



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Biddenham Parish Council met on Wednesday 15th March 2017 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Jon Gambold (also a Borough Councillor), Chris Gee, Krzys Osuch, Francia Slade, Terry Platt and Joe Warren. Clerk Alison Southern and several members of the public were also present. Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and Councillor Alan Jacobs sent their apologies.

OUR NEW WEB SITE (AND OUR OLD ONE)

A member of the public asked why the old web site was still accessible, even though once viewing it there is a link to take you to the new one. The fact is we have been trying for months to get the management company behind the old site to give us control of it, so we can automatically send people to the new one – and the good news is that this is now close to happening.

The same person commented that the new site perhaps does not state prominently enough that this is the website for Biddenham Parish Council. Rather, it appears to be a site for the village as a whole. Our feeling is actually that this is no bad thing; however, we will look again at whether the Council's part of it needs to be made more obvious.

ROUNABOUT FEATURE

After seeking views on the proposed Deep Spinney roundabout feature, via all village noticeboards and the web site, we received negative comments from just three villagers. As chairman, I asked each Councillor personally for their views, and the majority were in favour of the proposal. Coupled with largely positive views of people at the Biddenham Show and the endorsement of the Biddenham Society, we resolved to proceed with the project.

There were concerns about the cost, however. After some discussion, we decided that we would take forward two alternative proposals to the Borough's highways department: the original idea for two pillars placed diametrically opposite each other, or else one, taller centrally sited one. The latter would be cheaper, but would require replacement of the trees that have been planted on the roundabout with bushes. This would also arguably be less of a hazard for drunken or incompetent drivers, who like to drive over the roundabout rather than around it.

BROMHAM ROAD SPEED SURVEY

A little before Christmas, we commissioned a survey of the speed of traffic on the Bromham Road. Sensors were placed near the pedestrian crossing, and the results make interesting reading. Although the imposition of a 30mph limit along the entire length of the road has resulted in a reduced average speed for all traffic, only a small minority (about a quarter) keep below the limit. Of most concern is that, at all hours of the day and night, odd cars are travelling excessively fast. Speeds above 50mph are common, and even some over 60mph. It was resolved that we would start a dialogue with the Borough highways department to discuss what to do. This may be nothing, or warning signs, or speed cameras. We will consider our options carefully.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th April 2017. Do please come along if you have anything you'd like to raise.

Peter Chase