

## 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** Parish Councillors attended a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, ahead of three open meetings on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February. Counsel has stated that there is a very good case against including Greenbelt sites in the Wokingham Local Plan. More work is required to make arguments stronger on the remaining potential locations – eg Twyford and to suggest ways and locations to meet the target number of new homes. There will be a follow up meeting in approx. 2 months.
- Recently there was a programme on BBC 2 “The newbuilds are coming: Battle in the countryside”. The first episode featured a small village called Culham which was faced with the inclusion of a 3,000 new home expansion, in the greenbelt, in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. The key lesson for us is to be proactive in opposition.
- To sign up for the updates on the CPRW go to [www.cprwok.co.uk](http://www.cprwok.co.uk)
- Speeding** Despite continued concerns about speeding on various roads in the parish, the new Community Warden has said that he cannot arrange a Speedwatch. The PC will endeavour to discover alternative ways of reducing speed in the parish
- Telephone Box at Milley Bridge** A suggestion has been made to use this for another defibrillator. Are there any other suggestions to be considered?
- Bellman Hanger 17/03903** The Preservation Society kindly paid for an independent transport review. The conclusions of that review were:
1. The proposed visibility splays at the site access fall short of absolute minimum standards. The proposed site access arrangements are therefore unsafe;
  2. To achieve even the sub-standard visibility splays it will be necessary to remove mature trees to the north of the access. It is likely that land outside of the applicant's control would be required to achieve even the sub-standard visibility to the south of the access;
  3. It is not acceptable to introduce a condition to require specified visibility splays since these splays are unlikely to be achievable in practice. Any such condition would therefore be unreasonable;
  4. The proposed development generates well over twice the level of traffic that has previously been judged the maximum permissible for the site;
  5. The site is entirely inaccessible by sustainable modes and residents would be totally dependent on the private car. The site is therefore contrary to both national and local policy.

<b>Shurlock Rd Nature Reserve and Play Area</b>	<p>The Design and access statement for the change of use planning application has been completed.</p> <p>A resident has fears that the raised height at Downfield will cause flooding of a new pond on his land. It was agreed to bring this to the attention of RBWM engineers when they are working on the Nature Reserve to see if there is anything that can be incorporated into their works that may help without altering the characteristics of the Nature Reserve site.</p> <p>Cllr Maureen Hunt will follow up on contacts for various groups who provide volunteers for environmental projects.</p> <p>The PC has contacted an organisation called TCV which organises volunteers in Berkshire. They stated that any volunteer work provided would be on an amateur basis, without machinery and they would expect a daily monetary contribution from the PC.</p>
<b>Thames Water</b>	<p>Manhole cover in Halls Lane has been replaced.</p>
<b>Travellers Site</b>	<p>There is continued concern about the fly tipping, burning (possibly of electrical cable) at night and the welfare of the horses left on site.</p> <p>The cable burning will be reported to the police and the horse welfare will be reported to RBWM and RSPCA. The RSPCA have visited previously and said that the horses' condition was adequate – but this may be because a local resident has been feeding them daily out of pity.</p>
<b>Fly Tipping</b>	<p>There have been many reports of fly tipping around the parish. Including Milley Bridge playing field, the travellers site and Downfield. RBWM have an online form that can be completed to report instances.</p> <p><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></p>
<b>Potholes</b>	<p>Potholes are being reported in many locations – e.g. around the Pound and Brook Lane. 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></p> <p>To report a pothole, you will need to have details of:</p> <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>
<b>General Data Protection Regulation</b>	<p>The PC respects the rights of our residents to privacy and the need for openness. It sent representatives and the Clerk to an RBWM training session to learn more about the implications of this new legislation.</p>

**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 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 7.00pm Neville Hall**