

Bourn Parish Council Newsletter

January 2017

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

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NHS Fit for the Future - Consultation

Healthwatch England wants to make sure that local people are involved in how the NHS 'Fit for the Future' plan is developed and achieved. It is vital that people have the chance to directly discuss and shape proposals. To see the full newsletter go to <http://bit.ly/2ibvqUt>

Parish Council - New Developments

Broadway Open Space: We are pleased to advise that the play space has now been prepared for use and seeded. It will now need the winter months to settle and we will be arranging the first grass cut in the spring of 2017.

Yellow Lining: The PC is introducing double yellow lines on selected roads close to Bourn school to help ease the parking and congestion problems around school drop off and pick up times.

Traffic Calming: New 20 MPH speed limits are being introduced on roads in the centre of the village. The PC will continue to look into further measures in 2017.

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.

Items for the Parish Council's consideration must be sent to the Parish Clerk seven clear days before the meeting.



Parish Councillor Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for parish councillors and would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining us.

What is a Parish Council?

A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish. It is the level of government closest to the community, with the district authority (South Cambridgeshire District Council) above it in the hierarchy.

As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason parish councils are a vital part of any community.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support. As a parish councillor you have the opportunity to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities. Parish councils have the ability to negotiate with the power to influence bigger, decision making organisations, such as the district council.

In this respect parish councils can be powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council provides the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

How much time does it take up?

We meet once a month for the council meeting, to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings generally last about two hours, depending on the agenda set for the meeting to discuss. In addition, you may represent the parish council on specific areas of interest such as highways, transport, planning, etc. These don't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

How long does a parish councillor serve for?

Once in post, parish councillors serve for a maximum term of four years. If they then want to stay longer they can stand for re-election.

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

To stand for election on a parish council, you must:

- be a UK or commonwealth citizen, or;
- be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, or;
- be a citizen of another Member state of the European Union
- be a least 18 years old.

Parish Councillor Vacancies/Contd.

To be eligible to stand for election, you must:

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

You don't have to be connected to a political party.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct.

What powers do parish councils have? They have a wide range of powers which are essentially related to local matters, such as looking after community buildings, open space, allotments, play areas, street lighting, bus shelters and much more. The council also has the power to raise money through taxation - the 'precept'. The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, South Cambs District Council, which collects the tax for the parish council.

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to a parish council meeting, or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job. To download an application form go to the parish council's section of the village website - www.bourn.org.uk

Proposed Bus Link between Cambourne and the Broadway

The parish council has received notice of outline planning permission for a bus link between Stirling Way in Cambourne with the Broadway. We have made comments and representations on the application to South Cambs District Council in order to provide future safeguards for the village from vehicle traffic other than public buses.

Bourn Airfield - Local Plan Update

At the end of November 2016 South Cambs District Council submitted further proposed modifications to the Inspectors to extend the boundary of the major development site at Bourn Airfield. For details see the website <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/localplanmods-nov2016>

The Examination in Public (EIP) resumed in December 2016 and will run into January, February and March before the site-specific sessions are held.

For further details of the EIP schedule see here: <http://www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination>

West Cambourne Development - Update

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Planning Committee approved an application from MCA, the developers at Cambourne, for 2,350 houses at West Cambourne. Work on the site will begin once the 950 houses at Upper Cambourne are built. It is expected that they will complete about 150 houses a year.



Village Litter Pick

Saturday 4th March 2017

**Meet 9:30am at the Pavilion
Jubilee Playing Fields**

Help clear the verges in and around the village
It makes a big difference!
Please bring protective (gardening) gloves and
a bin bag or two



County Council Update - Overnight Street Lighting

Following the decision taken by Cambridgeshire County Council Full Council on Tuesday 13 of December to overturn the policy to switch off street lighting across the County between 2am and 6am and dim by 60% at all other times, we can now confirm all the changes have been made by Balfour Beatty and the former settings of the 33,500 CCC lights affected have been restored. All areas impacted across the County are now being lit throughout the night and with a brighter light output. We thank all parish and town councils for their cooperation throughout these last eight months..

Bourn Parish Councillors and Contact Details

Neil Blair (Chairman) 19 Church Street
t: 719794 e: neil@blairfamily.me.uk

Vivien Bruce (Vice-Chair) 16 Kingfisher Close
t: 718221 e: viv.bruce@btinternet.com

Sarah Jagers 32 Caxton End
t: 718037 e: sarah.jagers2@gmail.com

Steve Jones Rosemary & Lavender Cottage, Caxton Road
t: 719329 e: stevejonesja@aol.com

Des O'Brien Vine Cottage, Fox Road
t: 718115 e: des@amethyst-tv.com

Les Rolfe 57 Hall Close
t: 718150 e: les.rolfe@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Clerk

Mrs Gail Stoehr, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambs. CB23 7NY
t: 01954 210241 e: bournpc@lgs-services.co.uk

Newsletter Distribution

Newsletters are available from the website - <http://www.bourn.org.uk> and in printed copies at the village hall notice board, the local shop, the doctors' surgery and Knibbs the butchers. If you would like to have a copy emailed to you please email sarah.jaggers2@gmail.com. If you have a neighbour who is unable to access a newsletter by any of these means please contact Cllr Jaggers and we'll arrange to have a copy delivered.

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