

Bourn Parish Council Newsletter

December 2014

Welcome to our new-look quarterly newsletter. In this issue we have information and updates on:

- The Highways Working Group
- Bourn Parish Council website
- Flood reduction measures at Caxton End and Alms Hill
- Bourn Free Project Update
- Details of Parish Council meetings
- Bourn Airfield Development
- Ways to keep your home secure this Christmas
- Updates from the Parish Clerk



Highways Working Group

The interactive sign is now in place, and new 30mph bin stickers have been delivered to all of the houses on the Broadway. The PC has more stickers on order and they will be delivered to the houses on Alms Hill in the very near future. There is still a small amount of relining work to be done, i.e. the “slow” on the bad bend near Chapmans Farm, and the “give way” marking at the junction of Caxton Road and Alms Hill, which the County Council (CC) have in hand and are hoping to complete very soon.

If you have not yet removed the old 40mph stickers from your bins the PC would be very grateful if you could do so ASAP to avoid any confusion as to the speed limit along Alms Hill between The Drift and Caxton Road.

Several villagers who live on Caxton End have complained to the PC about cars going at excessive speeds, despite it having a 30mph limit! There was a very near miss involving a young child recently, so please, slow down and take care. Remember that a large portion of Caxton End does not have a pavement, so there are often pedestrians walking in the middle of what is a very narrow road.

A member of the Highway’s Working Group met with a representative of the CC recently to discuss the siting of the interactive sign which is to be placed near the High Street, and other associated re-lining work. The PC is awaiting a potential commencement and estimated completion date for this.

The PC has applied for another Small Highways Improvement grant to widen, resurface and improve the footway/pavement which runs up the hill from Manor Farm to the War Memorial. A member of the working group attended the panel meeting to discuss this at the end of October, at which the petition with 150 signatures and also two letters of support for the grant application were given to the panel. Many thanks to all who signed the petition. Further information, which had been requested by the panel, along with photographic evidence was delivered to the CC subsequently.

A further discussion has taken place between Bourn PC and Cambourne PC regarding the proposed bus link and possible joint ownership of a “ransom strip” of land onto the Broadway. The Cambourne developers are very reluctant to completely relinquish ownership as they feel they would then have no influence or say in any future developments if the Bourn Airfield Development went ahead. A meeting is now to be arranged between both PCs and the developers to discuss a possible three way ownership.

Bourn Parish Council Website

The website continues to expand its content but could do so much more. Have you looked at it lately? We hope that you find it useful. Is there anything else you would like to see?

Whatever is happening in the village, why not publicise it? Don't forget that websites are often looked at, not just by local people, but by others all over the world. Who knows what response you might get. But, please remember, if you don't tell us – we can't tell everyone else.

There is also a blog on the website on which you can have your say about anything that you want to discuss, or just to let off steam.



Get in touch

Website: www.bourn.org.uk

If you would like the newsletter emailed to you please contact Cllr Jaggers.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the **third Wednesday of each month** (except August and December) at **7.30pm in the Village Hall**. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting and the first ten minutes or so are open to residents to ask questions or make comments and observations on Bourn matters or on items on the agenda. If the matter is on the agenda or has already been under discussion a response may be given at the meeting, otherwise the matter may be tabled for fuller discussion at the next or a future meeting. If you want to raise a matter with the Council please write to or email the Parish Clerk.

Flood Reduction Measures at Caxton End and Alms Hill

Together with Cambridgeshire County Council, the Parish Council has brought about two major improvements to reduce flooding in the village. Along Caxton End the road has been raised 500mm along a 225m section. A new drainage network was also installed to drain surface water into Bourn Brook. This work was carried out because the residents of Caxton End were often being cut off for several days more than once a year due to flooding along that section of the road. On Alms Hill, a broken section of drainage pipe was rerouted and the drains realigned down Alms Hill to reduce the amount of flooding occurring at the bottom of the hill. Bourn Parish Council is grateful to Sharon Maloney and Karen Lunn at Cambridgeshire County Council for leading the projects.

Bourn Free Project Update

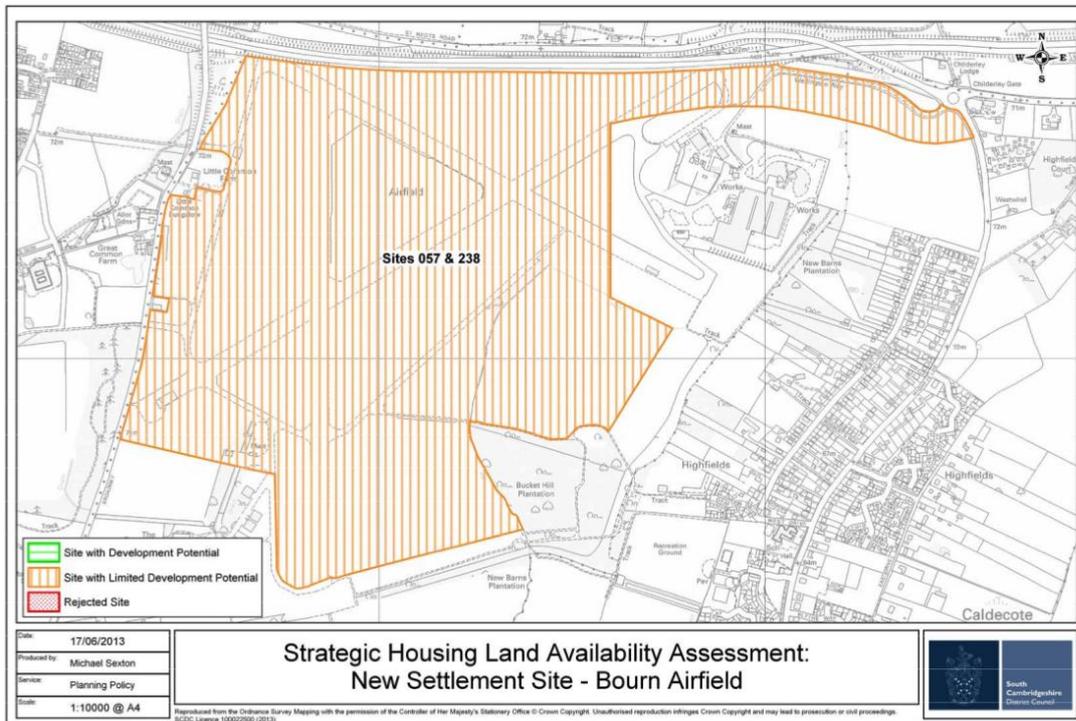
The Bourn Free Project is currently led by the Wildlife Trust and the Countryside Restoration Trust. It aims to control non-native species on the Bourn Brook, and also to improve habitat and water quality and to look at opportunities to accommodate flood flows. In 2011 we received funding for 3 years from Defra to control the invasive plants Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed. Although the funding has come to an end, the project aims to continue the work and we hope for the continued assistance of the Environment Agency. Bourn Free's current newsletter is available from the website www.bourn.org.uk

The Local Plan and Proposed Bourn Airfield Development

During the course of November the general sessions of the Examination in Public were held in Cambourne. Cambridge City and South Cambridge District Councils' Local Plans came under the scrutiny of the government appointed inspector, Laura Graham.

These session were broken down into five separate 'Issues and Matters' roughly covering the legal process, the overall spatial vision, the housing need, employment requirements and infrastructure. Bourn Parish Council was represented at several of these early sessions and Bourn Parish Councillors, Sarah Jagers, Steve Jones and Des O'Brien were able to question the Council and make their case to the Inspector. No decision will be reached at these early fact finding sessions and all decisions on the legality and quality of the Local Plans will have to wait until the after the second round of 'site specific' sessions next year. What was abundantly clear during these early sessions is that both Local Plans are far from perfect and objectors made a number of strong arguments as to why the Local Plans need more work to ensure their soundness - including covering why Bourn Airfield was originally considered a site of Limited Development Potential during the public consultations (surely a clear misrepresentation of the District Council's intentions!)

Rest assured that Bourn Parish Council will be strongly represented at the site specific sessions next year.



12 Tips to Keep your Home Secure this Christmas

Shops sell more high-value items in the run up to Christmas than at any other time of year. In addition, we often leave our homes unattended while we celebrate with friends and family.

Here are twelve tips to help keep your home safe this Christmas:

Deterring would-be criminals is one of the most effective forms of crime prevention

1. **Invest in good exterior lighting** - this makes it harder for criminals to reach your home without being seen. Motion sensor flood-lights can help make the approach to your home too conspicuous for a burglar. Outdoor Christmas lights can also help, but take care not to feed extension cables through partially open windows (criminals know to look for this). Instead, use an outside socket, or solar or battery operated lights
2. **Security mark your possessions** – burglars find it hard to sell on items that are security marked and being found with marked possessions links them to the crime scene. Therefore, security marking your possessions can significantly reduce your risk of burglary. It is important to highlight that your possessions are security marked using small signs on the outside of your property, or window stickers. Security marking kits are available from many companies, including ImmoBiMARK, and SmartWater.
3. **Keep accessible windows locked** - government statistics show that 30% of burglaries happen through windows. Check for weak spots (such as weak hinges) and lock your windows if possible.
4. **Burglars are opportunistic, therefore don't leave out equipment that will help them to enter your home** – garden tools and ladders can be used by burglars to gain entry to your home. Don't leave these lying around or accessible from an unlocked garden shed, and make sure your garage is secure.
5. **Don't hide spare keys outside** – burglars know all the places to look for hidden door keys, so don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, above door ledges, under the mat... instead give a spare key to someone your trust.
6. **Don't leave spare keys accessible inside** – don't leave spare door keys accessible through a letterbox, and don't give burglars an easy route out with spare keys left where they can find them.
7. **Burglars will rarely choose to enter an occupied home** - Don't share your schedule with burglars by hanging your calendar next to a window. Also, don't publish your holiday plans on social media sites as these sites can also be used for scouting potential targets.
8. **If you're going away for Christmas, plan ahead** - make use of light timers, and do not leave descriptive telephone answering machine messages. Remember to cancel regular deliveries of milk or newspapers.

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12 Tips to Keep your Home Secure this Christmas/Cont'd

Be careful not to advertise your goods to burglars:

9. **Dispose of gift packaging carefully** – if you can, take packaging to a recycling point. Otherwise, make sure you only put your rubbish out just before it is due to be collected, and do your best to break apart boxes so that they do not advertise the contents of your home to thieves!
10. **Keep valuable items out of sight** – do not leave expensive portable items out on show, and keep your curtains and blinds closed at night.

Keep a list of all your valuables:

11. Keep a list of all your valuables for use in the event of an insurance claim. Photographing items is also useful. Most consumer electricals have a unique identification code such as a serial number or for mobile phones an IMEI number - This IMEI number can be found quickly and easily by pressing the following keys on your mobile handset: * # 0 6 #.
12. You can create a free, private, and secure inventory of your valuables on the Immobilise website (www.immobilise.com). This database meets police approved standards, and is one of the databases that police routinely check when recovering stolen goods.

We hope these home security tips will help you keep your home safe this Christmas. On behalf of everyone on the Bourn Parish Council, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Updates from the Parish Clerk

Parish Council Annual Audit

The external audit of the Parish Council's accounts was concluded by Littlejohn of London, who found everything to be in order.

Do you have a Village Project in Need of Funding?

Each year the Parish Council tries to allocate a small pot of money (known as 'S137 donations') to help village groups and organisations with any projects that benefit people in the village.

If your group or organisation is interested in applying for a grant please contact the Clerk for an application form. All applications must be received by the end of December so that the Parish Council may consider them at its January meeting. Successful applicants will be notified after 1st April 2015.

Bourn Parish Councillors and Contact Details

Name	Address	Tel. No (01954)	Email
Neil Blair (Chairman)	19 Church Street	719794	neil@blairfamily.me.uk
Vivien Bruce (Vice-Chair)	16 Kingfisher Close	718221	viv.bruce@btinternet.com
Stephanie Aldridge	49 Caxton End	269885	aldridge423@btinternet.com
Sarah Jagers	32 Caxton End	718037	sarah.jagers@btinternet.com
Steve Jones	Rosemary & Lavender Cottage, Caxton Road	719329	steve.jonessja@aol.com
Des O'Brien	Vine Cottage, Fox Road	718115	des@amethyst-tv.com
Les Rolfe	57 Hall Close	718150	les.rolfe@hotmail.co.uk

VACANCY: There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk (details below) for an application form or more information. Alternatively an application form can be downloaded from the Parish Council's section of the village website - www.bourn.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Mrs Gail Stoehr, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambs. CB23 7NY.

Telephone: 01954 210241 Email: bournpc@lgs-services.co.uk

Newsletters will now be available from the website - www.bourn.org.uk and in printed copies at the village hall notice board, the doctors' surgery and Knibbs the butchers'. They will no longer be delivered door-to-door. If you have a neighbour who will be unable to access a newsletter by any of these means please contact Cllr Jagers and we'll arrange to have a copy delivered.

**If you require this newsletter in large print please
contact Cllr Jagers on 01954 718037**