

Bramber Parish Council

For the medieval parish of Bramber

BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER : February 2021

Welcome to the February 2021 edition of the Bramber Parish Council newsletter. Your Parish Council have continued to function and meet regularly by using ZOOM and anyone wishing to join the meetings may do so by contacting the Clerk. The meetings are advertised as normal on the Notice Boards and Website (bramber.org.uk). This year we have decided to hold the Annual Parishioner's Meeting on the 7th April, 7 p.m. using ZOOM, where I will give a summary of the last years activities and residents will have the opportunity to have their say and ask any relevant questions. Your input will be much appreciated so do please ask the Clerk for an invite.

We will not be delivering Newsletters and other information bulletins by hand in the future, so if you could like to receive them by email please let the Clerk or myself know and we will put you on the list. Paper copies will be available at the Upper Beeding Newsagent and Steyning Post Office, and on the Parish Council website.

During these worrying times please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any issues or concerns and we will do our best to resolve them.

*Roger Potter
Chairman*

COVID

To cut down the current high volume of telephone calls to the Steyning Medical Practice I urge you to [sign up](#) to the PPG information service and you will receive daily updates on the local Covid situation from the Practice. Details can be found in the Useful Links Section.

WARDENS REPORT



It seems remarkable that we are soon approaching the anniversary of the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although everyone knows there is hope, they also know there is some way to go before we can return to some sort of normality.

Whilst being on patrol and talking to people it is clear to us and our PSCOs that the overwhelming majority of residents of both Bramber and Upper Beeding have followed the guidelines and adhered to restrictions. The response and coming together of the community and the volunteer effort is truly amazing.

Unfortunately, some groups of young people have not been following the rules and we urge parents and carers to express the importance of the restrictions to their children to protect the whole community. PCSOs can and will issue fines for breaches and will be carrying out visits to parents whose children are not complying with the restrictions (a full explanation of the guidelines can be found on the Horsham District Council website)

It is even more important that we continue to follow the guidelines and support each other as the restrictions allow. Picking up the phone, running an errand or doing some shopping for a lonely or vulnerable neighbour or friend may just make their day. We may also be able help or signpost so please do not hesitate to contact us. We realise that the winter months are always more challenging for many and with the restrictions still in place we need to look after each other.

Finally, please remember; wear a face covering, only go out if you need to, stay local, wash your hands frequently and stay safe.

*Paul Conroy (07734 387888)
Michael Pearce (07734 387889)
Neighbourhood Wardens*

HIGHWAYS

Impending Electricity Works in Maudlin Lane.

We all will remember last spring's roadworks in Maudlin Lane as UK Power Networks strived to renew two high voltage electricity cables. Using Maudlin Lane to the A283 Bramber roundabout was not pleasant, to say the least.

The bad news is that, when the work last year was abandoned (rained off), only one cable had been replaced between Clays Hill and the junction of Maudlin Lane with Annington Road. The worse news (from a residents/highways viewpoint) being that they're planning on coming back later this year (covid permitting) for 7 to 8 weeks to complete the job!

Search on <https://one.network/custom/westsussex> for the road closure notice

From an operational point of view, it is likely that:

- Maudlin Lane will be completely closed to motor vehicles at the Clays Hill junction for around 26 days, with all motor traffic in/out of the Maudlin area using Maudlin Lane to the A283, or Annington / Coombes Road to the A27. There will be a small excavation in Maudlin Lane adjacent to the Annington Road junction, allowing one way light controlled traffic.
- Once the Clays Hill end work has been completed and Maudlin Lane re-opened, the Annington Road end hole will be enlarged, with the road closed to all motor vehicles for around 28 days.
- Pedestrian / equestrian access will be maintained at all times past both excavation sites.
- Coombes / Annington Road from the A27 will be signed 'No Through Road, Residents Only'
- Maudlin Lane at the A283 Bramber roundabout will be signed 'No Through Road, Residents Only' will an additional manned check point to stop through traffic.



Parish, District and County councillors (highways are a county responsibility) have been in contact with UKPN and WSSC Highways to remind both of the problems encountered last spring, and to try and ensure minimal disruption. Hopefully, having spent time on site last year, there will be no unpleasant surprises this time and the work can go smoothly. There does of course remain the possibility that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic will delay this work, as it relies on specialist German technicians being brought over to make the actual cable joints. The parish council will endeavour to get the word out should such a delay materialise.

More Highways Matters

On a brighter note, WSSC Highways are planning to improve the footway north from, and adjacent to, the junction of Maudlin Lane with Clays Hill. This work will level up the footway, which currently slopes unpleasantly towards the road, with new kerbs to match. Although a design has been proposed, aspect of it could be further improved to aid pedestrian safety, and discussions are continuing.

Mike Croker

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

As I explained in the last Newsletter referenda of all types have been postponed until Spring 2021. A number of local Neighbourhood Plans are at the same, advanced stage as us and representations have been made to Government to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans awaiting referenda do not slip beyond this time.

It still remains the case that our Plan already holds 'significant weight' in the decision making process and informs and guides the Parish Council in their thinking and activities.

Roger Potter



GREENING UPDATE



Your Parish Council have teamed up with Greening Steyning to help progress some important projects for the area. Under the overall umbrella of The 2030 Project we have joined the Homes and Energy, Biodiversity and Transport Action Groups. Progress to date is as follows:

Homes and Energy

- A very successful ZOOM Q&A session was held in November and feedback from this and the previous Survey helped us concentrate our thoughts in the important areas e.g. Our ageing housing stock is notoriously leaky and inefficient, leading to draughty bedrooms, damp bathrooms, and inflated energy bills.

- Identified local case studies which can help explain the process and results of retro-fitting your home.
- Planning to have a stall at the next Steyning Farmers Market to raise the profile and highlight the issues and potential solutions.
- Putting together a series of videos about the various ways of improving the efficiency of your homes

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Group has undergone training to identify different types of habitats. It is hoped that, in the Spring, the group will be able to construct a Nature Map showing all the different types of habitats that exist in our parish. This will form a baseline for future work.

Transport

Finally, two Bramber PC councillors have recently joined a Steyning PC working group to progress implementation of a 20mph zone for Steyning and the Maudlin area of Bramber. Inclusion of Bramber makes sense, given that several of the entrances to Steyning are via Bramber (Castle Lane, Clays Hill and Maudlin Lane) and the fact that Upper Beeding and The Street, Bramber already have 20mph speed limits. The working group comprises representatives of the two parish councils, Steyning Business Chamber, Steyning and District Partnership, Greening Steyning, Horsham DC, WSCC and WSCC Highways. The current target is to implement a scheme in 2022, although there are significant hurdles to overcome if that timescale is to be achieved. The first milestone will be a full residents' consultation, probably in March. It is intended that this should be a combination of paper and a, longer, online version - something to look out for !



Further details of all of these initiatives can be found on the Greening Steyning [website](#)

ANNUAL PARISHIONERS' MEETING

7th April 2021 at 7pm

Meeting via ZOOM. Please contact the Clerk for an invite if you would like to attend.

The Chairman will be giving a report of the past year and the meeting is an opportunity for local residents to have their say.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



We have acquired our Speedwatch gun and we are planning to carry out refresher training soon for some of the volunteers to get this important initiative off the ground. Unfortunately the current drop in traffic volume on our roads seems to have been a green light for some users to break speed limits even more so than before lockdown and we are hoping that Community Speedwatch will help curb this activity.

EVIRONMENT

Over the last few months the Parish Council have been trying to get something done about the repetitive flooding issue at the bottom of Maudlin Lane. A group of volunteers from our Emergency Committee together with the Fire Brigade made use of the pump we have and shifted most of the water. However, further rain ensued and we were back to square one. West Sussex Highways then brought heavier equipment, shifted the water and jetted the blocked drains. We are currently working with them to try to implement a more permanent solution to this annual problem.

COUNCIL TAX

Bramber PC has set a balanced budget for the next financial year. The impact for an average Band D council taxpayer is that the precept amount will increase by 13p per week (£59.36pa in 2020/21 and £66.07pa in 2021/22). The increase in costs relate to inflation, additional pensions costs (previously not budgeted for) and increased costs for the Bramber share of youth and warden services.

USEFUL LINKS

Here are links to articles and websites that you might find useful

Check back also on the [Current News](#) section of the Bramber Parish Council website, which is regularly updated

COVID

[Steyning Patient Participation Group](#)

Sign up for the daily updates [here](#)

The Hub [website](#)

Community Hub [Facebook](#) page

[West Sussex County Council Coronavirus advice and information page](#)

From their webpage you can sign up to the regular newsletter, examples of current topics are listed below

[COVID-19 local update](#)

[Beware COVID-19 vaccination scams](#)

[Lockdown support from Age UK](#)

[West Sussex Community Hub](#)

[Free training to help spot signs of child abuse](#)



CENSUS 2021



Census day is Sunday 21st March 2021, and information can be found on the national website [here](#)

GATWICK UPDATE INFO

On their community [webpage](#) you can see details of projects and initiatives and sign up to receive the newsletter

BRAMBER PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Chairman

Roger Potter
cllrogerpotter@gmail.com

Clerk

Paul Richards
bramberparishclerk@gmail.com

Website

<https://www.bramber.org.uk/>

