

Parish Council update report: November 2022

Parish Councillors have recently responded to a range of planning issues: with developers whose applications had been refused by the National Park appealing to the Government to have the decisions changed. At the time of writing, a decision about the potential telecoms mast in Kiln Lane is still awaited and the date for a Public Inquiry into the large proposal at the Greenway Lane roundabout appears to be w/c 21st February.

Work to build the new houses on Greenway Lane is starting and parishioners with any comments or queries can contact Richard Paine of Imperial Homes via Richard.Paine@imperialhomes.uk, 07810 126735 or 01489 784847. The planning authority can be contacted via Jean Chambers: Jean.Chambers@southdowns.gov.uk or 01730 819371.

Since the last update report the Council's work to replace the village hall windows, doors etc has been completed. Councillors obtained external funding for the work and have also won another large grant to help towards other energy-efficiency measures and solar panels etc. We may need expertise to help design and manage this project – so if you think that you might be able to help in any way, please let us know. Andy van den Broeke of Bones Lane has been hugely helpful to the Parish Council with the work so far and is likely to be willing to help again – but all offers of advice, expertise and assistance could be useful to help the community undertake future work at the hall as efficiently as possible. At present there are no plans to make changes to the Changing Rooms until a potential use is identified.

Also at the village hall, trial use of an on-line booking system (via the community website: www.buriton.info) is likely to commence early in the new year but it will still be possible to contact the village hall manager, Steve Franks, directly with any enquiries via 07878 027845 or buritonvillagehall@gmail.com

The Parish Council's work to help wildlife continues successfully with the popular community 'Hay Day' on the recreation ground, followed by scarification of the areas and the sowing of Yellow Rattle seeds. This should gradually weaken vigorous grasses and allow other wildflowers to flourish.

The Parish Council has also arranged for dozens of swift boxes to be fitted to homes to help these special birds. Their aerobatic, screeching flights over Buriton are always a sign that summer has arrived – but swifts are in trouble as changes made to buildings can block up or remove their nest sites. Their numbers have halved in the last 20 years.

With the onset of winter and increased heating costs, more people have signed up for simple Thermal Imaging surveys of their homes. The Parish Council bought this handy piece of equipment earlier in the year and initial surveys showed where homes were losing heat through gaps in doors, windows etc. The surveys can only be done when it's cold outside and there is a small charge to pay for replacement batteries. Anyone interested in being added to the list for a survey should contact parish clerk Petra Norris on 0794353605 or email buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

And the Council is developing ideas to work with St Mary's church and the Neighbourcare team to provide opportunities for people in need of warmth, some food and company: some sort of drop-in warm hub during the first few months of 2023.

Unfortunately, dog poo in the village continues to be a problem. District Council wardens were shocked at the fouling they found here compared with other villages. They will continue to visit, identify culprits and issue £100 fines.

EHDC is also responsible for the village pond and is developing plans for some repairs and re-planting.

The costs of maintaining the playground equipment is an increasingly costly part of our budget but it is hoped that there will be no need to increase the parish's part of the Council Tax again next year.

We were honoured to receive a special plaque from the National Park Authority in September to mark Buriton's role as the original starting point for the South Downs Way, 50 years ago – and, in the same month, the Parish Council paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and also best wishes for the new King.

Finally, the Parish Council is pleased to note the proposed relocation of the defibrillator to the Nest Hotel and thanks all concerned.