



## *BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL*

This month's **Parish Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the upstairs room of the Pavilion. Present were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase (Chairman), Chris Gee, Krzys Osuch, Francia Slade, Terry Platt and Joe Warren. Clerk Alison Southern, Borough Councillor Roger Rigby and several members of the public were also present. Councillor Jon Gambold sent his apologies.

### LOCAL PLAN 2035

Our submission to the Local Plan for 2021 to 2035 was discussed, and has now been sent off. This subject was covered extensively in last month's Loop, so I won't go over it again. But we did agree one new point to make, which is the insufficient capacity to school younger children who will inevitably live in new housing in the area, if they are built.

### ROAD WORKS

The Borough Council has sought our input to road maintenance projects we might want in and around Biddenham between next year and 2022. We resolved to ask for a full re-surfacing of Deep Spinney (the road, not the whole estate!), Gold Lane and the terrible section of Bromham Road between Days Lane and Biddenham Turn.

### TREES

We were concerned to see an application to fell two very mature oak trees in Thorpe Close. These are protected (for a reason) under the statutory "TPO" law and are probably each over 200 years old. There is a concern that one, or may be both, of them are causing subsidence affecting a nearby house. However, felling these trees will have the opposite effect from shrinking the local ground, by instead re-depositing tons of water into the local soil. I have it on good authority that this often causes the opposite of subsidence – namely "heave" – where houses start rising up and cracking in all sorts of places.

We appreciate the difficulty the house owner who has made the application may be facing, but felling these trees is not the answer.

Applications to fell long-lived and beautiful trees in our village come along now and then. Recently, some ancient yew trees have been cut down in the centre of the village. Another substantial tree in Biddenham Turn may be at risk. Trees take decades to grow, and are part of our history and heritage. They are beautiful, precious assets to be cherished and protected.

### MR WINGFIELD

The Wingfield estate, which owns many areas of land in and around our village, sometimes gets a bad press. When unfortunate things happen – e.g. the ploughing up of the coffin path – I try to keep an open mind about what's really going on. It seems that generally "c\*\*k-up not conspiracy" is at work.

Now, in a generous gesture which I have no reason to believe was prompted by us in any way, Mr Wingfield has doubled, no less, his financial contribution to our upkeep of verges in and around Biddenham. We are, of course, very grateful for this.

### DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

Peter Chase  
Chairman