

March 2013

Birdham Parish Council Newsletter



Finger posts

Last year one of the 'heritage' style directional finger posts was damaged. Having established WSCC would only fund replacement with a modern signpost, which the councillors did not wish to do, we determined there are three of these posts in the village. The damaged one on the corner of Crooked Lane/Westlands Lane will be repaired using Parish Council funds, keeping the rural feel at this point in the village.

Report on June Flood

The investigation into the flooding of more than 40 properties in Bell Lane, Birdham and Bookers Lane, Earnley was commissioned by the EA and conducted by Black & Veatch. While the report concludes that most of the properties would have flooded anyway due to the unprecedented amount of rainfall that day, it is critical of some of the EA's actions and makes several recommendations to improve drainage in the area. Among other observations a lack of culvert capacity contributed to the flooding and there has been a lack of understanding over duties of ditch maintenance in the area. On the positive side plans are now advanced to replace the existing culvert under Bookers Lane, which will considerably improve the drainage in the area. This scheme will be jointly funded by residents, the EA, CDC and WSCC. www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/leisure/SE_Manhood_part1.pdf

Community Resilience

The resilience of a community is its ability to deal with problems that arise. For Emergency Planning this means having plans in place to reduce the impact of events such as severe weather. WSCC, along with many other councils across the country, is encouraging communities to develop emergency plans that complement the plans of the emergency services and other professional agencies.

The community resilience team is developing a plan for Birdham. We will publish our progress on the Parish Council web-site and the team welcomes any feedback.

Your household can make a contribution to community resilience right now by making a Family emergency plan. There are several useful links on the district council web-site

(www.chichester.gov.uk) including 'Be prepared for bad weather' and on the Environment Agency web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31624.aspx)

Did you know...! A longer version of this article is available on our website, where you can read about the progress of the team.

Birdham Village Hall

Birdham Village Hall is run on your behalf by a group of trustees representing various user groups including the parish council. The trustees meet every three months to review the accounts, any work that is required to maintain the building and the use of the facilities.

The Nursery is a major user of the Village Hall and has been granted planning permission to move to the school. The trustees are looking at the opportunities this presents for new uses of the Hall and welcome your input.

Look out for Events from the Trustees coming up over the next few months, as we try new ideas and bring back some old favourites. The trust is a charity and their aim is to make sure the Hall is used by and on behalf of the community, to the benefit of the community.

Contact the Chairman, Mike Thomas, on 01243 585243 with any ideas or suggestions.

Security of the playing field

The existing padlock and chain on the gate were not enough to prevent some uninvited visitors camping on the playing field last year. We have been looking at ways to improve security but many of the alternatives are not very suitable for a rural village, not to mention costly, so it is proving quite a challenge. The options are likely to be debated at the Council meeting in March so if you have any ideas for options or funding please contact the clerk before 18th March.

Quiz Night

Birdham Village Hall Trustees
invite you to a
Quiz Night
8pm on
Saturday 20th April 2013
Entry £1 per person
Teams of up to 6
Bar available
Look out for more details nearer the time

Regular Groups

Carpet Bowls - Monday afternoons and Wednesday evenings
Tower Youth Group - Tuesday evenings
Rainbows and Brownies – Wednesdays
Women's Institute - 3rd Thursday afternoon in the month
Bingo – Friday evenings

Charges* from 1st April 2013

Occasional and Commercial users:
Hall – from £10.30 to £15.50/hr depending on the day/time
Sandle Room - £3.60 to £5.80/hr
Regular local users:
Hall - £6.30/hr
Sandle Room - £2.70/hr

*A deposit may be required and conditions apply

Social Club

Any adult in Birdham can join the Social Club, which is open 3 nights a week (Monday, Friday and Saturday) from 7pm to 10:30pm. An annual fee of **£10** entitles Club Members to drinks at club prices and up to 2 occasional guests.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Focus Groups have been working on topics you highlighted at the Open Day in November, while members of the Steering Group have been liaising with local groups and authorities to gather more information to help build the Plan. Work continues on the Questionnaire, which is nearing completion. Your responses will be vital to the success of the plan, so please do take the opportunity to complete the Questionnaire when it arrives on your doormat and return by the deadline.

Neighbourhood Plan web-site

The website for the NP is still under development however some of the information we have gathered has been uploaded.

Check it out at np4Birdham.co.uk

Birdham Tea Party

At the first NP Open Day you asked for somewhere to get together for a cup of tea and a chat, hopefully getting to know more people in the village. Three residents took up the challenge so do join them on 26th March!

Birdham Tea Party

**Come and join us on
Tuesday 26th March
and thereafter every 4th Tuesday in the
month
in Birdham Village Hall
at 3 pm
for tea, cake and a chat**

**Everyone is welcome. We look
forward to seeing you there.**

Any queries contact Gill (512555), Lesley (512047) or Chris (511406)

There will be a small charge to cover costs

Fat blocks the drains!

Fat and olive oil from kitchen sinks created a ball of fat and blocked the sewage pipe in Church Lane in January. Similarly toilets backed up in Florence Close not long after Christmas for the same reason. Keep fats out of the waste drain and save a lot of stress!

Open Day

Following the success of our first NP Open Day, we listened to your concerns and decided to ask the Environment group to concentrate on Water! So this is the topic of our

Neighbourhood Plan

'Water' Open Day

Saturday 16th March

10am to 1pm

Birdham Village Hall

Come along to find out about the drainage system and how it works (or doesn't!); the improvements that have already been made and what you can do to help; waste water drainage; and other related matters

Planning applications

Tawny Nurseries (12/04147/OUT):

This application was **refused** by the Planning Officers at CDC. To understand the reasons for refusal go to the application on the district council website and look for the 'Decision Notice' dated 01 Feb 2013

Rowan Nurseries (13/00284/FUL):

This application will be considered by the Parish Council at a Planning Committee meeting in early March

Affordable Housing

We are often asked about the term 'Affordable Housing'. We've put together a set of Frequently Asked Questions with a Birdham slant and put them on our website. If you would like a printed copy please ask. Here are two common questions taken from the FAQs:

What is Affordable Housing?

Affordable housing is for people who cannot afford to buy or rent homes available on the open market. *Social rented housing* includes dwellings owned and managed by the Registered Social Landlord (in our case HydeMartlett) or sometimes by other parties. They are let at rent levels set nationally. *Intermediate housing* is provided at higher rent levels but below market prices and includes shared equity schemes and low cost homes for rent or sale.

Where can Affordable Housing be built?

For some time Chichester has required developers to provide a certain percentage of affordable housing on sites over a certain size, managed by HydeMartlett. This housing can be allocated and later re-allocated to anyone from anywhere, as long as they are on the list. Then there are *exception sites*, which are sites which might not have been considered by the local planners for housing but an exception is made because of the lack of other possibilities. These can only be allocated to local people in perpetuity.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will be held in Birdham Village Hall on Saturday 18th May from 7pm. We will be arranging a variety of guest speakers. If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers or want a particular item on the agenda please contact the clerk.

Who do I contact?

Parish Councillors:

Jane Finch (Chair) jane Finch1@talktalk.net

Carolyn Cobbold (Vice-Chair) trcobbold@msn.com

Marion Barker marion.barker@talk21.com

Andy Grafham andy.grafham@gmail.com

Angela Parks camping@ellscottpark.co.uk

Roger Tilbury rogertilbury539@btinternet.com

Or write to or email the Parish Clerk (David Siggs)

 clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.org.uk

 28 Langdale Avenue, Chichester, PO19 8JQ

The Neighbourhood Specialist Police Team responsible for Birdham is:

PCSO Rose Bainbridge **07881 754535**

rosemary.bainbridge@sussex.pnn.police.uk and

If a crime is being committed dial 999.

If you have information about a crime or an incident which is no longer happening dial **101**. Or you can call Crime Stoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Meals on Wheels

Community Meals on Wheels available across West Sussex

Enjoy a range of nutritious hot meals, desserts and salads with West Sussex County Council's Meals on Wheels.

New customers can sample some of the dinners on offer by ordering a five-day Taster Pack for £15.

All meals are designed to meet nutritional standards and special dietary needs can be catered for. They can also be delivered frozen. The Meals on Wheels service in West Sussex is available to all residents to order, no referral is needed.

For further information, telephone 01903 231341 or visit the County Council website at www.westsussex.gov.uk/countycatering

What's coming up?

All events are in Birdham Village Hall

Saturday 16th March, Neighbourhood Plan, 'Water' Open Day, 10am to 1pm

Monday 25th March, History Group, 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th March, Tea Party, 3pm onwards

Saturday 20th April, Quiz Night, 8pm

Saturday 18th May, Annual Parish Meeting, 7pm

The next parish council meeting is **Monday 18th March 2013** at 7pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you.

(Meetings are every 3rd Monday in the month except August)