

## Parish Council News

### **Summary of issues raised/arising in the month.**

(This document is not intended to be read as a record of the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting.)

**Major Development in Ruscombe** The petition raised 2,036 signatures including 1,839 from Wokingham workers/residents. A full council debate is now assured probably in June or July.

To sign up for the updates on the Campaign go to [www.cprwok.co.uk](http://www.cprwok.co.uk)

**St Lawrence Nurseries** There have been two planning applications for St Lawrence Nurseries – 15/03064 (for one half of the barn) and 17/02922 (for the other half). The earlier application was successful but the later one was refused because climate change allowances for planning were updated on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the flood risk assessment used to support the 17/02922 did not show how it would comply with the National Planning Policy Framework. The whole barn is currently shrouded in sheeting, so it is not possible to see exactly what is being done. RBWM are aware and the PC will also be keeping an eye on the site.

**Shurlock Row Defibrillator** The defibrillator to be sited outside The Shurlock has been ordered.

**Litter** Litter is becoming more noticeable around the parish. Over the Easter holidays some community minded residents and their children, complete with pickers and high vis jackets, were seen trying to improve the situation. Well done them!  
RBWM runs an adopt-a-street initiative which individuals or groups can sign up to. You can choose the area you want to "adopt" and when you want to volunteer. The council will help you by providing a litter picking kit, including a litter picker, gloves, tabard and bags, and basic written health and safety guidance is provided.

Details available at  
<https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200195/volunteering/65/adopt-a-street/1>

**Council Tax** Most residents will have received their Council Tax bills in the last month or so. There has been a rise in the Waltham St Lawrence Precept of £5,000 which when compared to the previous level of only £17,500 produces, what is on the face of it, a large percentage increase. However, the increase is due to two issues, both of which the Parish were consulted on, namely, the agreed policies of

adopting the Shurlock Rd Nature Reserve and Play Area (£3,500 for an estimated 6 months' worth of maintenance costs this year) and to support the fighting fund for the Campaign for Rural Wokingham (£1,500 pa for the next 3 years if needed).

<b>Travellers Site</b>	The parish Clerk has spoken to the RSPCA and Community Warden several times about the animals on site and the rubbish in front of the gates. There is a catch 22 situation with the animals, they are not in a bad enough condition for the RSPCA to intervene on welfare grounds because a kind resident feeds them. However, there may be a way forward as they may be a danger to traffic if they were to get loose onto the road.
<b>Fly Tipping</b>	Fly tipping can be reported online at <a href="https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/201032/report_it/1360/report_a_problem_with_flytipping">https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/201032/report_it/1360/report_a_problem_with_flytipping</a>
<b>Halls Lane Triangle</b>	The triangle was recently tidied up and reseeded but has already been eaten up by lorries driving over it.
<b>Speeding</b>	Members of the PC met with RBWM officers to discuss speed limits and HGV traffic throughout the village.
<b>Drains</b>	The PC has reported problems with several drains in the village to RBWM.
<b>Burial Ground wildflower area</b>	A resident had previously suggested that it may save on maintenance costs if a section of the burial ground was given over to wild flowers. Following further investigation, it was found that the costs of ensuring a good display of wild flowers every year would be £300 - £400. It was decided not to go further with this idea. Instead, it was agreed to obtain 400/500 free bulbs from RBWM in the autumn to give a boost of spring colour.
<b>Potholes</b>	Residents can report potholes directly to RBWM using the web page <a href="https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/201032/report_it/1303/report_a_pothole/1">https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/201032/report_it/1303/report_a_pothole/1</a>  To report a pothole, you will need to have details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The location of the pothole,</li><li>• Whether it is on the road or pavement,</li><li>• The approximate size,</li><li>• Your contact details if you want to be updated on progress,</li><li>• A photo to upload if you have one.</li></ul>

**Footpath watch** If residents come across any problems with footpaths, please contact [katie@kimservices.co.uk](mailto:katie@kimservices.co.uk)

### **Contact and share**

General queries or items of interest can be addressed to the Clerk at [WSLparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:WSLparishclerk@gmail.com) or to individual PC members via the email addresses shown at the back of this magazine. Items of interest can be shared on Facebook and Twitter via <https://www.facebook.com/WalthamStLawrence/> and @WSL\_RG10

**Next Parish Council meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 7.00pm Neville Hall**