

# BINSTED PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2011



## The Sports Pavilion, Binsted Recreation Ground.

Monthly meetings of the council are held here but the Annual Parish Meeting in April is held in The Wickham Institute. Hire of the Pavilion, including kitchen facilities, is available for small private functions. The Recreation Ground is the venue for the annual Binsted Fête and Flower Show. There is also a children's playground, a tennis court and an allotment ground. Football and cricket are played here by visiting teams and Binsted School hold regular field activities here.

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## Visit the exhibition of the proposed Binsted Village Affordable Housing Scheme

The Sports Pavilion, Monday 19 September, 3pm to 9pm

Take the opportunity to see the plans

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## Parish Council Elections ~ 5 May 2011 - The New Team



The new council members are, from left to right, **Karen Ray** (Deputy Clerk; Finance Committee; Recreation Committee), **Ken Carter** (Chairman and Chairman East Hampshire District Council), **Colin Dean** (Planning Committee; Recreation Committee; Footpath Officer; IT), **John Retallack** (Chairman, Recreation Committee; Highways and Transport Committee; The Wickham Institute Management Committee), **Sandie Baker** (Vice Chairman; Finance Committee; Footpath Officer; The Wickham Institute Management Committee; Liaison Officer, Andrews' Endowed CofE Primary School, Holybourne), **Don Dennison** (Highways and Transport Committee; Footpath Officer), **Keith Mentzel** (Chairman, Finance Committee; East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils liaison; Board of Trustees, The Wickham Institute), **James Isted** (Chairman, Planning Committee), **Ron Neil** (Planning Committee; Recreation Committee), **Mike Nicolle** (Chairman, Highways and Transport Committee; Planning Committee; Newsletter), **Sue Hodder** (Clerk). Councillors Dennison and Neil were co-opted post election. **Royston Hopcroft** (not pictured) is our Caretaker and Groundsman.

## Old Friends Leaving

We were very sorry that **Cllr Alan Lovell** has had to step down due to ill health. He had served the council for an amazing 38 years, of which 24 were as Chairman. However, we are delighted that we can continue to take advantage of his expertise as a Consultant to the Council. We wish him an early return to better health. **Cllrs Dave McAlister and Allan Tait** also retired. Dave has saved the council literally thousands of pounds during his seven years as a councillor. He was always willing, unasked, to do or put right countless things that arose in the Pavilion, on the Recreation Ground and elsewhere in the parish. And as the council's Highways and Transport Liaison Officer he was responsible, almost single handed, for achieving, with HCC, the generally high standard of the parish road network that we now enjoy. Allan, whilst on the Finance Committee during his four years with the council, kept a very astute eye on its money matters. His foresight proved invaluable and was largely responsible, together with Keith Mentzel and Karen Ray, for the council being able to reduce its Precept (demand on the Council Tax payer) for the current financial year. Allan also, together with Sandie Baker, very successfully guided the production of the council's Parish Plan. This was a long term undertaking requiring great tenacity from all involved. But the completed project was hailed as a significant achievement, not least by East Hampshire District Council. We thank Alan, Allan and Dave for all they have done for Binsted Parish Council and wish them well for the future.

## The Parish Office

The Parish Office at the Pavilion is open most weekday mornings. Contact Sue Hodder, our Clerk, there on 01420 520 692, email [clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk) or by post addressed to The Clerk to Binsted Parish Council, The Sports Pavilion, Binsted Recreation Ground, The Street, Binsted, ALTON, Hampshire, GU34 4PB. Karen Ray, our Deputy Clerk, can be contacted on 01420 544 477, mobile 07805 800 373 or at [deputyclerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Council Meetings

The schedule of Parish Council Meetings for the rest of 2011 is –

Monday 5 September

Monday 3 October

Monday 7 November

Monday 5 December

All are currently planned to take place in the Pavilion at 7.30pm and agendas can be found by following the link <http://www.bentleyvillage.co.uk/binstedpages.htm> shortly beforehand. Agendas are also posted on the council's noticeboards. These are situated near the junction with Thurstons in The Street, Binsted, at the cross roads in Wyck, in Station Road, Bentley, at the junction with Weybank, to the left of the forecourt of the service station at Bucks Horn Oak and also now outside Tanglewood in Frith End Road. They are also posted on the noticeboard at The Triangle in Rowledge. Do remember that all members of the public are very welcome to attend these meetings and that there is an opportunity to address the council about any matters of concern you may have. You may find this particularly useful if you have a planning application for consideration.

### Police Station Closures Proposed

The confirmation that Hampshire Police propose to close Whitehill and Petersfield police stations has been greeted with concern by EHDC councillors. Councillors were informed that Hampshire Police need to save £50m to meet government spending targets. The proposal is to achieve this by closing 17 police stations, including two in East Hampshire.

The proposal is part of a review that also aims to develop and modernise access to police services to reflect the way they are being operated and used by the public. While the stations will be going, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams will stay in the heart of the community. Alternative locations are being sought for these teams in Whitehill and Petersfield.

East Hampshire has been fortunate to experience significant reductions in crime rates since 2008. But even a low level of crime is of concern to residents. It is essential to keep crime rates falling. Binsted PC will do all it can, together with the appropriate agencies, to achieve this. It has already tabled an agenda item for the next meeting of the East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils to discuss the possible effects of the currently proposed police station closures and consequential developments.

## Congratulations



Our congratulations go to our Chairman, Ken Carter. He was not only re-elected EHDC Councillor for the Binsted and Bentley Ward in May, but subsequently also Chairman of EHDC. He sits on its North Planning and Licensing Committees, the Larger Councils' Forum and the Community Forum (Alton and Surrounding Villages) as well as membership of other council bodies.



Congratulations also to our Clerk, Sue Hodder, who was elected to Alton Town Council last May. She sits on its Policy and Resources and Crime and Disorder Committees.

### Leaders and organisers needed for Olympic-style parish-to-parish cycle ride

EHDC will be asking cyclists to help organise an Olympic-style community relay race across the District. The event, to be held in 2012 and to coincide with the Olympics in London, will see local cyclists riding from parish to parish as part of a great bike ride.

Each parish will organise its own ride and riders and cycle a course through their own neighbourhood before passing on the baton, or the golden cycle pump as it will be on the day, to signal to the next parish to begin its ride.

To get the wheels turning on this fun project the event organisers, the Cyclists' Touring Club and EHDC, hope to recruit a number of cycling champions who can attract participants and generate interest in their own parish. Training events will be held to help volunteers lead the rides.

EHDC's Cycling Development Officer Sarah Walker said: "In 2012 we would aim for an event where each parish would organise a group cycle ride to another parish. The next parish would cycle to another and so on. Ideally, this event would be a circular ride and mirror the passing on of the Olympic Torch, or in this case a golden cycle pump, which would be awarded to the parish who had gained the greatest participation. We want to find a cycle champion in each parish who would be trained to lead rides and to engage with local people."

Cycle leaders must be 18 or over and, of course, be able to ride a bike. They will not be asked to cycle very long distances. The training is free with lunch and bicycles provided as required.

To find out more about the event, which is funded by the Big Lottery, contact Sarah Walker, East Hampshire Cycling Development Officer, on 07775 595998 or by email: [sarah.walker@ctc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.walker@ctc.org.uk)

### Mobile Library Service

Major changes to the Mobile Library Service were introduced by HCC with effect from 4 July. Villages at least two miles from the nearest main library will continue to receive a mobile service but the number of stops in each community will be reduced. **The Mobile Library will no longer stop in Station Road, Bentley, near the junction with Weybank.** Minimum stop lengths will be 20 minutes but the frequency of visits will be reduced from once every two weeks to once every four weeks. If people wish to use a mobile library but are unable to get to the new stop then a friend, family member or neighbour willing to visit the library or mobile library on their behalf can be registered as a Good Neighbour and borrow books for them. This means that they will not have to

pay overdue charges incurred. If the person concerned is frail or has mobility problems then arrangements can be made for books to be delivered directly to their home. For more information on these services you can ask library staff, ring 0845 603 5631 or go to the Hampshire Libraries web pages and search A-Z of services for Home Library Service.

The next Mobile Library visits to the locality are all scheduled for Thursdays; 11 August, 8 September, 6 October, 3 November and 8 December.

## Binsted, Bentley and Froyle Care Group Volunteers Needed

If you have lived in our villages for some time you will have heard about our group, but for those of you who haven't here is a brief outline of our activities. We are a group of volunteer drivers who help anyone in the three villages to reach medical appointments if they are unable to organise their own transport. This includes visits to hospitals, surgeries, opticians and dentists.

We have been giving this service for nearly 20 years and it has always been much appreciated by those who need to use it. However, over the last couple of years we have lost a considerable number of drivers who have moved and we are now struggling! Also involved, behind the scenes, are those people who act as the vital go betweens, arranging transport for patients from the pool of drivers. This is done on a rota basis by phone as the need arises and patients wishing to use the service are always routed in via the same central number. It would be a great shame if we have to reduce our service, or even close it down, for the want of a few more volunteers.

The farthest we travel is to Frimley, Guildford or Basingstoke, but many of our journeys are local. We are very flexible and we know that families have to be considered, school runs and holidays have to be organised and a multitude of other day to day commitments. We aim never to ask anyone more than once a month and hopefully a lot less than that! You are always at liberty to say "No" to a journey, but on the day you say "Yes" you may be the only one who could help us. We pay above the national rate for mileage allowance and telephone calls.

There is no upper age limit for our drivers except that your car insurance company must be made aware that you are part of this voluntary service and that they are happy with it.

So, when you read this, please consider whether you could help us maintain this vital local community service. If you are a patient using the care group perhaps you know of family, neighbours or friends who might join us!

Please contact me, ANN MANN, on 01420 22388 for a chat and further information. And I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who have given their time so generously to make this scheme such a success. I know it is much appreciated by many people.

### Can We Help?

We, as a council, do try collectively to keep our ears and eyes open around the parish to spot things that need sorting out. But it covers a very large area, some 40 square miles (104 square kilometres), some of which is very remote and rural. In the north it includes parts of Rowledge and extends south to cover part of Mill Lane in Alton. In between are the settlements of Batt's Corner, Blacknest, Bucks Horn Oak, Frith End, Holt Pound, Isington, Neatham, South Hay, Station Road, Bentley, The Straits, Wheatley, Wyck and of course Binsted itself. Each has its own unique character but all are likely to experience similar problems from time to time of which we might not immediately be aware – for example potholes, trees down, overgrown rights of way, broken gates or stiles, blocked roadside drains, serious dog fouling, missing, damaged or obscured street signs and more! If you are aware of any of these then please let our Clerk, Sue Hodder, know on 01420 520 692 or at [clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk)

### Please Pass On This Newsletter

If you have enjoyed reading this Newsletter and found it useful and interesting, please pass it on to a neighbour or friend. Also, please let us know if there was anything you particularly liked or disliked about it and any ideas you may have about items for possible inclusion in future editions. We are planning to publish it quarterly.