



Bray Parish Council

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2008



To contact your Ward Councillor

BRAY VILLAGE

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Ken Elvin - 01628 624823
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Chris Langridge - 01628 622244

OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD

Grenville Annetts - 01628 784441
John Foulger - 01628 631208

ALEXANDER

Helen Howard - 01628 782003

DEDWORTH

David Moores - 01753 868992

The number of Councillors per ward is representative of head of population on the electoral role for each area.

Police Surgery Dates

Below is the next schedule of dates for the surgeries held in the shared area outside the Parish Office at Holyport Memorial Hall between the times of 6.00pm to 8.00pm as follows:

28th October 2008
13th November 2008
10th December 2008

If you have a problem or local issue to discuss with the police, please pop along. Alternatively you can contact the non-emergency number 08458 505 505.

I would like to welcome a new member of staff and a new Councillor who have both recently joined the Parish Council. Our Clerk, Cherry Woodley is reducing her hours and we have appointed Pamela King as Deputy Clerk to both support Cherry and to enhance our services to local residents. The Parish Office is now open every weekday morning although on occasions external meetings may sometimes mean that there is a temporary closure. Secondly following a recent resignation, we have co-opted Mark Hornby to represent Bray Ward. Mark has lived in the Parish for some years and works nearby. He is especially interested in providing facilities and support for the Parish's youth.

Now on to a commercial. In June, I took over as Chairman of the Windsor and Maidenhead Voluntary Action Group. This Charity provides local voluntary/ community groups with a range of support services including training, funding advice, consultation and information as well providing a volunteer centre to recruit on behalf of some 400 charities in the Borough. We represent the voluntary groups in the shaping and delivering of Government and Borough services and are a strategic partner to the Royal Borough and Berkshire East Primary Care Trust amongst others. Working with local businesses, we facilitate team challenges to undertake projects across the Borough. This not only helps businesses meet their Community Social Responsibilities but provides a great and worthwhile means to help team building.

If anyone reading this newsletter would like to discuss volunteering or whose firm would like to understand more about Team Challenges then please ring the Action Group office on 01753 622433.

David Coppinger
Chairman



Parish Funding for Local Organisations

Bray Parish Council has funds available to assist local groups within the Parish. This might be to cover running costs or for the purchase of equipment.

Some of the groups that have been helped in the past are Holyport FC, Horse Rangers, Bray Elderly Club, Berkshire Blind and the Memorial Halls around the Parish. The main criteria for assistance is that the residents of the Parish should benefit from the group's activities.

If you would like to be considered for funding please contact The Parish Office 01628 777997 and request an application form.

The Parish Youth Tour 2008

This year the Parish Council provided sponsorship of the Borough's Parish Youth Tour to cover all parts of the Parish.

We had a successful week in Holyport when the tour visited Holyport Memorial Hall with loads of equipment to provide youngsters with fun and activity in the form of giant bouncy castles, sumo wrestling costumes, gymnastic and circus activities and organised games. The Tour also visited the Broom Farm Estate in Dedworth for a week and the Parish Council was able to fund extra activities there.

A Youth day was held in both Fifield and Bray Villages and although the weather put some off of attending, those who did come along, took part in the fun.





Oakley Green and Fifield Community Plan



Steady progress has been made since the Summer Parish Newsletter. The number of Volunteers has grown to 30 and they meet all together every 5 weeks. The seven Work Groups meet and work in between these Meetings and discuss ideas and issues in their areas of focus, namely - Children & Youths, Communication, Community Safety, Environment, Research, Roads & Transport and Social & Recreation.

A Community Social Evening was held in Braywood Memorial Hall on Friday July 25th. It was a great success – and more are planned – including a Variety Concert in December. The idea of such Events is that they bring the local Community closer together and provide an opportunity to promote the Community Plan work.

The effort is now at a really **critical** Stage. A Residents Survey has been developed and it has been hand delivered to all 430+ properties. Before a Community Plan can be built, it is very important to know about the ideas and opinions of the whole Community. This Survey has been designed to achieve this. It consists of 49 questions, some to be answered on behalf of the Household, but the majority are to be answered individually by each Person in the Household over the age of 11. The target is to achieve an 80% response rate, to demonstrate that the whole Community is involved and that the work has legitimacy.

The responses will then be captured and analysed. Reports will be generated and these will be available to all local Residents. There will further Open Events arranged to present and discuss the results. It may well be that the Survey shows up topics of local concern which will require further investigation and consultation. But most importantly, the information gathered will form the bedrock of the Community Plan for the area.

It is envisaged that this Plan will describe the shared vision for how the Community develops and adapts over the next 10 years or more. It will place the Community in a better position to make decisions and to help prioritise resources and influence the policies, decisions and actions of others. And very importantly, it will provide evidence of Community needs and aspirations and support any applications for grants from a variety of Fundholders. Finally, it will describe the actions needed to achieve the needs and aspirations of the Oakley Green and Fifield Community.



It is not too late to become involved. If you wish to make a contribution and/ or put issues and ideas forward, please contact Cllr. Grenville Annetts (Tel: 01628 784441 or email to grenville.annetts@btinternet.com)



The Parish Allotments Competition

The Allotment Competition was held on Monday 16th June and judges found that both the Bray and the Gays Lane sites were of a very high standard despite the inclement weather.

The prize for the winning allotment in Bray went to Mr & Mrs B Blackall for Plot No.16b and who received a £25 garden voucher. A highly commended certificate went to Mrs M Hughes for Plot 2a who received a £10 garden voucher, with commended certificates to Mrs Marlow, C Graham, Mr & Mrs P McQuire and Mrs Tanner.

Winner of Gays Lane Best Allotment prize went to Mrs C Bennett for Plot 2 who also received a £25 garden voucher, with highly commended to Mrs P Emmett for Plot 8 who received a £10 garden voucher. A commended certificate was awarded to Mr F Lok as promising newcomer.



Fifield Open Space

At long last the final stages of transferring the land between the new development on the former Hare and Hounds site in Fifield Village and the Village bus shelter have been reached. The area was designated a 'public open space' and the Parish Council agreed to acquire the land from the developers and maintain it for the Village.

Some of the Fifield residents have expressed interest in assisting with the landscaping of the area and its future maintenance. If support is sufficient then it possible that the area could be entered in the Neighbourhood Award Scheme part of RHS Britain in Bloom. This is a scheme where the local community work together to improve a previously unloved area turning it into an asset for the whole community to share and in the process meet the 'neighbours'.

The initial plan is to repair and replace the fencing around the site and then embark on an agreed landscaping scheme. Interested volunteers are sought. Please contact Helen Howard through the Parish Office 01628 777997

This is a small but important area in the centre of the Village. Lets make it something to be proud of!

Bray Triangle Planning Application

On the 23rd July 2008, the Maidenhead Development Control Panel met in the Town Hall Council Chamber to consider, among others, a planning application from Summerlease Ltd to extract gravel from an area known as The Bray Triangle over a three year period. The Triangle is the Green Belt land adjacent to Bray Village bounded by The Cut, M4 Motorway and Upper Bray Road. The application stated that the minerals excavated from the site were to be transported to the processing plant in Monkey Island Lane via a ground conveyor.

The Planning Committee of Bray Parish Council had previously considered this application at a Planning Meeting and had decided to lodge an objection on a number of grounds

- ◆ No over-riding need
- ◆ Impact on the Village of Bray.
- ◆ Prolonged disturbance
- ◆ Noise, dust and pollution caused close to Bray Conservation Area
- ◆ No reduction in lorry movements along Monkey Island Lane
- ◆ Impact on local drainage patterns

The Development Control Panel meeting was attended by three Bray Ward Parish Councillors and the Bray Parish Clerk. Councillor Margaret Pierce spoke on behalf of the Parish voicing the Parish Council's objections to the application. Local residents also spoke against the application.

Control Panel Vice Chairman and Councillor Leo Walters was against the application citing the adverse effect the application would have on Bray Village and the surrounding area.

After some discussion the Control Panel voted by a majority to refuse the application. Summerlease Ltd has now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against this refusal and a decision is awaited.



CCTV in Bray Car Park

*** * * Update * * ***

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has now installed a new CCTV system in the car park behind Bray Village Hall which is linked to the Borough's 24 hour monitoring system to watch for crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

This car park has been designated as a high crime spot with regular break-ins to cars parked there. The Parish Council welcomes this measure to reduce car crime in Bray.

Not willing to talk to the Police?

CRIMESTOPPERS are completely independent. Call anonymously with information about crime and you could receive a reward.

CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111



Britain in Bloom 2008 Bray Entry : Winning News



The Regional Awards of the Britain in Bloom competition were announced on Wednesday 3rd September at Milton Keynes. Entrants from communities in the Thames and Chilterns Region gathered to hear the results of the campaign, which is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Bray Village won the best **small Village** category, and received a prestigious **GOLD** award. The judges summarised the Bray entry with the following accolade:

"We were particularly impressed by Bray's overall cleanliness, and the obvious pride of all concerned. The many pretty front gardens, the trees and floral features around the Village all contributed to the overall impact; the obvious awareness of the Bloom competition and the involvement of young people through work done by Bray Guides and Bray pre school allotment bode well for the future. Fully deserving a Gold award. Well done!"

They were also most impressed by collages undertaken by Winbury and Oldfield Schools, by the posters designed by Bray Brownies, the Bray allotments and the gardens at Jesus Hospital and Hanover Mead. They also singled out the excellent support of the local community for the entry through either sponsorship or participation in duties such as litter picking and weeding.

Bray also won a **special regional award for the best interpretation of the RHS theme of "Local Roots."** (Last year Bray won **the best overall clean and pristine award and the best portfolio.** The RHS rules do not allow a win in these categories in the following year). The judges suggested that an area for improvement in the future would be to find an area to develop for wildlife conservation.

Bray Enhancement Committee thanks the Parish Council for its support as well as the many organisations and individuals who help make possible Bray's entry in the competition.



Bray Parish Council – Communication Strategy

Our Readers may remember that we conducted a Survey about Communications in our Spring Edition. Those that responded told us:-

- ⇒ the best way to communicate with you in order of popularity is by Newsletter (Score 4.57 out of 5), then Email (3.63), Newspapers (3.51), Face to Face (3.32), Website (3.29), Public Meetings (3.24), Parish Noticeboards (2.86) then Telephone (2.25).
- ⇒ our current Performance rated Newsletters top (Scored 4.27 out of 5) then Website (3.08), Parish Noticeboards (3.07), Local Newspapers (2.80), Public Meetings (2.77), Face to Face (2.17), Telephone (2.15) and then Email (2.02).
- ⇒ the Topics you wanted to hear about were Local Environment, Law and Order, Roads & Traffic, Planning Issues and Local Events/Dates.
- ⇒ The most popular frequency for Newsletter Publication was Quarterly.

Based on your feedback we have concluded that:-

- ⇒ Newsletters, Local Press and our Website have the widest distribution and are probably the best vehicles for general information.
- ⇒ Public Meetings and Noticeboards are also good vehicles for general information, but have less exposure.
- ⇒ Emails, Face to Face and Telephone are probably more appropriate for specific requests / issues / information.

So overall, the Parish Council is considering the development of a new Communication Strategy as follows:-

- ⇒ We will ensure that future Newsletters include Items on the 5 Topics that were seen as important by Residents (Local Environment, Law and Order, Roads & Traffic, Planning Issues, Local Events & Dates).
- ⇒ We will be more Proactive in our Press Engagement
- ⇒ We will Develop the Bray Parish Villages Website – with more links to other important Sites and more up to date Information.
- ⇒ We will Develop a Residents' Pack – primarily for New Residents, but information contained in it could also be included on Website.

Furthermore, we will Develop a Scorecard which will Monitor our progress/success in delivering this Strategy and review it on a regular basis. Finally, we will consider conducting another Residents Survey in 2 to 3 years time to see how well you think we are doing.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the Survey. We hope you all feel we have listened!

De-Cluttering of Street Furniture and Signs in the Parish

The Royal Borough is attempting an initiative to de-clutter our streets from many unnecessary street signs and have already “de-cluttered” parts of the Windsor and Maidenhead Town Centres. The Parish Council applauds this initiative and is pressing the Borough to consider a reduction of signage and other street furniture around the Bray Parish.

A number of suggested locations to be considered, has been put forward by the Parish Council, such as this location (pictured) along the A308 Windsor Road.



Tree Planting in Aysgarth Park Holyport

To help shield residents in Aysgarth Park from traffic noise from the M4 Motorway, we commence our tree planting scheme along the motorway bank on the 21st October. This scheme should be complete before the end of the year. The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead have assisted with funding.



This Newsletter is published by Bray Parish Council and distributed voluntarily by our local residents.

All queries and suggestions should be passed to:

***The Clerk, Cherry Woodley at The Parish Office,
Moneyrow Green (to rear of Holyport Memorial Hall)
Holyport, Berkshire SL6 2NA.***

Telephone: 01628 777997.

email: clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk