

Parish Council Report

Street lights

The Parish Council has full responsibility for the majority of street lights in the village. Over the years we have added to the number of lights when our budget allows us to do so, trying to ensure that any dark areas are reasonably covered. However, the lights and their installation are very costly. UK Power Network has quoted a basic price for the supply of power, within two metres of the power source and minimal trenching, of £717 per unit. Costs rise significantly if the location is some way from mains cables and if trenching or traffic management is involved. The cost of the lighting column itself could be in the region of £450. We are considering adding one or two new lights possibly in the areas of Crown Street, which is particularly badly lit, and at the lower end of the Causeway between Fountain Terrace and the Glebe Meadow. We would value any feedback from residents - please email any comments you have on the proposed locations, or any other suitable locations, to the Clerk clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk

Car-jacking incidents

In general we experience very little crime in this Parish, which is just as well given the current reductions in the level of local policing! However, the recent car-jacking incidents on the rural roads in this area are a matter of some concern and we urge drivers to be aware when driving at night or in the early mornings not to stop in response to anyone trying to stop their vehicle, to keep their doors locked and report anything suspicious to the police.

Planning applications

The Bushett Farm: relocation of pond: no objections.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Peter Schwier attended the Parish Council meeting and gave an update on the progress of the BDC Local Plan. He said there will be a further meeting at BDC on 14 January to discuss the policies which will inform the final Plan. He stressed that public consultation is a significant part of the process and will be in two parts involving residents, business and parish and town councils. The intention is for the Plan to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate early in 2017 and to be adopted by the end of 2017.

He also reported that BDC has received several awards for landscaping and public parks and that the Christmas rubbish collection arrangements had been very well received. Litter picking in the District and County and also been prioritised and improvements were evident.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10th in the Town Hall Committee Room at 8pm. The Public Forum is held from 8-8.15pm.

Janet Dyson, Chair.