



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This month's **Parish Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday 10th February 2016 in the upstairs meeting room of the Pavilion. Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Jon Gambold, Chris Gee, Alan Jacobs, Krzys Osuch, Terry Platt and Francia Slade were present. Only one member of the public attended (where were you all this month?) together with Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and the Clerk to the Parish Council, Alison Southern.

No sooner have we gained a new councillor (Chris Gee) than sadly we have had a resignation from another – Anna Crowther. Anna has been a most helpful person to have around, but unfortunately she is now working predominantly in York; this has made it very difficult for her to get to Council meetings. I'd like to thank her for all her time and words of wisdom and encouragement whilst she's been on the council, and wish her well in the future.

So I find myself once more appealing to anyone who might wish to be on the council to step forward and be counted! There are only 10 meetings each year; representation from Deep Spinney and/or the younger end of the age range would be particularly welcome, but any kind volunteer would be much appreciated.

Deep Spinney Roundabout

We are developing our ideas for a permanent structure or structures on the enlarged Deep Spinney roundabout, to celebrate the long lost dovecote which used to stand by the village pond. It was proposed and agreed that there would be four similar low stone or brick structures, one facing each road which adjoins the roundabout. These would each depict a stylized emblem, with a word beneath, as follows:

- Opposite the road from Bromham: a dove, and the word Biddenham
- Opposite the new bypass: a traditional dovecote symbol, and the word Biddenham
- Opposite Bromham Road, i.e. from Bedford: the church tower, and the word Biddenham
- Opposite the road from Deep Spinney: the Biddenham dovecote, and the words 'Lost: 1966'

These ideas are formative, and we'd welcome your thoughts. A sub-committee has been formed, to be led by Councillor Platt, and from this basic idea we are going to approach a number of companies who might work our ideas up into something they could deliver. From this we will get a better idea of costs, of course. Plus we have to get the Borough Council's highways department on side – but there are plenty of other roundabouts with features like these on them, so I hope they will be supportive.

Traffic Calming

The good news this month is that the Borough have finally got round to re-painting the white lines on roads around Deep Spinney. These were supposed to have been done last August! We discussed what to press the Borough on next, and concluded that whilst Gold Lane is still a concern, the changes in traffic flows which will result from the new bypass opening suggest we leave it under review for a while. What is less likely to change is Biddenham Turn, where we are still going to push for more "on tarmac" signage saying "slow" and warning of school children.

Borough Councillors Roger and Jon have tried out their new speed-sensitive signs for the first time; you may have seen them on the main road into Deep Spinney (and if they lit up then you were going too fast!). Comments received by Jon suggest these have had an impact. They are now, however, being relocated to Bromham for a while – where more people drive too fast, so traffic surveys suggest. But they are intended to be relocated on a fairly frequent basis between our two villages, so Jon and Roger may bring them to a road near you at some point in the future (let them know if this is what you'd like!).

Annual Parish Meeting

Please note the **Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on Wednesday April 13th at 7pm in the Pavilion. It's intended that this meeting is a more "strategic" focus on our affairs, with as much input as possible from residents. In the past it has also been an opportunity to hear from a speaker on something of interest to us all. If you have a good idea for this, please let us know; we are keen to make this meeting go well – a good speaker would attract a crowd.

Peter Chase

Chairman

Please send any views, concerns, feedback or ideas to Alison Southern at clerk@biddenham-pc.org.uk.