

BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2010 to APRIL 2010

Annual Parish Meeting – This will take place on Monday the 24th May at 7.15 pm in the Community Centre. We will have two speakers, namely Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw to talk about Surrey Policing and Mona Johansson to talk about Affordable Housing in Bletchingley. The Annual Report will again be available in advance of the meeting from Longhursts and other village shops and on the night.

Allotments and Old Allotment Field: All plots in Little Common Lane are in use. It is hoped that by the time this is published, the work will be completed on the plots in Stychens Lane and letters sent out to those on the waiting list. There are currently 11 confirmed on the waiting list.

Affordable Housing Survey – As Mona Johansson was unable to attend the March or April meetings to discuss the results of the questionnaire, the Parish Council felt it was more appropriate to have her attend the Annual Parish Meeting where hopefully more questions would be asked by residents about the possibility of affordable housing within Bletchingley. The Parish Council can then take all views into consideration when making their decision at a later meeting.

Highway Improvements throughout Bletchingley – A large number of potholes have been repaired and more are being done. Please ensure that any potholes are reported using the online reporting system on Surrey County Council website. The Parish Council are again considering what can be done about the condition of Church Lane and the possible use of blue information signs stating “Not suitable for HGV use”.

Bletchingley in Bloom: A new bed was planted in Rabies Heath Road which was very well received by all apart from a small element who took delight in driving through the bed and destroying the larger plants. The daffodils are looking lovely through the village and now encompass a larger area. It is hoped that they will survive in full bloom this year. Funks Brook has also been cleared and some sympathetic planting done. A large area of the bank behind the playground was also cleared by the group and discussions are currently underway with Sibelco for possible assistance with the remainder of the bank to improve the area. Judging this year takes place on the 9th July at 2pm. Work parties usually take place on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10am. Please contact any In Bloom member or the Clerk for more details. New members are always welcome.

Bletchingley Grange Meadow Play Area – It is great to see the new playground being so well used. The Social Club when open always welcomes park users in its doors for refreshments.

Cemetery: The winter maintenance programme has resulted in the unearthing of previously covered monuments. New signs have been ordered to be located on the gates giving information about a point of contact should any issues arise. The “mapping” of the cemetery will continue again in the winter. Hedging plants have been planted behind the A25 bus stop to give additional privacy.

Hevers Pond: The Parish Council are awaiting a response from RH&RW Cluttons in relation to Parish Council comments on the agreement.

Minerals: Last month we reported on the applications to extend North Park Quarry. Now a plan for the control and monitoring of dust at the Quarry is being drawn up by Sibelco as a requirement of the County Planning Authority. Before decisions can be taken concerning any quarry extensions, this plan must go out to consultation and then be permitted. Already its

publication is many months late. However, we now expect an approved version to be ready for our comments in May.

Parish Plan – The first meeting of interested members will be taking place on Monday 19th April in the Community Centre. An update will be given after the meeting.

Village Gateways: The new gateways are now in location and the 3 old redundant ones have been removed. General feedback has been very good. The wording was agreed to take account of the historic links of the village to the “Rotten Borough of Blechingley”. It was decided after consultation with SCC Highways to locate the western end so that it included the houses at Sunnybank Villas.

Website: Village diary events and local news are being updated daily so please do check the Blethingley website (<http://www.blethingley.org.uk/> for the latest Parish News and events in Blethingley. Anyone who wants to publicise a local event or club or has some local news to impart please contact sally.ray@btinternet.com.

Robin Gater – Chairman