

Parish Council Report

Queen's Birthday Medals

There has been an enthusiastic response to the medals and many children have already collected theirs from the CIP. Any spare medals will be available for older children in the Parish after the end of June, or they may be purchased for adults at a cost of £2.00.

Children's Play Area

Work has begun on preparing the site, thanks to the Fire Brigade who got things off to a good start and the group of volunteers from the village. The play equipment should be in place in time for the summer holidays.

Traffic and parking management

Following the report in last month's BT we have liaised with the Network Operations Manager at ECC requesting a consultation to see what improvements might be made, particularly in Brook Street. There was some positive feedback from residents to the suggestion of reconfiguring the wide pavement to allow angled parking whereby more vehicles could be accommodated safely in this busy area of the village. However, we have been advised that funding for any such work has to be approved by the Local Highway Panel, whose budget is limited and oversubscribed each year. The police also indicated that there were no traffic incidents that would warrant action on their part and as long as there was freedom of movement for pedestrians, prams and wheelchair users, they would not take action regarding obstruction. A request has been made for bollards across the wide pavement in Brook Street. The Parish Council is reluctant to support this suggestion and a response from the Safety Auditors confirmed their view that bollards could impede pedestrians and would provide no benefit as far as they could determine. We are interested to hear your views on these issues.

Planning applications

- Vine Cottage, Wethersfield Road: erection of single storey dwelling. Concerns were expressed that there is a blind bend in both directions at the entrance/exit of this site, which is on a protected lane. The site is in an attractive hamlet outside the development line of Great Bardfield and sits between two Grade II listed houses and it was felt the proposal would impact negatively on the other cottages in the area. And that the site would also be very cramped. In accordance with BDC's own policy planning permission in hamlets of fewer than 10 dwellings would not normally be permitted. The Council agreed to object for this reason, safety concerns, and impact on the existing settlement.
- Bushett Farm, Oxen End: proposed partial demolition, repair and restoration of listed barn. No objection.
- Greenacres, the Causeway: various tree works including reducing the height of 4 Leyland Cypress and 1 Yew and overhanging branches over the public highway. No objection.

New seats, noticeboard and dog bin

New seats are to be installed. One on the Causeway and the other, which is being given in memory of Brian and Beryl Maidman, by their family, on the memorial Green. There will also be a new dog bin on the Causeway and the newly designed Village Information Map will shortly be in place on School Green.

Next Parish Council meeting

The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 8th. in the Town hall Committee Room at 8pm. The Public Forum is held from 8-8.15pm.