

Parish Council Report - August/September 2016

Playing Fields & Pavilion

Following the recent installation of new play equipment at the playing fields, the Parish Council has received many positive comments from residents. This new equipment, providing for children of all ages, together with the recent extension of the car park, are part of our plans for providing additional facilities and improvements for residents and visitors to the village.

Unfortunately, we were very saddened and disappointed that the pavilion was the target of vandalism and theft on two separate occasions towards the end of August. The pavilion was broken into, with damage to interior cupboards, theft of two fire extinguishers and property of the Youth Club, and litter strewn across the field. This is most disheartening for those who give up their own free time to provide activities for the young people in our village and has resulted in the Youth Club's being cancelled for the time being. The Parish Council are working with the Youth Club and the police to ascertain who was responsible.

Co-op Stores

Regrettably our village shop has also been the target of criminals recently, with a ram-raid using a stolen 4x4 vehicle. Nothing was stolen but extensive damage was caused to the building and to fridge units inside. The police attended and CCTV footage was made available to them.

Planning

The following applications were considered in August and September:

The following 4 applications all required listed buildings consent. The Parish Council raised no objections as long as the plans were approved by the Historic Buildings Officer:

Great Lodge, Braintree Road: conversion of historic farm buildings to holiday lets and accommodation for wedding guests.

Park Hall, Braintree Road: conversion of two barns to residential.

The Old Warehouse, High Street: conversion of store room to an artist's studio.

Hillside Cottage, Brook Street: demolition of existing flat-roofed garage and replacement with two storey extension, additional one and two storey extensions at rear, internal works and external landscaping.

Chiefs Farm Cottage, Walthams Cross: revision of previously approved plans to address issues with an old well. No objections.

Camellia Cottage, The Corniche: application to replace existing UPV conservatory with a wooden framed structure. No objections.

Bardfield Centre: fresh application for conversion of existing commercial buildings to eight residential units. The applicant is addressing some of the concerns raised by planners, that there was insufficient outdoor space in their previous application. The new plans involve the removal of sections of the roofline to create individual 'courtyard' gardens within some units. It was felt the design destroyed the integrity

of the roof lines and the general balance of the buildings as they existed, and the Parish Council decided to object to this application.

No objections were made to tree works at:

The Matchings, Bridge End

Bucks House, Vine Street

White Hart House, Brook Street

Beaumont, Bridge Street

Firework Night

Approval was given to go ahead with this traditional village event and for it to be funded by the Parish Council. An organising committee is being set up and we are grateful for the many offers of assistance by volunteers from the village. Any profits made will go towards improvements and new facilities at the playing fields.

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th October at 8pm, in the Town Hall Committee Room. The Public Forum is held from 8-8.15pm.

Carolynne Ruffle

Vice-Chair