

# Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

*Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 29 - November 2016*

## **Chairman's introduction**

It is a real pleasure to start with a good news story. As the sharp-eyed among you will have noticed, after years and years of fundraising, false dawns and dashed hopes construction of the new community pavilion on the Recreation Ground is finally underway. It is expected the main construction work will take until the early spring, and there will be some internal works to be completed under the leadership of the Recreation Ground Committee. The building should be fully operational in time for the cricket season. It's more, though, than just a cricket pavilion. There is a community room and kitchen so it will make an excellent venue for private parties (especially for children with easy access to the play area) and other meetings where village capacity is extremely limited.

It's also good news that volunteers have come forward to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan. There is now a section on the web site devoted to the Plan which includes agendas and minutes plus a documents section so you can easily keep up to date with progress. The middle pages of this edition give edited highlights of the Consultation Day held on 8<sup>th</sup> October – over 70 people attended. See the web site for a full summary. A questionnaire accompanies this edition - **PLEASE** take the time to **COMPLETE AND RETURN IT**. You might get a knock on the door from a Committee member collecting in person! Communities without Neighbourhood Plans will be more vulnerable to developer led development; having our own Plan will give us much more control over our future.

We all appreciate living in such a lovely place as Hazelbury Bryan but sometimes the beauty can be blighted by litter. A formal litter pick by residents might be in order but how about we all commit to another "five-a-day" initiative – if you're out for a stroll how about picking up five items of litter – hopefully not another rubbish idea!

Finally, it's a little early but I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on behalf of the Parish Council

**Steve Murcer, Chairman, Hazelbury Bryan Parish Council**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN by WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER THE QUESTIONNAIRE DELIVERED WITH THIS EDITION OF BRYAN BYTES**

**Consultation Event – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October:** Summary of feedback

**Attendance:** Based on the names recorded on the list provided and the entries to the prize draw (6 bottles of wine from the village store won by Ruth Powell of Wonston), some 73 households were represented, plus certain committee members (5) and the HBPC Chairman – a total 79 or approximately 16% of the village. A very good turnout and mostly very supportive (four volunteering to assist). Tea, coffee and cake went down very well. It is hoped that most left with a better idea of what the Plan is looking to achieve.

### **What do you most like about Hazelbury Bryan?**

Unsurprisingly, the friendliness and community spirit of the Village received most mentions (26), followed closely by the attractiveness of the area (21), the peace and quiet (18), interestingly the lack of light pollution (16) and the “good” shop (15). Others in descending order: The Antelope, the school, good walks, local diversity, wildlife, allotments, village hall, Alec’s field & play area, with individual mentions of being off the beaten track, the churches and a sense of security.

### **What do you like least about Hazelbury Bryan?**

Again of no surprise, most comment surrounded transport, with top of the list speeding vehicles (of all sizes) (23), lack of public transport (17), the need for safe paths & links within the village (13), too many large vehicles (10) and the poor state of surrounding roads (6). Other dislikes to receive mention were lack of mobile signal (3), the solar farms and panels on character houses, hedges not being cut back, bins as an eyesore, too quiet at night and the pub – these last two being very much outvoted by the likes!

**The Village needs:-** a heart/hub perhaps with services being concentrated into one area; a doctor’s surgery; more affordable housing (2); to maintain the green “gaps”; no more housing estates; and HB to be considered a village not as individual hamlets. Amongst other requests: very bright commercial lights to be turned off at least for part of the night; some sites to be tidied up; and that the roads be kept narrow to stop further development !

### **Should we protect our open spaces? If so which ones and why?**

Again largely in favour, but the prospective areas singled out were fairly diverse. Top came the spaces between hamlets/no infilling (12), followed by green areas generally (to prevent over development) and agricultural land. It was suggested that nothing should be allowed beyond existing boundaries, brownfield sites should be considered first (4), only small developments should be

allowed (but size not specified) and that all new builds should be in a form sympathetic to the Village. Some responses suggested that it would not be practical to protect the open spaces given the current infrastructure (3). Requests that it be kept a “village”(2) and one to relocate the Village Hall to Alec’s Field.

### **Where should further houses be built? How many? What kind of houses?**

The primary question from the Plan’s point of view brought about a wide variety of comment, generally covering all three aspects at once – how many, where and what.

There were only a few direct answers to how many, ranging from 200 “affordable, green, in Kingston” (presumably over the next 15 years), 10 a year (2), 5 a year and “as few as possible” (4).

As to where, a range of views: Brownfield sites (8), infill (8), a new hamlet to be created, the Village boundary to be extended by 400yds all round, and “in Sturminster”!

Certain factors received broad support and perhaps the most widely held view was that future developments should be small in size (17), not estates (8) and built in sympathy to surroundings (8). Affordability was a major concern with regard to houses for both the younger (15) and the elderly (8). In similar vein there were further votes for houses suitable for young families (4) and the elderly (2), tied in with the need for a range of sizes and costs (8). In addition there was strong support for ecologically designed and built properties (8) and self- build plots (4). Whilst there were calls for further social housing (3) there were those against(2). Other suggestions included retirement apartments and co-housing for single people.

Widely commented (11) was that improvements to the infrastructure should be achieved before any substantial increase in property numbers, with additional mentions of requirements such as new or larger school (3) and a doctor’s surgery(3). Concern was noted that a retirement village might be created to the cost of the school and “where will newcomers find employment”?

**Conclusion:** The wide diversity of views will make the formation of a generally acceptable plan no easy task. The final Plan must achieve a majority acceptance in a Village referendum, as well as falling in line with the broader requirements of the District Planning Policy.

What is clear is that communities without a Neighbourhood Plan will be at a significant disadvantage when it comes to deciding where and how many new houses will be built. To create a robust, viable Plan **WE MUST HAVE FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE FOR THE EXAMINER THAT THE PLAN REFLECTS THE WISHES OF OUR COMMUNITY.**  
**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE DELIVERED WITH THIS EDITION – BY WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

## Neighbourhood Plan – who is involved?

We've been fortunate to have two volunteers to be co-chairs of the group – Ian Stevenson and Val Rubie. After a fairly slow start volunteers having been coming forward to offer help, enthusiasm and practical support. We now have a decent size cadre of people to move things forward. Contact details of all on the Committee are available on the parish council web site – from the home page follow through to the documents section.

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