

Parish Council Report

Essex Village of the Year

Great Bardfield was awarded a Certificate of Merit in the recent competition. This is good news but I'm sure we can do even better next year!

New Play ground

It's great that the play area is ready in time for the summer holidays. It has been inspected by Anglian Inspections who commented that it was one of the best installations they had seen. Work is going ahead soon to remove the grass (and stinging nettles) and to resurface the area between the playground and The Walk. This will create extra car park space and the access road which will eventually lead to the new pavilion – another step in achieving our goal. We want to complete the resurfacing quickly so work will take place during the summer holiday for a short period. Please take care while heavy machinery is in use.

Scott Forbes has offered to work with a group of young people to create a BMX track in the corner of the playing field beyond the basketball post, using some of the earth left over from the playground site and from creating the extra car-park – another very welcome facility.

Firework Night

This highly successful annual event has been running for 25 years thanks to the efforts of a stalwart team of volunteers including the support of the PTA (now Friends of Great Bardfield School, FOBS). Sadly FOBS are no longer able to run this event and if it is to continue volunteers are required. Please read Steve Slemming's appeal on Page 10. This is a chance to get involved, have some fun and, for those who have done all the hard work for so long, to pass on their know-how to (dare I say it?) younger and fitter members of the community!

The Queen's Birthday Commemorative Medals

We have some medals left which are available to be purchased for £2 from the CIP.

Planning applications

Beslyns Stable: installation of oil fired central heating with boiler fitted in the kitchen and oil storage tank in the garden. There were no objections

Vine Cottage: retrospective application for gravel driveway and pathway. The PC Planning Committee's view was to object on the grounds that this is in a dangerous position regarding access and agreed with the statement of the Historic Buildings Officer regarding visual impact. They also queried whether the land on which it had been constructed was agricultural.

Vine Cottage: retrospective application for 1: Spiral staircase and 2: Insertion of bathroom. The PC Planning Committee agreed with the comments of the Historic Buildings Officer that the changes were not in keeping with the historic character of the cottage.

The Bardfield Centre Numbers 28-30: change of use from office to children's nursery. There were a number of issues associated with this application that concerned Members, including location, outside facilities, access and the fact that the community was already well served with such facilities. It was agreed to object to this application.

Footpaths

The recent wet weather has resulted in many footpaths becoming badly overgrown. These are being dealt with but it is important that landowners who have footpaths across or adjacent to their property recognise that they have a responsibility to keep paths clear.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 8pm. in the Town Hall Committee Room. The Public Forum is held from 8-8.15pm.

Janet Dyson, Chair.