

DUMMER PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2002

Clerk: Dr P J Mill, Gwelo, Down Street, Dummer, Hampshire, RG25 2AD tel: 01256 397528
www.hants.gov.uk/parish/dummer

THE PARISH

Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan Review

The Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan Draft Review has just been published. This sets out planning policy for 2003 to 2011 and includes provision for development up to 2016. It is slimmer and contains fewer policies and less detail than earlier strategic plans. The period of consultation continues until 29th November.

Peak Copse Gypsy Site

Six years ago the gypsy site, east of the A30 at Junction 7 of the M3, was closed following disturbances by the residents. It has now been confirmed that the site will be permanently closed. The Parish Council is being consulted on its future – please contact the clerk if you have any suggestions.

Conservation Area Appraisal

After several years in preparation, the Dummer Conservation Area Appraisal is at last in its final draft and is expected to be adopted by Basingstoke & Deane in the spring. Thanks to all who have given input, especially Cathy Dodd.

Deparishing of Beggarwood Ward

The deparishing vote was completed in April. The result was a vote in favour of bringing parliamentary, borough and parish council boundaries into line, with both wards voting in favour of deparishing. The process requires approval by B&DBC before being sent to Westminster for a decision and finally an Order in Council. Basingstoke's formal approval is awaited.

The Parish Council Bureaucratic Load

Parish Councils represent the interests of local residents but this year councillors have found much of their time taken up incorporating new regulations into their procedures.

For example, many people will have seen the television coverage of Old Basing's councillors' difficulties with the new *Code of Conduct*. Dummer adopted the model code and councillors have registered their interests. The new procedure for declaration of interests is more prescriptive than previously and councillors' declarations have

become a feature of PC meetings and have sometimes threatened our ability to form a quorum.

The PC's terms of reference have been modified to incorporate the requirements of the *Race Relations Act*.

This year the PC has to implement a Lighter Audit Procedure which requires a new form of presentation of accounts and appointment of an independent auditor. The PC is very grateful to Stafford Napier who has given his time to perform this task.

Lastly, before the end of 2002 the PC must publish a list of the information it holds which is available to the public under the *Freedom of Information Act*.

Day-to-day

The summer brought the perennial concerns of ragwort, overgrown and dog-fouled footpaths, and litter. Recent evenings have brought fireworks and disturbance to horses. By giving consideration to our neighbours and to the appearance of the parish, we can keep Dummer one of the most pleasant and agreeable places to live in Hampshire.

“Right to Roam” Legislation

The public has an opportunity to register, before December, land where it has a right of access under the Act. At present there is no land registered in Dummer – if you know of anywhere that you believe should be registered, please contact the clerk.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held monthly on Thursday evenings in Dummer Village Hall. The next one will be on 21st November at 8:00pm.

Parish Councillors:

Julian Jones (chair), Barry Dodd, John Holden, Monica Marchant, Trish Willats

Dummer Ward Local Councillors:

Paul Findlow, Cecelia Morrison, Gwen Richardson

Beggarwood Ward Local Councillors:

Philip Heath, Dan Putty, Harry Robinson

MPs: Sir George Young, Andrew Hunter

DUMMER WARD

Village Design Statement

The Dummer Village Design Statement continues to progress with Mike Dearlove driving the team. The process involves the whole village through questionnaires and interviews, and a series of workshops. The first draft is now nearing completion and the team will be seeking people's views. Once adopted by Basingstoke & Deane, it will be Dummer's own set of planning guidelines for years to come.

Development in the Village

There has been no letup in the rate of planning applications the PC receive. The last twelve months has seen ongoing development throughout the village. Starting from the M3 there is Glebe House office extension, an extension in Porters Close, conversion of Chapel Gallery, an extension to the Old Rectory, six new houses at Manor Farm, conversion of the stables to offices at Manor Farm, modifications at the Old Brewery, a replacement building at Whingate, Westlea's extension, a garage at Sunrise, an extension at Sunset, and garages at Dummer Down bungalows. There have been applications at Rose Cottage, Down Street, Lynton, and at No 3 Biblefields,

Manor Farm

The Manor Farm development is nearing completion. It has been a very significant change in a sensitive part of the conservation area but it will bring benefits – All Saints' will have a new church room and the Clifton memorial garden will provide an attractive open space in the centre of the village.

Clump Farm

Three planning applications for residential use of the old barn at Clump Farm have been reviewed by the PC. Despite the fact that councillors have worked with the developer and neighbours at the Clump on various plans, these applications have now been withdrawn. National policy dictates that agricultural buildings should be converted for business use, but this would generate a large volume of additional commercial traffic on Farleigh Lane and through the village. The PC is working to achieve a satisfactory solution.

Cemetery Contributions

The VDS survey showed that the cemetery was important to many residents. The PC has therefore

made a donation of £100 to help complete the task of clearing areas that have become overgrown.

Floods

The recent modification to the level of Up Street has reduced flooding by the pond. Though recent weather and leaves demonstrated that the problem is not eliminated, it is much improved.

BEGGARWOOD WARD

The Local Centre and Surgery

Construction of the local centre, with shops, surgery and pre-school, is still some way away. Meanwhile a temporary surgery is planned on the corner of the land reserved for business use. There is a great deal of demand since all surgeries within four miles have closed lists.

New Beggarwood Lane Opening

At last the negotiations over the route of the new distributor road are complete and old Beggarwood Lane can be closed. This will be a relief to residents on the old road and to motorists who have run the gauntlet through the traffic calming. We hope the new road will be safer and that speeding traffic and parked vehicles will not mean that users exchange one set of hazards for another.

Spoil Removal

The contractors were recently granted a twelve month extension to the period during which they can remove chalk spoil from the Beggarwood site and deposit it on the field south of the M3. The PC made representations to request that disturbance to residents is kept to a minimum.

Play Areas

Three play areas are being constructed at Beggarwood Lane. It is clear that facilities for the young are needed. Some residents have expressed concern over the way these areas are equipped. This is a debate common to many play areas in the borough and a programme of consultation is ongoing. Safety standards have been raised over recent years and all areas must be inspected regularly. A sports barn is planned on the Country Park area and this will provide a space for older children. Once the play areas and sports barn are in place, all age groups should have places for healthy recreation.

JULIAN G JONES, CHAIRMAN, DUMMER PC
