

Parish News Summary ...the last 4 years

The PC has a responsibility to represent the best interests of the local community and to ensure that its workings and decision making processes are transparent and readily available to the community for scrutiny. We thank those who have taken the time to attend the monthly PC meetings or who have contributed to the PC via other means.

The current PC is reaching the end of its term (four new members will take over the baton and move on with fresh eyes and vigour) so this might be a good time to summarise what has happened over the last four years and what is still outstanding.

| | |
|--|--|
| Land South of Hilarion | After many years and much expenditure by RBWM, the Travellers Site was peacefully vacated. There are still some issues with the height of the land, hidden debris and flooding consequences for neighbours. There are also welfare concerns for the ponies that are grazing on the land. |
| Neighbourhood Plan | The PC had made a full contribution to this project over many years. |
| Local Plan | Adopted |
| Nut Lane | Carriage gap posts were installed to prevent drive through fly-tipping |
| Downfield Tip | Another longstanding issue that finally came to an end. |
| Planning Ditches, Drainage and Flooding | <p>The PC reviewed and commented on over 300 planning applications.</p> <p>The Broadmoor Rd Twyford Rd culvert was completed. The PC has worked hard (and spent money) ensuring that at least the main arterial ditches are clear and running. We have tried to track down and ensure that local landowners are aware that they are responsible for the free flow of ditches on their land.</p> <p>Localised flooding has been less of an issue recently – possibly more by luck than design. The PC managed to get some manhole covers sealed to reduce flooding of raw sewage. However surface water runoff still has a detrimental effect on the sewage system. The PC has worked hard to liaise between the EA and Thames Water on this problem and the matter is still ongoing.</p> |
| New homes at Ruscombe | <p>The Wokingham Master plan highlighted Ruscombe and Twyford as one of the potential areas for a large development of new homes. The PC joined forces with other objectors in the Campaign to Protect Rural Wokingham giving moral and financial support.</p> <p>It is expected that the final decision on the exact numbers and locations of new homes is still probably a year or so away.</p> |
| The Pound | The Pound fencing was completely replaced with some beautiful oak bespoke fencing. |
| Benches | A new oak bench was commissioned and installed on the Neville Close Triangle in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. |

| | |
|---|--|
| War Memorial | The War Memorial has been kept in good repair and regularly cleaned. In addition the turf around it has been replaced |
| Burial Ground | The Burial Ground has been cared for and there is an ongoing maintenance programme. The rose garden is currently being refreshed. Care has been taken to ensure that the top soil, which may contain ashes of loved ones, is retained. All Burial Ground records are well organised and up to date. |
| Transparency Code and GDPR | The PC has implemented the Transparency Code for Smaller Councils and GDPR legislation. |
| Speeding | <p>New gateway signage and dragon's teeth road markings were installed at Milley Bridge in an attempt to affect the speed of motorists entering the village.</p> <p>Slow down in our village stickers for our dustbins were obtained and circulated to residents on the main routes through the village.</p> <p>The PC organised several speedwatches.</p> <p>There are plans in the pipeline for new speed limits through some parts of the village but speeding (and enforcement) will still be an ongoing issue to resolve further.</p> |
| Brook Lane Passing Places | Passing places were installed on Brook Lane. However Brook Lane remains in need of further resurfacing and tidying up of the passing places. |
| Defibrillators and Telephone Boxes | <p>A defibrillator was installed in the phone box on The Street WSL. Another defibrillator has been installed at The Shurlock in Shurlock Row.</p> <p>The PC has purchased the phone box on Milley Rd by the playing field and is currently open to suggestions for its use.</p> |
| Village Shed | A new storage shed has been erected at the Cricket Ground. |
| Bulbs | Circa 800 daffodil bulbs have been planted around the village. |
| General Maintenance | The PC has ensured that our green spaces remain green and tidy and that our dog poo bins are emptied. |
| In the Pipeline | <p>The Shurlock Rd Nature Reserve will be completed soon – hopefully by the summer.</p> <p>Halls Lane signage to alert HGVs that their Satnav directions are faulty.</p> <p>Sharp bend warnings at Callin's bridge.</p> <p>New speed limits.</p> |
| Other Ongoing Issues | <p>Potholes. Fly tipping. Parking around the school - at pick up time especially.</p> <p>Litter. Lack of high-speed broadband throughout the parish. Lack of a safe walkway from Milley Bridge to Shurlock Row and along Broadmoor Rd.</p> <p>Bellmans Hangar and Shurlock Garage developments. Heathrow expansion.</p> <p>Affordable housing opportunities. Communication.</p> |

