

# Newsletter

Autumn 2016



## Birdham Parish Neighbourhood Plan adopted



Further to the referendum held on 5th May 2016, when 90% of the voters said 'YES' to the plan, it has now been adopted by Chichester District Council.

At the Full Council meeting on 19th July 2016, Chichester District Council resolved to 'Make' the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan. This means that the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan has been brought into legal force, and forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Birdham. Consequently,

decisions on whether or not to grant planning permission in Birdham will need to be made in accordance with the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

## Co-option of new Councillor

As a result of a vacancy on the Parish Council, and following the procedures set down for filling that vacancy, a new Councillor is to be co-opted.

We welcome Barry Richardson to the council and hope he enjoys working for the community.

## Don't forget the Birdham Tea Party

A reminder that all are welcome to the Village Hall for tea and cakes on the **first Tuesday of every month at 3.00pm.**

## Key Dates

Parish Council Meetings 21st Nov, 19th Dec, 16th Jan.

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## Results of Playing Field Survey

Thanks to those who responded to our survey in the Summer. 169 completed forms were submitted.

### The results are:

- ◆ 96 (57.1%) gave children's play equipment their first choice
- ◆ 32 (19.1%) gave adult fitness equipment their first choice
- ◆ 22 (13.1%) gave the footpath their first choice
- ◆ 18 (10.7%) gave ball games their first choice

### If first and second choices are combined,

- ◆ 79.2% of respondents preferred children's play,
- ◆ 43.5% adult fitness,
- ◆ 42.9% ball games and
- ◆ 27.4% the footpath.
- ◆



**This survey clearly indicates a strong preference for improvements to the children's play area.**

Consequently, the parish council used this as evidence to apply for funding through the New Homes Bonus and has been awarded £18,504 from 2014/2015 years to be spent on play equipment by September 2017 and £7620 from 2016 to be spent on improving the fencing for the play area in the next 3 years.

The council are now consulting children in the school and nursery on which pieces of equipment to purchase and we look forward to seeing them using the improvements by this time next year!

**Please note** - the play area will remain in the same location as at present.

## Our Drainage is far more robust than 2012



The heavy rains in 2012/13 made it clear that something needed to be done if our village was not to be subjected to an ever-increasing tendency to flood. The Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention Group was formed to address the issue, with Clive Barrington as our lead representative. Thanks to this group, and Clive's tireless work, the drainage in and around the village is considerably improved. Most

notable has been the installation of a completely new culvert, funded by West Sussex County Council's Operation Watershed, running alongside Walwyn Close, replacing an existing culvert which had become irreparable. Thanks to Clive the new culvert runs through the adjacent field, rather than under the gardens which would have caused enormous disruption to Walwyn Close gardens.

Clive recently handed over to Cllr Richard Bird who is determined to carry on with all the work started by Clive.

West Sussex Highways have recently make a film record of the condition of the main culverts around the village. We have now received a detailed report, and will be discussed at our next Parish Council Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> November

WSCC have told us that no matter how bad a culvert is, if adjacent ditches are overgrown or silted up they will not touch the culvert. We can't allow this to happen. Culverts are expensive to repair.

**If you have a ditch on your property, it's your responsibility to keep it clear.**

The Parish Council undertook an inspection of the ditches around the village last year and will do so again this year. Last year we were charitable; this year we will first write to you, but if you fail to act, we will refer all instances of overgrown or silted up ditches to WSCC who have the authority to take legal action.

The recently issued Manhood Peninsula Surface Water Management Plan details how we can further make our village drain network more robust. One of the measures listed in the report is to increase the 'tankage' of three ponds, one by the village green, Kingfisher Pond, and Triangle Pond.

Last winter with the help of Jane Reeve, FLOW Project Manager of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group, and Farmer Tom Monnington, we made a start on Kingfisher Pond and cleared the ditches down to the Village Pond. This should greatly help prevent flooding along Westland's Lane. In the next few weeks we hope to remove the unsightly tree stumps, and give us an opportunity to improve the landscaping.

All in all, the Parish Council is satisfied with progress so far, but is fully aware that there is much work yet to be done before our drainage network is fully functioning.



## Birdham Community Resilience Plan works



The Parish Council has been progressing the compilation and adoption of a community resilience plan for Birdham. It details the support and resources needed if there is a major incident such as bad weather, flooding, a serious accident or fire or partial evacuation required in our area.

The Community Team has been assembled and an initial training event was held including a scenario situation where local responses had to be planned and put into simulated actions. The intention is that Birdham may require being self-sufficient and self-supporting if the need arises when outside emergency resources are limited or not available.

Having a resilience / emergency plan should ensure Birdham has;

- ◆ Identified most foreseeable major incidents within the Parish
- ◆ Identified key personnel and emergency organisations and their responsibilities
- ◆ A list of key contact numbers
- ◆ Planned the local resources and staff, including those from local businesses, that would be available to support our community.

The Birdham Plan has been compiled to complement the existing emergency plans in place by Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council so a coordinated and proportionate response can be given to a specific incident.

Thought also needs to be given by each Birdham household for their own emergency plan as being prepared can help reduce the effects on your life and your family, reduce the need for support from others and enable you to support the vulnerable in our community. Could each household leave their homes quickly if required to do so with, for example, contact information of relatives, household insurance company details, key contact numbers and a list of current medication?