

# Hazelbury Bryan Bytes

*Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 27 - April 2016*

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**Chairman's introduction:** We live in a world where everyone seems to be short of time. What with working, grandparenting, e-mailing, twittering, facebooking, spottifying, instagraming when does anyone have the time to do anything else? Well, the maxim "if you want to get something done, ask a busy person" still holds good so despite the diversions on offer, we have some welcome volunteers to help develop a Neighbourhood Plan – many thanks to them and read more below. We can also thank the stalwarts of the Alec's Field/Playing Field/ Recreation Ground committee(s) – various iterations, various names but all with the same intention of making the best of this facility. Again, read on further to see the potentially exciting news about the new community building. These two issues have the potential to absorb a lot of different people's time -but the effort is worth it to enhance the community in which we all live and provide a legacy for those to come. Feel free to get involved!

**Steve Murcer**

**Chairman**

**Neighbourhood Plan – survey results and future actions:**

Over Christmas and New Year we hand delivered a Neighbourhood Plan newsletter and questionnaire to every home in the community. We hoped to explain the Plan and its role in the planning process and how the future of our village might be shaped over the coming years. The opportunity was there to respond by e-mail, on-line, by post or hand delivery to the village hall so it is fair to say we were disappointed with the low level of responses. We delivered just over 500 copies but only had 29 replies (cont)

### **Neighbourhood Plan (cont)**

Of those who responded, 21 were in favour of developing a Plan, 8 were against. In terms of willingness to get involved 10 people said they would be prepared to get involved in some shape or form. The parish council felt it was worth supporting those who volunteered and so is organising a meeting to see how best to move this forward. The meeting is planned for MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL. In attendance will be Fred Horsington , one of Dorset's "Neighbourhood Plan champions" and Jo Witherden, a local planning consultant specialising in Neighbourhood Plans Jo has worked, and is working, on a number in Dorset – Cerne Abbas (Dorset's first), Shillingstone, Iwerne Minster and Sturminster Newton to name a few. We hope that a representative from North Dorset District Council might be able to come if their time constraints allow. Fred and Jo will describe the journey and work involved in producing a Plan, the things that can be considered, procedures to follow etc. The meeting is open to all, especially those who have indicated they would like to be involved. Come along and listen – maybe you'll be persuaded on the merits and feel you'd like to make a contribution to developing the Plan!

### **Recreation Ground pavilion:**

Plans for redeveloping the pavilion on Alec's Field have been in train for many, many years and the enthusiasm and commitment of those involved in the project is to be admired. The current plans allow for two main changing rooms, toilets (including disabled), kitchen and community room. This allows for use by sports teams but also gives another very useful community facility which will be available for children's parties and other suitable events. Over the years the Recreation Ground Committee has had an arms-length relationship with the Parish Council but given that construction of the new building is tantalisingly close we have formalised the relationship with new terms of reference bringing the Committee formally under the ownership of the parish council. The project has benefited from generous donations from the Trustees of the Wonston Club and coupled with the funds raised by the Committee over the years there is now a significant pot of money. It is important that before, starting, checks are made to ensure the project delivers (cont)

the expected building on budget and on time. Discussions have taken place with a building design specialist who has provided very useful guidance, at no cost, as to the way to proceed. There are clear rules and legislation that will have to be followed but these are usual “best practice” protocols in the construction industry. It is possible the Parish Council will need to provide some top-up funding – quite how much will depend on final costings, and whether any grant funding is available. So watch this space!

### **Public finances – the challenge for parish councils:**

Local government in Dorset is set for rapid, potentially radical, change. All the talk is about “unitary” authorities – mergers of the County and District Councils. Central government funding has been slashed and the implications are clear – massive cost savings are required which will mean discretionary services are likely to disappear unless parish and town councils take them on. We’ve already seen reviews of bus services, mobile libraries and more are to follow. Parishes will be expected to take on the delivery of more services. Clearly we don’t have the infrastructure or resources in place to take on the management of staff, buy equipment, train volunteers etc. What is likely is that we will buy services from contractors (the dog bin emptying is an example) and town councils like Sturminster Newton, or perhaps work with other local parishes to deliver services. This will obviously cost money so choices will need to be made – if services are wanted locally then we’ll all need to pay more in our Precept (the element of Council Tax that is raised and spent locally by the Parish Council).

### **Fingerposts:**

We expect the new post at Kingston to ready in the summer. This is taking longer than we had hoped but the person doing the work is a volunteer and has a very long order book. Other posts – at the school, on the road to Woolland – are being repaired by Cllr Maughan as materials become available

**DON'T FORGET!**

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MEETING**

**MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, AT 7.30 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

<b>Parish Councillors 2016/17</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>e-mail</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Steve Murcer	Chairman	<a href="mailto:steve.murcer@hazelburybryan.net">steve.murcer@hazelburybryan.net</a>	817919
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Phil Dimmock	Councillor	<a href="mailto:info@aviationsecurity.co.uk">info@aviationsecurity.co.uk</a>	01344 638666
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