



BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It was very pleasing to see such a strong turnout on Remembrance Sunday as we gathered to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. I was honoured to be part of it and to be able to lay a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the Parish Council to remember everyone, especially those Biddenham residents who gave so much. A big thank you to all those who helped and contributed.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The **Parish Council** met on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at the Pavilion. Present at the meeting were Parish Councillors Graham Bates, Peter Chase, Karen Cotton, Harry Fowler, Chris Gee, Krzys Osuch and Francina Slade. Apologies were received from Irina Madan-Sau. The Clerk, David Brough, and our Borough Councillors, Jon Gambold and Roger Rigby were also present. I was pleased to see four members of the public attending.

I think it is worth mentioning an item raised during our public forum as it leads to a wider debate the Parish Council would like to have as there have also been emails on the same subject sent into the Parish. The concern was about motorists using Darlow Drive as a cut through to avoid traffic queues in Main Road around school time. It was thought that not all motorists were dropping off school children and that the village was being used as a short cut to avoid queues on Bromham Road. Coupled with this was the excessive speed vehicles were travelling along the road. After some discussion the Parish Council resolved to write to the Police to ask them to enforce the access only restriction to the village. While the Parish Council has already resolved to pursue the use of average speed cameras with the Borough there may be a reinforcing role for 20mph speed limits in those roads not likely to meet the criteria for the installation of average speed cameras. Before we consider approaching the Borough Council with a request for 20mph speed restrictions (which could be on a zonal basis or just apply to designated streets) we need to gauge the appetite of the village for these. We agreed to use our website (www.biddenham.org.uk) to harvest views and help to inform our next steps. Therefore, please either contact our clerk directly or view the website where we will shortly be setting up a short questionnaire to allow residents to share their views on 20mph speed limits in the village. Initially the area to be considered for speed restrictions will be restricted to the Deep Spinney area and the old village because the new St Mary's estate is still not fully adopted.

Concerns had been raised about the works at the Gold Lane site by the developer, Dandara, who had been using Gold Lane as an access point for the development. The matter was reported to the Borough's Planning enforcement team and followed up by our Borough Councillors. The meeting heard it was important to keep reporting any misuse to the Borough which could be done either directly or via our clerk. On the same subject the development is nearing the stage where the Developer will be considering the naming of new streets. A very helpful suggestion has been put forward by a local resident which sets out some history to the site and suggests a theme for the naming. A copy of this information is available via our website; it makes interesting reading. Our January meeting will consider and formally agree our preference in this respect and this will be put to the Developer and the Borough Council. While we can't require the Developer to use any suggestions we put forward we do hope our local view will be actively considered.

Finally, we should be seeing two Christmas trees erected in the Parish in the next few weeks to celebrate the festive season; one in Main Road and the other in St Mary's.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

As we have no meeting in December I'll take this opportunity on behalf of the Parish Council to wish all residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our next meeting will be **Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7.30pm** at the Pavilion in Deep Spinney and all are welcome.

Stewart Briggs

Chair – Biddenham Parish Council