



Bray Parish Council

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

To contact your Ward Councillor

BRAY VILLAGE

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Ken Elvin - 01628 624823
Chris Graham - 01628 778054
Margaret Pierce - 01628 622289
Mark Hornby - 07813 600615

HOLYPORT

David Coppinger - 01628 639523
Neil Basterfield - 07825 110814
Peter Janikoun - 01628 636891
Andrew Monks - 01628 628597
Leo Walters - 01628 627967
Chris Langridge - 01628 622244

OAKLEY GREEN & FIFIELD

Grenville Annetts - 01628 784441
John Foulger - 01628 631208

ALEXANDER

Helen Howard - 01628 782003

DEDWORTH

Georgina Smith - 01753 860940

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

Calling all Volunteers!



Bray Parish Council would be delighted to hear from you if you could spare time helping us in the delivery of our Newsletters.

If you feel you could give us an hour of your time two or possibly three times a year, then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Welcome to this the Spring issue of Bray Parish Council newsletter. You may have wondered what happened to last year's Summer and Autumn issues. Basically we had to give priority to other issues. One of the most difficult problems a Parish Council can face is when the Clerk decides to leave. Chairmen can easily be replaced, but a Clerk is special, holding as they do the accumulated knowledge of the Parish. In July Cherry Woodley decided, after 5 years, that she wanted to spend more time with her family and we had to recruit another Clerk. We were very fortunate in that we found Janice Eden- Bagley, who whilst having no previous experience, brought all the skills we were looking for. Then just when we thought we had recovered, our assistant Pamela King left for a fulltime job with Bucks County Council, and we started the whole process again. We now have a new assistant Vicky Cronin and we should soon be back on track.

This year we have increased our part of the rates by just over 6% compared to a nil increase last year. Why - when the Borough have reduced theirs by 4%? Well, unlike the Borough, we do not have 3700 staff and an income of £152 million. We have just 1.5 staff and an income of just £125k, so the opportunities are not great. The majority of our expenditure goes on salaries and land maintenance and with major expenditure planned for Holyport Pond and our Cemetery in the Windsor Road, we do need the extra this year. The rise will cost the average Parish householder just an extra 14p per month.

David Coppinger
Chairman

New Dedworth Councillor



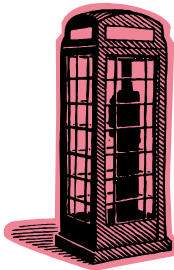
Councillor David Moores stepped down from representing the Dedworth Ward in our Parish at the end of 2009 after many years of Service to our Community. We would like to thank him for his sterling work, particularly in the areas of Finance and Projects during his tenure.

The vacant position left by David was advertised in the new year, interviews took place in February/March and Georgina Smith was co-opted onto the Council for the period until the next Local Council Elections in May 2011. Georgina, a Resident of Ruddleway, is retired but has been a Teacher and worked in a number of Commercial and Not for Profit organisations, both at a national and local level.



Community Speed Watch (CSW) is coming to Bray Parish!

Recent Surveys conducted by the two Police Neighbourhood Action Groups that cover our area have identified "Speeding" as one of the top three priorities to be tackled in the next year. The Action Groups now have free access to Community Speed Watch Packs for use on roads with known speeding issues. Two volunteers are needed each time the CSW is in operation, to work alongside our neighbourhood Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Times and dates are flexible to fit in when volunteers have time available and a PCSO is available. The PCSO will bring the CSW Pack with him/her, set it up and brief the two volunteers on the data that needs to be recorded for the Police to send warning letters. Some Volunteers have already come forward in Bray and Oakley Green, but more are needed in other areas of our Parish. Those interested in helping, or who would like more information, are asked to give their names and contact details to the Parish Clerk.



Do we want to lose our Phone Boxes?

BT has contacted Bray Parish Council and invited us to adopt our local red telephone Kiosks. We currently have five in our area:- at the Junction of Brayfield Road and Bray Close in **Bray**, in **Fifield Village**, on **Oakley Green Road** (outside the Red Lion Pub), at the junction of Stompits Lane and Stroud Farm Road in **Holyport** and on the Green in **Holyport**. BT have said they would remove the telephony and transfer ownership to the Parish and then the kiosks can be used for our own purposes and in whatever way we feel would be of most use to the local community. This programme is taking place countrywide as BT are trying to reduce their costs and close uneconomic kiosks. As it happens, only two of our kiosks take cash or credit cards, so their use is very restricted. This may explain their under use! In Fifield, a petition of over 100 signatures supported keeping the kiosk there. The Parish Council has carefully considered the offer from BT and has decided not to take it up. Furthermore, the Council has resolved to ask BT to repair and fully reinstate all Services to the Kiosks in Fifield, on Holyport Green and in Oakley Green. For the remaining two in Holyport (Stompits Lane) and Bray, the Council resolved not to adopt them and has asked BT to remove them.

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 for example. As well as the availability of funds, factors considered by the Council include the reach and contact of the organisation and benefits accruing for the local community. Awards cannot be made to individuals.

Successful applications this past year have included:

- * Bray Enhancement Committee - awarded funds to assist with it's successful Britain in Bloom entry
- * Relate (Charity no 1083588) - awarded funds to assist with counselling costs
- * Berkshire County Blind Society (charity no 202351) - awarded funds to assist with the cost of providing services to members in the area
- * Bray FC - awarded funds to help with running costs of this junior football club
- * Bray Elderly Club - awarded funds to partially fund operating costs.



If you would like to be considered for funding, please contact The Parish Office on 01628 777997 or email clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk and request an application form.

Open Space in Fifield

After many months of patient persistence, Bray Parish Council finally became the proud owners of a small piece of land in the centre of Fifield. The car park of the former Hare and Hounds public house was designated as an open space as part of the planning permission to develop the site. But unfortunately it was not deemed a suitable location to establish a play area.

Towards the end of last year, the Parish Council has improved this semi derelict area into an asset. The first job was to erect fencing and nearly overnight, the area looked better. Enlisting the garden design skills of two residents - Val Lord and Susie Armitage - a plan and a planting scheme was devised. Another resident Quentin King did sterling work in clearing the overgrown 'lawn' which enabled three trees to be planted.

Further improvements were then undertaken by a contractor employed by The Parish Council to establish a border, remove concrete and tar-mac and undertake extensive weed killing and then finally plant some shrubs. The grass has since been cut on a regular basis by the Parish Council and a number of residents have ensured that the trees and shrubs have been watered.

From an eyesore in the middle of Fifield, the start of a green and pleasant spot has emerged. There is scope for additional planting of shrubs.





Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Action Plan is Published and a new Community Association has been formed!

The Oakley Green, Fifield & District Community Action Plan has been published. It was the culmination of many months of hard work by a large number of volunteers.

After confirming that there was sufficient local interest in developing a Community Plan, the effort was launched at the end of March 2008. Seven Work Groups were formed in the areas of Children & Youths, Communications, Community Safety, Environment, Local Business, Roads & Transport and Social & Recreational. These are made up of local Volunteers and have met regularly. They initially undertook a lot of research. They then went on to design, deliver, collect and analyse two Surveys in order to establish exactly what local Residents and Businesses wanted to see maintained and what they would like to see improved in their area. A fantastic 74% of Households responded! Further consultations with Residents took place to make sure the effort was on the right track. Contact was made with External Stakeholders and Service Providers to provide an accuracy and reality check.

In December 2009, the Community Action Plan was published and delivered free to every Household. It contains 23 recommendations involving such things as reducing Traffic Speed, improvement to Ditches and Drainage, the publication of a new local Newsletter, the desire for a new Playing Area for Children & Youths, improvements to Bridlepaths, Footpaths and Pavements to name but a few.

But this is really just the beginning. This is a Plan and a Blueprint to enhance the future of the Community, but now the volunteers need to execute the Actions identified and monitor progress in delivery! This will require more hard work and significant understanding, support and cooperation from a lot of organisations, most importantly the Community's three main Service Providers of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council, Bray Parish Council and Thames Valley Police. The Action Plan discusses a number of options on how this may be achieved, but the bottom line is that success in implementation and enhancing daily lives lies with local Residents and local Businesses. So new Volunteers are always welcome!

And on March 3, 2010 the Oakley Green, Fifield and District Community Association Limited was formed and from now on will be the properly constituted body under which future activities will take place. If you wish to see more information about the work of the Association and/or the content of the Community Action Plan – it is available on the website at www.OGAFCAP.co.uk. There are lots of people to thank for the efforts so far and many are listed at the back of the Plan. But all of this was made possible by generous Financial Support from Bray Parish Council to whom the Community is enormously grateful.

Cllr. Grenville Annetts

News from your Community Warden

Robert Noble



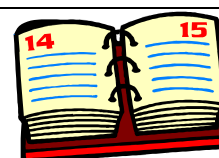
I have recently been appointed to be your Community Warden for the Oldfield and Bray area of the Parish. We aim to be highly visible through our regular patrols, in partnership with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, to ensure that anti-social behaviour remains low and to reassure residents. We also report anything from broken glass and flytips, to suspicious behaviour and promoting the clear car campaign, by making sure vehicles have nothing valuable on display. If you need to contact me, please don't hesitate to call 01628 685636. Alternatively to report Anti Social Behaviour / incidents / suspicious behaviour, please call the non Emergency Police Number 0845 8 505 505.

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

Parish Council Meetings 2010/11



Full Council Meetings

17 May 10 *	21 Jun 10	26 Jul 10
20 Sep 10	15 Nov 10	13 Dec 10
24 Jan 11	21 Mar 11	18 Apr 11
* AGM		

Planning Meetings

10 May 10	7 Jun 10	12 Jul 10
9 Aug 10	6 Sep 10	4 Oct 10
1 Nov 10	6 Dec 10	10 Jan 11
7 Feb 11	7 Mar 11	4 Apr 11

All meetings commence at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated and are held in the main hall of Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield Road, Fifield. Fifteen minutes are allocated to members of the public who wish to speak at a General Meeting and interested parties in Planning matters are also able to speak briefly on specific plans, subject to notifying the Clerk prior to the start of the Planning Meeting.

How does Planning Work?

Bray Parish Council takes its responsibilities as a mandatory Consultee to RBWM's planning process very seriously. As a Consultee we make recommendations to RBWM about whether to approve or reject applications for planning approval in our area. RBWM looks to Parish Councils to provide local information and local views for consideration by the Borough's Planning Officer before coming to a final decision.



Within the Parish Council we adopt a process whereby each Councillor takes it in turn to present the Applications for their Ward at our 4-weekly Planning Committee meetings throughout the year. The dates for these meetings are set up to 18 months in advance and the Agenda for each meeting is posted on notice boards across the Parish. This information is also available from our website <http://www.brayparishvillages.com/brayagendasminutes.html>. At the meetings we use PCs and Projectors to enable everyone to see clearly the plans and pictures that are being presented. The public are welcome to attend these meetings and both the Applicant and Objectors, if any, have 3 minutes each to put their views forward to the Planning Committee. After this the Committee discusses the Application, a proposal is made, seconded, and voted upon by the whole Committee. This decision, and the associated rationale, is communicated to the Borough's Planning Officer the morning after the meeting and this input is posted on the RBWM website. All documents associated with an Application can be accessed on the internet via the RBWM Public Access Module at <http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/pam/>

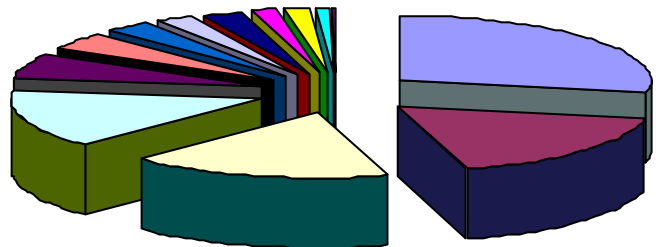
As a rule we delegate decisions on all applications pertaining to trees to the Borough's Tree Officers, as we feel that this is an area of specialist knowledge. Many decisions on Planning Applications are made by the Planning Department under Delegated Authority from the Borough. However, if the Parish Council believes that an application should be considered by RBWM's Development Control Panel (DCP), consisting of Borough Councillors, then we can ask one of our three local Borough Councillors to "call-in" the Application to Panel. Then the Parish Council has 2 minutes, and members of the Public 3 minutes, to put their case to the DCP. Agendas and Minutes for DCP are available from the RBWM website at: http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/meetings_maidenhead_dc_panel.htm

Where the money goes



Our main source of funding is through the Precept, which is collected as part of the Council tax. In addition we apply for grants where applicable, and for Section 106 funds, which can become available when a development takes place within the Parish. We also generate a small income from the rent of the tennis court in Jubilee Fields and from burials in the Cemetery.

In 2009/10 we did not increase the Precept over 2008/9, funding the difference from Reserves. With reduced Reserves this year, 2010/11, we are increasing the Precept by 6% to £130,000 which is represented by our budgeted expenditure as shown on the pie chart opposite.



■ Staffing Costs (28.07%)
■ Parish Office Administration (17.39%)
■ Grass Cutting (16.98%)
■ General Land Maintenance (14.86%)
■ S137 Expenditure (6.02%)
■ Play Areas (4.25%)
■ Street Lighting (2.86%)
■ Cemetery & Churchyard (2.76%)
■ Car Parks (2.32%)
■ Traffic Management (1.80%)
■ Allotments (1.59%)
■ Tennis Courts (0.75%)
■ Bus Shelters (0.35%)

Youth Tour 2010



The Parish Council has again agreed to Sponsor one week of the Youth Tour in our Parish. It has been held for the past few years in Holyport and most recently in Fifield as well. The Tour provides loads of equipment to provide youngsters with fun and activities in the form of giant bouncy castles, sumo wrestling costumes, gymnastic and circus activities and organised games. More details will be published later - but for now, make a note in your diaries for the week beginning August 23rd.



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, Janice Eden-Bagley at The Parish Office,
Moneyrow Green (to rear of Holyport Memorial Hall)
Holyport, Berkshire SL6 2NA.***

Telephone: 01628 777997.

email: clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk