

Parish Council update report: February 2023

This will be my last regular update for the website as a parish councillor. There will be elections in May and I do not plan to stand again. I first joined the parish council in the last century (actually the last millennium!) in 1998 and, although I had a couple of years off at one point, I've served for over 20 years. At least one other long-standing councillor also plans to retire in May so there will be opportunities (and a need) for others in the community to step forward and play their part in helping look after the parish in the years ahead. If you might be interested but would like to know more about what it might entail, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You will be joining a good team – and your parish needs you!

Since the last update the parish council has continued to help with a wide range of things:

- lobbying to ensure that our bus service is not withdrawn like others elsewhere in the county: it's understood that our service will, instead, be merged with the service to/from Froxfield
- arranging for the District Council's Environmental Enforcement team to visit the school as part of a campaign to reduce dog fouling and litter. The children were disgusted that a minority of people could act in such anti-social ways, spoiling life in the village for others, and their posters will be appearing around the village
- arranging for these dog poo enforcement officers to continue to come to the village: if anyone knows of any 'hotspots' that they should visit, please email: environmental.enforcement@easthants.gov.uk
- organised a number of Wednesday Winter Warmers sessions (with free soup, biscuits, cake etc) with St Mary's church
- submitted comments on many planning applications – as well as evidence to the Public Inquiry about the large 'Re-Charge One' proposal at the Greenway Lane roundabout
- studied the details of proposed changes at the new housing site on Greenway Lane, successfully encouraging the planners to refuse some aspects which would have reduced the quality of the development
- contacted the developers, Imperial Homes, on a number of occasions on behalf of residents in Glebe Road to press for greater care and consideration during the construction work. Comments can also be fed directly to Project Manager Chris Sheehan (01489 784847 & Chris.Sheehan@imperialhomes.uk) or Site Manager Joel Harris (07854 254336 & joel.harris@imperialhomes.uk)
- met with the County Council to discuss improvements to rights of way and byways
- met with Network Rail to encourage them to improve nature and biodiversity along the track through the parish
- arranged inspections, improvements and repairs at the playground including a new replacement basketball backboard
- continued with the nature projects on the recreation ground: sowing yellow rattle seeds in the margins and arranging for some wildflower plug plants and enhanced hedging species
- obtained more new trees for planting in various public spaces
- helped to encourage residents to use the Council's Thermal Imaging Camera to show where homes are losing heat (and money!) through gaps in doors, windows etc
- continued with the trial of an on-line booking system for the village hall whilst ensuring that contacts can still be made with the village hall manager, Steve Franks, via 07878 027845 or buritonvillagehall@gmail.com
- worked with the Hampshire Swifts charity to identify sites for about 30 Swift boxes under eaves around the village
- joined with Harting Parish Council to try to get improvements for walkers and cyclists along the B2146 Harting Road
- welcomed proposals for a major new 'celebration' in Buriton's calendar (the community's own "B-Earth Day"): a big family event to promote climate and nature causes in the parish on Saturday 22nd April.
- started arrangements for a community litter-picking event
- discussed ideas to mark the Coronation.

If you would like to help with any of these sort of things in the future – or if you think that the Parish Council should be considering other things – please consider applying to join the Parish Council in time for the elections in May.

Doug Jones