers have done some excellent work in the village this year at the 'Ducky' at the bottom of the Common, the vegetation at the Tesco underpass and on the footpath at the Charrington Way play area.

Thank you Horsham Green Gym.



Community Youth Worker



The Parish Council has on behalf of its residents, funded a joint Community Youth Worker scheme together with Slinfold and Warnham Parish Councils, and is working with Horsham Matters who provide a district-wide service.

The aim is for dedicated youth workers to develop and deliver activities, opportunities and support for young people. These workers act as a 'catalyst' in the community, providing leadership

and empowerment to mobilise communities to respond to young people's needs. The youth worker for Broadbridge Heath is Dan Fairchild.

We are working with Dan and young local residents to identify improvements in youth provision in the village. For example, Dan is working on setting up a Youth Club on a Friday night. If you have any ideas for Dan, please contact him at www.facebook.com/CommunityYW, Danfairchild@horsham-matters.org.uk, Mobile 07702 492841



Heating Oil Theft

Residents should be aware that there has been a recent report of oil theft in the village.

If you have an oil tank, take every precaution to secure it from thieves.

Broadbridge Heath Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are open to the public and the press (who have a right to attend) and are preceded by a session for public comments.

Council meetings take place in the St. John's Community Centre. Planning Meetings are subject to cancellation if there are no plans to discuss.

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. Start times can vary but usually are from 7:30pm

Contact the Parish Council

Address: PO Box 315, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9XX

Clerk and Financial Officer: Mrs Mary Burroughs

Tel: 01403 785864 Mobile 07733 359479

Email: clerk@broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk

Litter Warden: Mr Jim Cate – Jim is out and about in the village most days. If you are concerned about a particular area that needs Jim's attention stop him on his travels and let him know or drop a line to the Clerk

Chairman: Mrs Viv Edwards: Tel: 01403 240414.

Email: viv@rh12.co.uk

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Monday Meeting

06/01/2014	Parish Council
03/02/2014	Parish Council
03/03/2014	Parish Council
07/04/2014	Parish Council
14/04/2014	Annual Parish (to be confirmed)
06/05/2014 (NB Tuesday)	Annual Council
02/06/2014	Parish Council
07/07/2014	Parish Council

Parish Councillors

Rebecca Clay | 01403 258558 | 73 Charrington Way, Broadbridge Heath

Geoff Clark | 01403 241435 | Fairfield Cottage, Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath

Simon Collins | 01403 260121 | 31 Stanford Way, Broadbridge Heath

Malcolm Curnock (also District Councillor) | 01403 255205 | 5 Paget Close, Horsham

Viv Edwards | 01403 240414 | 10 Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath

Jonathan England | 01403 253311 | Broadbridge Place, Church Road

Ian Johnston | 01403 268994 | 6 Pinewood Close, Broadbridge Heath

David Milbank | 01403 249548 | 4 The Green, Old Guildford Road, Broadbridge Heath

Terry Oliver | 01403 251621 | 115 Charrington Way, Broadbridge Heath

David Trangmar | 01403 254742 | 11 Pinewood Close, Broadbridge Heath

County Councillor: **David Sheldon** | 5 Cricket Field Road, Horsham 01403 263504

For further information visit the Parish Council website

www.broadbridgeheath-pc.gov.uk