

December 2013

Birdham Parish Council Newsletter



Neighbourhood Plan Open Day

The latest Neighbourhood Plan Open Day was a resounding success with over 170 attendees. Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback on the draft Vision, Objectives and Policies. Some people came from our neighbouring parishes and we spoke to representatives from other interested groups too, such as Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Several people expressed concern that the full report on the Residents' Questionnaire wasn't available. This was because one important section of the data hadn't been presented in a useable format but we have now sorted this out. We hope you found the summary useful. Please keep checking the web-site np4birdham.co.uk as we are in the process of adding more information to it all the time.

We continue to collect evidence to support the plan. If you have a particular area of interest we are always looking for help and input. Tasks are assigned by the Steering Group according to your own skills and available time.

Support and a grant have been provided by the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning Programme led by Locality in association with RTP1/Planning Aid England, CDF and partners, available through the My Community Rights website.

Tree planting

Tree planting is planned for **Saturday 21st December**. Please let the clerk or Cllr Barker know if you can help. We will start digging at the school around **9:30am** and will then plant the trees on the edges of the playing field.

Playing Field

After the uninvited visitors on the playing field last year and a number of attempts again this year (successfully thwarted by neighbouring residents) improvements are being made to security, funded jointly by the Parish Council and the Birdham Village Hall Trustees. New height restriction barriers will be going across the entrance to the car park and the fence on the south west corner has been reinforced.

Parking, Speed and School

Mr McCadden, head teacher of Birdham Primary School, attended the September Parish Council meeting to tell us about his first year at the school. Residents were keen to talk to him about parking and thoughtless driving at school times. To help address some of these concerns new yellow ziz-zag lines (no parking or drop off) outside the school and dropped curbs have been put in by WSCC. You will have also noticed work being carried out on the playing field next to the Village Hall, which is for extra parking for Park & Stride. Consultation on a 20mph speed limit in Birdham is also expected in the next year or so.

If you have children at the school it is much better for them to walk or cycle and much better for everyone if you don't drive them to school.

Ditch Walking

Many of you have seen a small group of people in warm clothes and wellies walking around Birdham and climbing into ditches on Sunday mornings recently. With the generous and knowledgeable help of Ken Davenport from Earnley the ditch and culvert mapping continues. Most importantly however Ken has been helping us to decide what actions need taking to get our neglected system working again. It is important for the whole community that ditches function correctly and we have found that many ditches assumed to be more like ponds are actually linked with culverts that have been buried under years of silt and vegetation. A program of work needs to be developed and the Birdham & Earnley Flood Prevention Group are looking for a small number of **volunteers** who can help put the program together (no heavy work at this stage!) If you are interested in helping or have concerns about a specific part of the drainage network please contact the parish clerk or the Chairman of the Flood Prevention Group robertjamescarey@aol.com

Operation Watershed

After residents successfully applied for a grant of nearly £11,000 from Operation Watershed, inspection and clearing of the Walwyn Close culvert started at the end of November. A solid root mass was found blocking the pipe and was reduced to around 25%. Water now flows down the pipe, so it was a success. Unfortunately, the pipe at the back of Walwyn Close is an old ribbed plastic pipe so it was not possible to use the root cutter but repeated jetting did the job. The pipe that runs south from Church Lane, was also jetted and is now clear.

Further work is likely to be needed to bring the Walwyn Close culvert to a satisfactory standard

Bookers Lane Relief Channel

Work has been started by the EA and WSCC on this important improvement to the drainage to the south of Birdham. The scheme is complex and costly and links into the Medmerry realignment scheme.

Planning Applications

The **Tawny Nursery** appeal (12/04147/OUT) was heard on 21st November. We are waiting for the decision.

We have been informed the developer of the **Church Lane** site (12/04141/OUT) intends to appeal against the refusal by District Council Planning Committee. Likely to be in March. The **Crooked Lane** application (13/01391/FUL) was approved for 15 affordable (social rented) houses. The key concern with this site is the effect of additional traffic at school pick up and drop off times. Currently the approved development in Birdham that will count towards the local plan is 40 (Rowan and Crooked Lane), however a change of use from commercial (offices) to residential (9 units) has also been approved in **Chichester Marina** (13/03105/P3JPA) under new permitted development rules.

Who do I contact?

Parish Councillors:

Jane Finch (Chair) janefinch1@talktalk.net

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

Marion Barker marion.barker@talk21.com

Andy Grafham andy.grafham@gmail.com

Elizabeth Hamilton eabhamilton@yahoo.com

Daniel Ayton daniel.ayton@aytonlee.com

Gordon Churchill g.t.churchill@intelynx.net

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

 clerk@birdhamparishcouncil.org.uk

 28 Langdale Avenue, Chichester, PO19 8JQ

What's coming up?

All events are in Birdham Village Hall unless otherwise stated:

Tea Party 3pm first Tuesday every month

History Group 7:30pm fourth Monday every other month (January, March, May, etc.)

Village Choir 6-7pm, Mondays (Church Room)

The next parish council meeting is
Monday 16th December 2013
at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome and we would love to see you but if you can't make it **Happy New Year**

