

The Parish Times

Keeping Hinton Parva, Bishopstone and Russley Park informed.

Volume 11. Number 10

RURAL SPEED MANAGEMENT

Since the public question time discussion at the Parish Council meeting on 3 September with representatives from SBC, we have had further consultation with some interested parties, notably local farmers, as a result of which SBC has made some adjustments to the proposed western gateway to Bishopstone. Plans for the following were approved at the Parish Council meeting on 1 October:

- Traffic calming at both ends of Bishopstone, involving improved signage, gateways and one way traffic.
- Signing of Cues Lane to reduce unnecessary access by large vehicles.
- White lines and hatching around the houses close to Hinton Parva village hall, where the road is very narrow.
- Improved white lining and signage between Hinton Parva and Hinton Springs.
- Improved signage on Bodyhorse Hill

We understand that work will start in November.

Source: Parish Council

Village Clean-up Day

The Parish Council organised a very successful clean-up day last autumn, retrieving over 30 bags of rubbish from the roads, foot paths, tracks and hedgerows.

We intend to hold another clean-up day on Sunday 25 November, meeting at the village halls of Bishopstone and Hinton Parva at 10.00 am.

The Parish Council would like to encourage as many people as possible to join in – many hands make light work! We will be asking for rubbish bags and high visibility jackets / waistcoats to be provided.

Source: Parish Council

Police & Crime Commissioner Election - Notice of Election

The attention of all parishioners is drawn to the notices on our Parish notice-boards and on the Parish Council web-site about the forthcoming election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for the Wiltshire Police Authority.

Source: Police



See the Neighbourhood Policing statistics below

Crime Performance Comment

Firstly, the negatives.

It is disappointing to note that domestic burglaries have shown an increase over the previous 12 months. This is at odds with the "Force" performance and other parts of Swindon. However, I can assure everyone that domestic burglaries are a local priority and considerable work is being undertaken to address the issue. Furthermore, there have been notable recent successes by our Priority Crime Team in catching burglars who have been operating across Swindon and North Wiltshire. Therefore, I fully expect these arrests to have a positive impact going forward.

Vehicle crime has shown an increase in the Urban sector, so please remove all valuables from your vehicle when it is not attended.

If you see any suspicious activity, report it to police as soon as possible.

Don't forget that prevention is better (and usually cheaper) than cure!

In the Rural sector, there is a small increase in Violence against the Person, which is principally made up of assaults but does include other matters. However, this is a very small increase and is better than the picture in the rest of Swindon. Please do not run away with the idea that Swindon and Wiltshire have become a lawless and dangerous place. Last year was exceptional and when compared with 2 and 3 years ago we are showing a small decrease.

Now, the positives.

Across the locality, there have been 145 fewer victim of crime – a reduction of 12%.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB). We continue to work closely with our colleagues within the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit of SBC, which is the lead unit for tackling ASB.

ASB at a locality level is showing a very positive year-on-year reduction of 11%. However, there is a clear Rural/Urban split with the "town showing a 15% rise but the "villages" a huge fall of 43%. The Community Beat Manager, Rory Draper, is working hard with his team to maintain the Rural performance. Whilst we all want to see a reduction in ASB, I am not naïve enough to believe that these figures represent every incident. Therefore, I would encourage residents to make reports to either SBC ASBU or ourselves. Don't suffer in silence; our message to you is: "We can't deal with it if we don't know about it".

Therefore my overall assessment is very positive and please be assured that we are doing everything we can to improve your safety and quality of life.

Source: Extracted From Inspector Roger Bull's report to the Locality Meeting on 27 September.

INFORMATION	INTEGRITY	PERSPECTIVE	ISSUES	INFORMATION
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Council Tax Benefits

We have been advised that Swindon Borough Council [SBC] is opening a consultation period on a Council Tax Support scheme, which will replace the current Council Tax Benefits system; the consultation is open until 9 November 2012. The following gives an outline:

From April 2013, Council Tax Benefit in its current form is being withdrawn by the Government, as part of its wide-ranging reforms to the welfare system. Council Tax Benefit currently helps those on low incomes to pay their Council Tax bill. Local Authorities are being asked to develop their own local schemes instead, which will be known as Council Tax Support; the local schemes will sit alongside a new national system of Universal Credits, which will replace all other forms of financial support to those on low or no income.

Currently, the £13 million of Council Tax Benefit awarded by SBC is reimbursed in full by Central Government. From next year, the amount paid to the Council, (including Fire and Police Authorities) for services delivered in Swindon will be reduced to approximately £11 million. This is part of the Government's drive to encourage people to work by removing disincentives, and means that SBC will need to identify ways of meeting the £2m shortfall in Government funding in 2013/2014.

The Government has stated that local schemes should be designed to meet the needs of local people and the impact on the most vulnerable must be considered. The SBC consultation paper states that everybody who receives Council Tax Benefit, except pensioners and households including a disabled person, will be affected by the changes because they will have to pay something towards their Council Tax.

A number of ways in which this shortfall may be addressed are being considered by SBC; they are outlined in the consultation papers, with impact statements.

If you wish to find out more, or to respond to the online consultation documents, they are on the Council's website www.swindon.gov.uk/ctsconsultation. Paper copies can also be made available by contacting SBC.

It is emphasised that the Parish Council is not responsible for any of the above proposals, either by Central Government or SBC. The purpose of this notice is to alert parishioners to look further into the proposals if they wish to.

Source Swindon Borough Council

Neighbourhood Policing

Our neighbourhood policing team has provided the following statistics for the rural areas of Chiseldon & Badbury, Wroughton, and the Ridgeway villages:

Swindon South, Wroughton, Chiseldon, Ridgeway Villages	Aug 2010 to July 2011	Aug 2011 to July 2012	Volume change	% Change
Victim based crime	504	386	-118	-23%
Domestic burglary	18	25	+7	+39%
Non-domestic burglary	88	49	-39	-44%
Vehicle crime	79	57	-22	-28%
Criminal damage & Arson	109	89	-20	-18%
Violence against the Person	59	63	+4	+7%
ASB Incidents (year to date from April 1 st)	186	106	-80	-43%

SOUTH LOCALITY MEETING

The link below will take you to the notes and actions that came from the recent South Locality Meeting that was held in Bishopstone.

<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ieAgenda.aspx?A=5797>

The next locality meeting will be on the 31st January 2013 at 7pm at the Art's Centre in the Studio.

SOURCE: SBC - Tracey Scott Locality Facilitator South

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SMALL PRINT

Welcome

The Parish Council always extends a warm welcome to all new and prospective residents of the Parish. We are very pleased that you've chosen to live in our community.

The Parish contains two conservation areas and everything south of the Icknield Way is also in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many houses are also listed.

Naturally this brings with it all sorts of problems when it comes to tree felling, house alterations, etc. There are also other regulations aimed at preserving the character

and beauty of the parish. If in doubt, please check, we are only a phone call away.

The Parish Council is therefore always available to answer any questions you may have on any particular aspect of living in a conservation area, the area of outstanding natural beauty or in listed buildings. Please do not hesitate to contact either the Clerk, the Chair or any member of the council - the numbers appear on the next page.

We do hope you will be very happy here.

Parish Documents

The Parish has an archive room in the village hall in Bishopstone. This is not accessible to members of the public, however, with advanced warning any document stored there may be viewed by contacting a member of the council.

Documents of particular importance are also stored on

the parish website and may be viewed by anyone with a PC. Members of the parish without a PC can ask the clerk to provide them with a hard copy.

Documents on the website include the precept, the accounts, standing orders, annual Returns, etc.

Parish Parking

The Parish has many narrow lanes and these need to be accessible to residents, utility and emergency vehicles at all times. Cars are now being parked along some of the narrowest sections of road (e.g. Cues Lane in Bishopstone, High Street, Bishopstone, etc.) often blocking these routes to even small vehicles. Please remember that emergency vehicles need to be able to move freely down all the roads and lanes of the parish at all times. Could we therefore ask that owners of vehicles park them responsibly and avoid the narrowest sections.

THE Village Hall car park in Bishopstone is a private space available only for those using the village hall. It is not somewhere for parishioners to park on a long term basis; whatever the circumstances might be. This is

clearly signed on the wall of the hall. Cars parked here make it very difficult for legitimate car park users to find space for their vehicles. It is also incredibly inconvenient for those users having to load and unload items, or for the infirm or disabled who wish to make use of the hall. Provided the hall is not in use, loading and unloading of vehicles is permitted, as is visitor parking for short periods. By prior arrangement with the committee the siting of skips can also be accommodated. The committee very much regret that it cannot offer parking for those in need, however, hall users must come first and from the complaints received these are frequently finding it difficult to park.

Protected Trees

Trees are vital to the quality of our lives for a number of reasons:-

- They help make our two villages more pleasant and attractive places in which to live and work.
- They are often a familiar and cherished feature and so provide a sense of place.
- They provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

They are often older than many of the buildings amongst which they stand and so contribute to our local history. Because they are so important to our environment all trees within a Conservation Area are protected by law*. The **whole** of Bishopstone is within a Conservation Area. The **whole** of Hinton Parva centred around the church is also within a Conservation Area. Anyone planning to cut down or carry out work to a tree here must give the Borough Council six weeks written notice of their intention to do so.

*Whilst there are one or two exemptions, such as trees with a diameter of less than 3 inches (measured 1.5m from the ground) or when a tree is in a dangerous condition, you are strongly advised to check first with the Council's Tree Officer since any unauthorised works can be a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution and heavy fines of up to £20,000. Better to be safe than sorry!

The Council's Tree Officer can be contacted on 01793 466318.

Individual trees or groups of trees that make a particularly important contribution to either of our villages may be worthy of special protection by way of a Tree Preservation Order. If you know of any such trees then please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Parish Council or the Borough Council's Tree Officer who will be happy to make an inspection.

Outside Lights

One of the things that makes the Parish so unique and wonderful is the lack of street lighting to blight the villages. Sadly more and more people are now erecting high wattage outside lights and leaving them on permanently. Please consider your neighbours who may not wish their rooms lit throughout the night especially bedrooms where sleep can be seriously disturbed.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's Rural Policy Campaigner said:

'Many lives are affected by light pollution. It can disturb sleep, disfigure the countryside and make the stars at night invisible to huge numbers of people.'

Discrete and considerate outside lighting that only comes on when needed is the best type to mount if lighting is considered necessary.

Everyone is becoming more aware how energy wastage is resulting in the earth's resources being diminished. Every light that is on when no one needs to use the light it casts is adding to this wastage.

So please look at your lighting needs and think of your neighbours as well as the planet and only light when needed.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111
(Call anonymously with information about crime)

Domestic Violence 24hr National Helpline:
0808 2000 247

FRANK: 0800 77 66 00
(drug related)

Anti Social Behaviour: 01793 445500

Noise Nuisance: 01793 445500

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

Swindon Community Safety Partnership: 01793 466506

Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust 01225 794652 provides home security services to people aged 60+ or with special needs. (NB: the WBVT is a charity - donations are welcome).

Beat the Burglar

If you see anyone acting suspiciously, take their description and vehicle registration details and call the police on: 0845 408 7000. In an emergency call 999.

For a free home security pack and information about offers on home security call the Home Office:

0800 456 1213

(Packs are subject to availability).

Police search website.

<http://www.police.uk/>

Parish Website:

parish.bishopstone.net (no www in front)

Meetings for the year

2012/13 Meeting Dates

- 12 November 2012 B (Changed from 1st Monday due to Bonfire Night).
- 3 December 2012 HP
- 7 January 2013 B
- 4 February 2013 HP
- 4 March 2013 HP
- 1 April 2013 B
- 13 May 2013 HP (Changed from 1st Monday due to Bank Holiday).

All meetings begin at 7.30pm and members of the public are always welcome. Late changes are shown on the website <http://parish.bishopstone.net> and on the notice boards in Hinton Parva and Bishopstone.

BISHOPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Lesley Drewett (Clerk)
2 Downs Close
Eastbury
Hungerford
RG17 7JW

Phone: 01488 71828
Fax: None
Email: lesley@tynash.com
website: <http://parish.bishopstone.net>

Mr Julian Cooke

Church Farm, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790278.

Mr Nigel Crisp

Willow House, Church Row, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790035.

Mr Andrew Greenhalgh

Old Farm House, West End Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PX. 791469.

Mr Simon Jenkins (Chair)

The Old Vicarage, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 790545.

Dr Stuart McGuigan

Greenoak, Newtown Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8QA. 790219.

Mr Doug Stevens

Church View, Church Lane, Bishopstone. SN6 8PY. 791107.

Mrs Karolyn Tapper (Vice Chair)

Orchard Cottage, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PL. 790658.

Mr Ian Thomas

Littlecot, High Street, Bishopstone, Wilts. SN6 8PH. 790106.

Mr Ian Thompson

Snowberry House, Hinton Parva. SN4 0DW. 790970.

Useful Information

101 new non Emergency Police Number

Police Headquarters
0845 408 7000
24hrs, 7 days a week

SBC Reception Premier House

01793 465055/465056

Civic Offices

01793 463668

Wat Tyler House

01793 463725

Borough Councillor

Andrew Bennett 01793 790563

Fly Tipping and other similar problems

Swindon Commercial Services
01793 463463

Keeping Swindon Safe

SBC 01793 445500
Police 0845 408 7000

Refurbiz - the Domestic Appliance Re-cycling Charity.
Refurbished appliances at affordable prices with warranty

Replacing your washing machine, dryer, fridge or electric cooker? Please donate your old machines to us so we can refurbish them for families in need. Wiltshire-wide collection and delivery service. Call us on (01380) 720200. Or visit our showroom at Hopton Park, Devizes www.refurbiz.org. Registered Charity Number 1107150.

Committee	Representative (Hinton Parva)	Representative (Bishopstone)
Finance (sub committee)	Ian Thompson (Chair) Julian Cooke	Karolyn Tapper Simon Jenkins
Footpaths & Highways	Julian Cooke	Stuart McGuigan Ian Thomas
Pond & Island Management Committee		Doug Stevens Andrew Greenhalgh
Hinton Village Hall	Ian Thompson	
Bishopstone Village Hall		Karolyn Tapper
Police & Media	Nigel Crisp (Media)	Simon Jenkins (Police)
Hinton Parva Charities	Peter Cooke	
Bishopstone United Charities		Karolyn Tapper Lesley Drewett Laurie Manktelow (Ex Cllr)
Tree Warden	Julian Cooke	Ian Thomas
Russley Park Liaison	Andrew Greenhalgh	
Responsible Financial Officer		Lesley Drewett

Planning Update

All planning applications, their history and all supporting documents can now be viewed online by visiting: www.swindon.gov.uk/planning.

Planning issues are discussed at the monthly Parish Council meetings. All plans for that month are laid out on display prior to the meetings and councillors and members of the public are invited to take a look. Public representations are heard prior to the start of the meeting.

Parish Council meetings alternate between Hinton Parva Village Hall and Bishopstone Village Hall.

Members of the public are always welcome.

Foxhill Motocross 2012 Calendar

No more racing in 2012 is scheduled.

Planning:

APPLICATIONS

None.

Section 211 Notices:

None.

GRANTED

None.

REFUSED

None.

Don't forget that all important information is displayed on the notice-boards in both villages and on the website at <http://parish.bishopstone.net>.

The Parish Times will always be available on the website. It is added there as soon as it is ready to go to the printers.

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