

Liddington Parish Council

Annual Report 2016-17

Summary

11 meetings were held during the year on the 1st Wednesday of the month except for August. We now have a full quota of Councillors after co-opting Fiona Spillane in June 2016 and Lorraine Brown in April this year. Sarah Hill is our www.liddington.org webmaster and Fiona Spillane has taken on responsibility for the village Community Speed Watch team.

As you will have seen from my letter distributed in March to all houses in Liddington the Parish Council has had to take on some of the ground maintenance services formerly the responsibility of the Borough Council. This was a fait accompli and has required a large percentage increase in the Parish Precept. However we expect to provide an improved service using our contractors.

Again our main concern over the year has been road safety.

Transfer of Services

Mainly due to the Transfer of Services from the Borough to the Parish Council the Precept for 2017-18 was set to £8,350, or £49.12 for a Band D property. This represents an increase of 43% over the last 2 years. The contract to provide the transferred service has been placed with Adams and Watt Ltd who will be maintaining the grassed areas around the village at fortnightly intervals during the growing season. We hope you will see a significant improvement but please let us know of any concerns you may have.

SBC will continue to be responsible for the main through routes as regards street cleaning and fly tipping

Road Safety

Medbourne Lane: still an issue especially due to narrow roads, horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians combined with peak hour traffic due to congestion at junction 15 of the M4, and drivers looking for a short cut. It is hoped that there will be observable benefits following next year's planned improvements for Jn 15. Some signage changes are proposed to restrict access.

B4192/Purley Rd speeding: A traffic manager from SBC attended our June 2016 meeting when this issue was discussed in detail and at which 7 members of the public signed up to support the Community Speed Watch team. Unfortunately there has been little progress except for monitoring traffic speeds using rubber strips over a 5 day period in September where 20% of vehicles passing Church Rd were observed to have exceeded 35mph increasing to over 65% at the 30mph signs into the village.

With further Community Speed Watch training in the village at the end of March there are only just sufficient volunteers for speed monitoring which began 2 weeks ago. More volunteers need to be trained to spread the load, so if you can spare the time then please volunteer.

Planning

Development at Badbury Park continues but we are still unclear as to when Dayhouse Lane (DHL) will be crossed. This continues to concern us as it may result in traffic flow from the development onto DHL and through Liddington and Badbury. This will continue to be monitored

We continue to monitor the NEV development, particularly Redlands Farms and Lotmead, and to support Wanborough in ensuring the infrastructure and the Southern Link Rd to/from the A419 are constructed at an early stage of the development thereby avoiding access via nearby villages particularly Wanborough.

Projects

On our 2 village clean-up days in the autumn and spring helpers cleared and cut back some of the trees and bushes alongside footpaths. Litter dropped by motorists and fly tipping are a big problem. The fruit and ornamental trees planted down from Jubilee Gardens 2 years ago have been a great success.

If you have a good idea for a village project now is the time to come and discuss it with us.

Other Issues

Village Hall: The Parish Council gave a grant of £1,109.28 to install new efficient LED Lighting in the main hall

Superfast Rural Broadband: The wireless 4G LTE mast in Wanborough is now expected to be operational at the end of May some 10 months later than expected. This is being installed by UKB Networks and should provide a minimum speed of 28Mb/s.

Playing Field: Equipment is checked every 2 weeks and annually by external contractor. Our new contractor will be maintaining the grass and hedges. Some repairs have been done to the play equipment. Do let us know if you come across any faults.

Library Services: The Mobile Library service has been withdrawn. Swindon has also reduced the number of libraries to 5 and opening hours.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and especially our Clerk for all their support over the last year and hope we can make good progress again in 2017-18.

I would also like to thank the residents of the village for supporting village activities and the village clean-ups. Remember that your support and your feedback to the Parish Council are essential in helping to improve our village.

Gordon Wilson

Chairman, Liddington Parish Council

Date: 3rd May 2017