

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT
TO HAZELBURY BRYAN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY, 2013

During the past year I have continued to work closely with your Chairman and Parish Clerk to improve the working relationship between Hazelbury Bryan and North Dorset District Council.

- Perhaps the most important issue which is still open for discussion is that of Neighbourhood Planning. The question is whether Hazelbury Bryan should produce a Neighbourhood Plan, either on its own or in partnership with all or some of the other Lydden Vale Parishes, or whether Hazelbury's needs will be sufficiently catered for by the Countryside Policy in the NDDC local plan. A further meeting of the Lydden Vale Chairmen with the NDDC Planning Policy Officer is to be held shortly to explore the issues further.
- Of probably greater immediate importance to the parish is the proposal that a footpath be built down the Causeway for the safety of walkers between The Antelope and The Red Barn. We now have an agreement from Woodhouse Brewery to put the proposal before their Board - what we need are the relevant technical details in order to submit the plan. There is no guarantee that this path will go ahead but I am sure your Chairman will give it his best try and the brewery have given us some cause for optimism.
- The gypsy and traveller sites consultation continues to drag on, with further consultations likely this year and no final result now expected until 2015. There is nothing any of us can do to expedite the process. My own view continues to be that we already have four settled gypsy families either within or on the edges of the village and to approve two more sites for "travellers" would be unnecessary and excessive. Even if sites were approved they would require "travellers" to have the funds to buy them, if the owners were willing to sell, and would still require planning permission.
- The Consultation did give rise to two residents groups getting together, in Kingston and Droop and those continue to provide a useful electronic means of communicating between small, hamlet-based groups of local residents, under the Hazelbury Bryan parish umbrella.
- During the year we have discussed whether police Neighbourhood Watch Groups should be set up in the village. The police would like very small neighbourhood groups to function as watch groups, whilst also linking into the Ringmaster system.
- A further proposal from the police, which we will explore within the Blackmore Vale Division within the coming months, is for a Community Speed Watch scheme to be established, to address residents concerns about speeding vehicles in our rural communities. The proposal, which is in draft at present, is that volunteers should be recruited and trained to operate a simple speed camera which the police would provide. Volunteers would feed information obtained to the police, who would then follow up anyone caught speeding twice, to informally warn them. Parishes have also been discussing buying a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which could be shared between them to increase the numbers of SIDs available. However this proposal would be £3,000 against nothing for the Speed Watch Scheme which would be funded by the county neighbourhood watch organisation.

- I have been, and continue to be, involved with various planning issues in the parish which cause concern and distress for the individuals involved. Sadly these often lead to bad feeling between neighbours in our small community.
- I have held a surgery in Hazelbury on each third Saturday in the month, with some exceptions due to visits to South Sudan. Although I rarely receive visitors I regard it as important that I am available to the public in the village on a "drop in" basis. However most people prefer to make contact by phone or e.mail which is fine by me. I have a Facebook page as Councillor Pauline Batstone, and also a webpage on Yourcouncillor.com which both have the same information, and which I use as a noticeboard for snippets of information which may be of interest to residents. These feed through to Twitter to alert anyone interested when I have added new information.

Finally, I would like to thank the Councillors and Parish Clerks of Hazelbury Bryan for their friendship and support during the past year. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the parish as both District and now County Councillor in the coming years.

Pauline Batstone,
North Dorset District Councillor for the Lydden Vale Ward.