

Bourn Parish Council Newsletter

March 2015

Welcome to our March newsletter. In this issue we have information and updates on:

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- Bourn Parish Council Budget
- Details of Parish Council meetings
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The Local Plan and Proposed Bourn Airfield Development

Bourn Parish Council opposes the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, which would build over 3,000 houses on Bourn Airfield. We have brought together a coalition of 14 parish councils, opposed to unsustainable housing development in the A428 corridor.

A Planning Inspector, Ms Laura Graham, from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol, is currently conducting an Examination in Public of the local plan. We submitted an initial objection in mid-2014 and were invited to speak at the hearings on general issues last Autumn. In February, we took part in the hearing on transport issues and will participate in the site-specific hearings on the Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne plans after Easter.

For the hearing in February, we submitted a statement on transport issues, which can be downloaded from the Parish Council website. If you don't have access to the internet, please contact our Parish Clerk on 01954 210241 and we will send you a copy.

In the statement, we argued that:

- most of the employment growth over the next 20 years is expected to occur south of Cambridge at the biomedical medical park and other research parks. Some growth is also forecast north of the city, but there will be almost no new jobs created in the A428 corridor, west of Cambridge. Why build over 6,000 new houses at Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne, where people will have to commute 25-30 miles a day, to and from work? Homes should be build close to jobs so that people can walk or cycle to work or use public transport.
- Currently it is only possible to drive from Cambourne/Bourn Airfield to the employment centres south of the city by driving through the villages. This is because there is no right turn from the A428 onto the M11 and – as anyone who has tried knows – Madingley Hill (the A1303) is gridlocked in the morning rush hours. Over 2,500 cars leave Cambourne on weekdays between 7am and 9 am. If the Bourn Airfield and West Cambourne schemes go ahead this will jump to approximately 6,500 cars. Add to this the large increase in traffic from St Neots and villages like Bourn will have intolerable increases in through traffic.

One of the guiding principles of the Local Plan is that it should encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel – walking, cycling and public transport.

The hearing on transport issues went well, with the Cambridge News reporting that planners were given a 'torrid time'. I think we and others speaking at the hearing demonstrated to the Inspector that the Local Plan is fundamentally flawed. We'll try and do the same when we speak at the hearing on Bourn Airfield in a couple of months' time.

Website

Bourn Through the Years... We are hoping to put together a new page on the website featuring images of the village and village events from yesteryear. We would need to be able to verify the dates to see how many years back we can go. Theoretically it should be possible to go back to the late 1800s and would create a great archive record.

If you have any images you'd like to contribute please contact Cllr Rolfe who can scan old photographs or accept digital files.

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.

Parish Council Budget

The Parish Council's approved budget for 2015-16 can now be viewed on our [website](#). The parish council precept has seen a small increase - just an extra £76 divided amongst all the properties in the parish - less than one penny per week each. As a parish council, we have no control over what the district and council councils decide on for their requirements but we have kept our increase as low as possible.

Mobile Library

There have been concerns raised by one or two residents that the mobile library service is being cut. We are assured by our District Councillor Mervyn Loynes that this is not the case - the mobile library service is not being cut.

Update from the Parish Clerk

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.



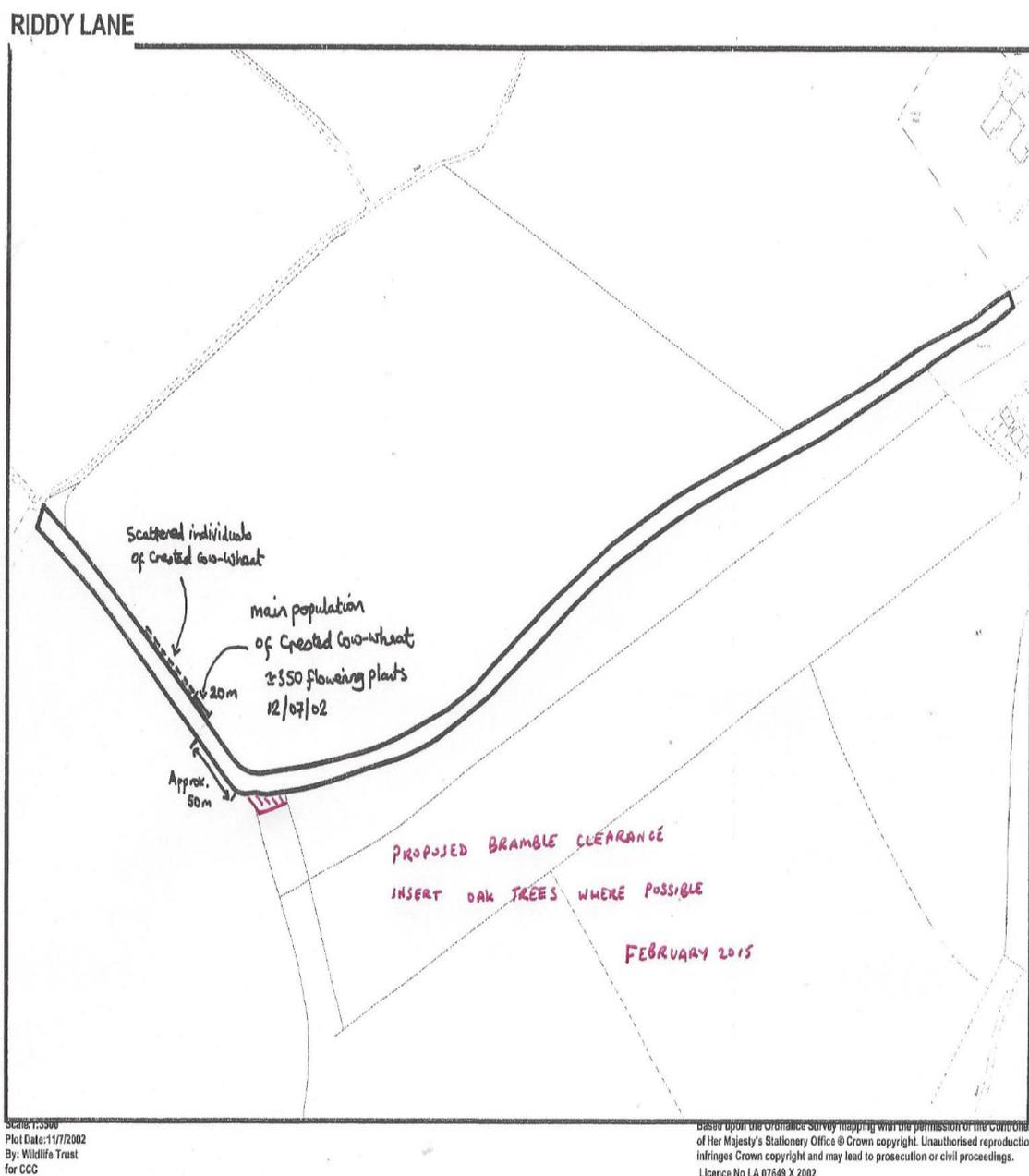
County Wildlife Site - Riddy Lane

The following management work has been discussed and agreed with The Wildlife Trust to ensure the continuity of the County Wildlife Site hedge in the long term:

- Removing the area of bramble near the bend.
- Retaining and coppicing the trees within this area where possible.
- Replanting with native species (including home grown oak trees).

The work may also help to increase habitat available for the nationally scarce plant crested cow-wheat, as the dense bramble area will be too shady for this plant, but it is present in the more open edge of the hedge nearby.

The map below shows in red, the small area, currently composed of brambles, which are to be cleared. The work will not include the felling of any live trees.



Notice of Road Closure

Please be aware that Bourn Road, Caxton will be closed to traffic for one day between approximately 8am and 4pm on Friday 20th March. This is to allow carriageway patching works to take place, in advance of surface dressing later this year. Access will be permitted to properties and businesses within the closure when it is considered safe to do so, and residents are asked not to park on the road. Please liaise with the contractor, Cambridgeshire Highways, onsite for directions and advice; and kindly follow any instructions provided.

The signed diversion route for through traffic will be – C178 Alms Hill, Bourn / C178 High Street, Bourn / C178 Gills Hill / C178 Fox Road / B1046 Fox Road, Bourn / A1198 Old North Road, Bourn / A1198 Royston Road, Caxton / Royston Road, Caxton

Whilst the contractor will try to keep delays to a minimum we are advised that delays are to be expected and extra time should be allowed for journeys. If you require any further information, please email Martin Gowler at cst@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Highways Working Group

The Parish Council's Highways Working Group is pleased to announce that the application we made to the County Council last October for a Small Highways Improvement Grant to carry out desperately needed work on the Chapel Hill pavement, has been successful. We would like to thank all of you who signed the petition supporting this application.

This grant will be used to widen, improve and repair the pavement. The parish council has requested that all of the brambles and bushes are cut right back to the original hedge line, the bank is cut back to increase the width of the pavement with a retaining structure being put into place to prevent the bank re-encroaching back onto the pavement, and the actual pavement is resurfaced. We are also hoping that there may be enough funds to extend and/or improve the railings.

The County Council will be in touch with the Highways Working Group representative sometime in April to look at the project in detail, and will then give an indication of when the work is likely to be carried out. We will keep you updated on developments.

Interactive signs

We have received a few reports that the Broadway interactive speed sign was not working. This has been looked into and the problem appeared to be with the solar unit which powers the battery. The unit has been replaced with another type which should prevent the problem recurring.

Another interactive sign will be placed in the Gills Hill/High Street area as you enter the village from the B1046. This has been ordered and should be in place soon.

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

Distribution

Newsletters are available from the website - www.bourn.org.uk and in printed copies at the village hall notice board, the local shop, the doctors' surgery and Knibbs the butchers'. They are no longer delivered door-to-door. If you have a neighbour who is 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