

DUMMER PARISH COUNCIL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2003

Clerk: Gaynor Kendrick Merestone Up Street Dummer RG25 2AH Tel: 01256 397461
www.hants.gov.uk/parish/dummer

Full complement of councillors

We now have our full complement of five parish councillors. Welcome to Kim Guest from The Barns who was co-opted onto the PC at the October meeting. Her energy and hi-tech skills will be a great asset.

Southwood Junction

Installation of traffic lights on the A30 with associated changes to the carriageway and 50mph limit is underway. The need for the speed limit was emphasised by yet another accident on the junction 7 roundabout on 25 October when a van ripped out the crash barrier. The volume of traffic avoiding the roadworks and its speed has raised concerns, however we believe that drivers will revert to their A30 route once the work is complete.

Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan Review

The Revised Draft Local Plan, setting out a vision for the future development of the borough to 2016, is due to be published on 10 November. It will be available for comment until 22 December. The council is seeking views on the updated plan and an exhibition will be touring, with officers available to answer any questions.

<i>Exhibition Location</i>
Oakley School Layby, Oakley Lane Mon 10 Nov: 15.00 – 21.00
Basingstoke Town Centre, Festival Place Tues 11 Nov: 10.00 – 16.00
Worting Junior School, Chiltern Way Tues 18 Nov: 15.30 – 21.00
Overton Library Thurs 20 Nov: 14.00 – 19.00

More locations can be found at
www.basingstoke.gov.uk

Broadband has arrived

Dummer telephone exchange was upgraded to broadband capability in mid October. BT has been busy moving customers in the village from shared to dedicated lines. They and other providers delivered their broadband service at the end of October.

Disability Discrimination Act

Thank you to residents who filled in the Disability Discrimination Act survey. Your requests have been noted and passed to the relevant people.

Recreation Ground

The dog poo bins mentioned in the last newsletter have hit problems because they have to be treated as medical waste which is very expensive to remove. Dog owners are therefore requested to take their waste home. Please note that non-compliance carries a heavy fine. Meanwhile the PC has requested estimates for the play area fence.

Travellers at Peak Copse

Travellers have occupied the northern corner of Peak Copse next to Basingstoke Golf Club. These are local travellers and not a repeat of the influx from Ireland that occupied the old gypsy site last winter. HCC's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer is aware of their presence and is assessing their needs, which is necessary before any further action can be taken.

Risk Assessment

Every year RoSPA conducts a risk assessment of the children's play area. This year, for the first time, the Audit Commission requires that parish councils perform a risk assessment on all their assets, from wooden benches to computer software. A draft risk assessment has recently been created, based on templates kindly provided by Ellisfield and North Waltham, which will be presented to the PC at the December meeting. The budget for 2004-5 will be presented for adoption at the same meeting.

Fireworks

If you are planning to hold a firework party, please remember to inform your neighbours and be aware of thatched roofs and pets. Also, please let horse owners know your plans.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 8:00PM ON THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER 2003 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Trees

There have been a number of applications to pollard or fell trees. The felling and replacement of two chestnuts at Manor Farm has been approved but PC consultation has revealed concern among residents regarding an additional request to crown lift two pink horse chestnuts and remove branches from the beech trees in the strip of woodland to the west of the cottages. Although these trees have been poorly managed, they are an important landscape feature. It is hoped that a plan acceptable to all parties can be found.

Fly tipping and abandoned cars

There has been an increase in fly tipping in recent months. Even a fridge has been dumped at exit 7. The PC reports any incidents it is aware of to B&DBC for them to clear. Abandoned cars are a regular occurrence. Their removal takes time as the police are required to check stolen car lists and to try to contact the owner before passing responsibility on to B&DBC. At this point a notice has to be displayed for seven days before the vehicle can be removed. The whole process typically takes up to a month.

Day-to-day

We are very lucky to have many footpaths with wonderful views of the Hampshire countryside. It is important that we walk them and stop them getting overgrown. Please let the PC know if paths become impassable so that the landowner can be informed.

Design Award

The Manor Farm development has been short listed for a Basingstoke and Deane conservation award. The result will be announced in early November.

Development in the village

Development of a large house to replace the bungalow at East View has been refused by B&DBC on the grounds that it was over development of the site. There is an application at Oldwell House for a rear extension with conservatory, a dormer window and front porch.

Phone masts

Hutchison's phone mast at junction 7 for their 3G service is now installed and an application for an increase in height, by six metres, of the Vodafone mast on Dummer Down near the A303 slip road has been approved.

Planning documents

B&DBC has published three new documents: Planning in Conservation Areas, The Historic Environment and Listed Buildings. The Dummer Conservation Appraisal will be published in November.

Village Design Statement

The VDS is likely to be considered for adoption by the B&DBC cabinet on 9 December. Congratulations to the team who have worked so hard. Everyone should have received a handout on the VDS inviting them to read the latest draft on the PC's website.

Clump Farm

Work on the barn at Clump Farm is at a standstill because the structure needs underpinning and the lean-to part at the southern end needs rebuilding. The extent of this work was not recognised before conversion into three live/work units began. The PC is in contact with the developer. Numbers 2 and 3 Clump Cottages have been sold by the Clifton Estate (as has The Cottage in Down Street).

Clifton Room at All Saints

The church room has received planning consent for conversion from an office. This change allows public access for meetings. There is still building work to be completed before the lease can be finalised. We look forward to the room becoming available.

Street lighting

HCC has again offered contributions to street lighting. However county policy is to restrict lighting in rural areas unless there is an overriding need. The village has always been against street lighting so the PC will not be seeking funding.

Parish Councillors:

Julian Jones (chair) tel: 397227,
Barry Dodd, Kim Guest, Peter Padmore,
Trish Willats

Borough Councillors: Paul Findlow,
Cecilia Morrison, Gwen Richardson

HCC Councillor: Anna McNair-Scott

MP: Sir George Young

Compiled by Julian Jones