



# BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

### MAY 2015

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During this last year there have been a number of things that have been exercising the minds of the residents of Biddenham and consequently have been discussed at the Parish Council Meetings.

### **Small Children's play area**

This has been a problem ever since we last refurbished the play area at the Pavilion site. This is because the grant was only given to us on the basis of provision for the older age groups. There have been many requests since then for us to provide an area for the toddlers. Our first attempt was stymied by the planners who said that we could not remove any of the parking spaces. There has obviously been a change of heart (or the regulations) as the planners have now allowed us to remove three spaces and you will have seen that as I write this, the extended play area is taking shape. I hope that the parents, grandparents & toddlers enjoy the new facility once it has been completed.

### **The long awaited by-pass**

The Roundabout at the Deep Spinney junction with Bromham Road is nearing completion and by the time that you are reading this it should be in operation. There will be a lot more work to be done before the road is finally opened and you will then have a short cut to Sainsbury's should you wish to go there. During the year there has been approval for the land to be developed in three portions these are the land north of this new roundabout, the old golf course and the land north of the Biddenham Turn junction. Whilst this is the current state of the game we all know from our experience with other developments that things get altered as the development progresses. The final look of the area is still, in my view, unpredictable. An example of this is that we have recently seen plans for a roundabout next to the Golf Club entrance on the Bromham Road. Although the plans always showed a junction there, it was originally a T-Junction and has now grown to a quite large roundabout.

### **Speeding in the village**

This problem has been causing a lot of discussion both for and against trying to do something about it. There are those who feel that there is no problem and those who think that there is a considerable problem. The Parish Council thought that it should have the facts before making recommendations and asked the Borough to do a survey and have received some of the results and but more areas to be checked. There are different interpretations of the information which we have received so far and the Parish Council will need to decide, what, if anything, it is going to recommend to the Borough (who will make the ultimate decision). The figures so far do show that there are some motorists that are undeniably speeding rather than being absent minded! These motorists do not necessarily live in the village.

### **The Village Sign**

This has been causing quite a lot of comment of late, since we had to remove the sign because of its condition. After much discussion an order has been placed and we are now in the hands of the manufacturer as to the exact delivery date and re-erection.

### **The Chairmanship of the Parish Council**

I have now served two terms as Chairman of the Parish Council and feel that it is time to hand the baton on to another member. There is considerable talent amongst the members and I feel that I should allow that to come to the fore. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your Parish Council Chairman for so many years and I wish my successor all the best for the future.

**Graham Bates**

Chairman

Biddenham Parish Council