

## **BLETCHINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**JUNE 2008 to SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Community Speedwatch:** This is ongoing and as always, new volunteers are always welcome. If you feel you could give up a couple of hours once or twice a month and would like to join the team of volunteers, please contact either the Parish Clerk or PC Moira Cocks of Surrey Police for further details. Full training will be given.

**Grange Meadow Recycling Site:** The Parish Council is deeply concerned by the state of the area surrounding the recycling containers placed near the entrance to Grange Meadow. There are in place facilities for the disposal of cardboard, waste paper, bottles and tin cans, but not for general household rubbish. It has been reported that empty cardboard boxes together with items of household waste and garden refuse are left to get wet, resulting in a very untidy site. The village is fortunate to have this facility, which is being abused by some people. Co-operation will be welcomed in keeping the site safe and tidy and to use only the facilities offered.

**Neighbourhood Watch and Policing Issues:** PC Shrapel produces a Countryside Alert Newsletter and a Bletchingley and Nutfield Beat Newsletter on a reasonably regular basis. Both of these are posted on the website at the end of the Neighbourhood Watch section and are updated when new ones are received. Copies are also put on either the Parish notice board or on the Post Office notice board. During the past three months the number of reported crimes have shown a decrease for the same period last year. However, the reports range from assault and public order offences to burglary, theft and serious property damage. Residents have complained of the noise by youths in and around Church Walk and St Mary's Churchyard. The Parish Council is concerned that a family grave monument was severely damaged during daylight hours. The next police Neighbourhood Panel Meeting will be held on Monday 13 October at 7pm in the Doctor's Surgery at the Village Hall. You are asked to be vigilant and do not hesitate to contact the police or the neighbourhood watch street co-ordinators or Crimestoppers should you have information on a possible crime. As a result of the various crimes over the school holidays there has been an increased police presence and various investigations are ongoing, arrests have been made and patrols increased.

**Dog Fouling:** A further plea to all dog owners to clean up after their dog.

**St Catherine's School:** Some of you may have noticed that there is now a road sign for St Catherine's School at the junction with Rabies Heath Road and the A25.

**Bus Shelter:** The damaged bus shelter at Rabies Heath Road has been reported to Adshel.

**Allotments:** Final judging at the allotments took place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September and the winner out of 6 entrants was Derek Coppard who was presented with the cup at the Annual Open Show of the Bletchingley Horticultural Society on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Following further discussions it has been agreed that a skip will be provided for allotment holders at a date to be confirmed, but which will be in the autumn period. This is purely for getting rid of excess allotment paraphernalia. Vegetation as usual should be composted down where appropriate.

**Bletchingley in Bloom:** Judging day went very well on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 and the judges were very impressed with the efforts of Bletchingley. The Parish Council thanked Pamela Cock and her team for their continued efforts in achieving such a high standard and it is hoped that this year more residents will become involved, even if only in tidying up their property and taking litter home with them or depositing it in bins rather than on the ground. The Village Sign was well received and the railings in the High Street in front of Britdens Bank Cottages were painted by the Surrey Probation Work Team who were very proud to be involved in a

worthwhile village project. Initial discussions via the agents of the owners of Hever's Pond have proved to be very promising in relation to the future maintenance of the pond. We are now awaiting written confirmation and the legal documentation to review. A higher level of Silver Gilt Award was received this year by Bletchingley in Bloom at the Awards Ceremony on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008

**Cemetery:** Repainting of the gates will hopefully be done over the next couple of months. Additional overgrown vegetation clearance will be undertaken over the winter months when the grass cutting schedule stops. A schedule of these additional works will be drawn up for the winter period.

**North Park Farm and WBB:** The Community of Bletchingley and Godstone have established a new framework with WBB Minerals/Sibelco. The main cornerstones are as follows: (i) To cancel Tarmac's dry mortar silo plant; (ii) A new management plan and investment in dust control; (iii) Establish a new liaison group with a revised constitution allowing two way communication; and (iv) Seek to divert Bridleway 148 to the western most end of the current operational area.

**Footpath 506:** Following a Court Order in favour of Bletchingley Parish Council on the 6th of January 2005, the Council is still pursuing the recovering of its awarded costs.

**Village Fair – Hog Roast** – Once again this seems to have been a hit. A larger hog was used this year but was still sold out early. The weather was kind to us and all residents enjoyed the activities and stalls organised by the Village Fair Committee.

**Website:** It is hoped that residents are seeing the benefit of a more up to date website with news and events being posted when available. It should be noted that this can only be as up to date as possible if the Clerk is made aware of all village events and news. Please contact the Clerk if you have any questions or wish to add something to the website.

**CCTV:** We are still awaiting notification of when the infrastructure is likely to be put in place for the Surrey Police CCTV system proposed for the land above the Coneybury Shops.

**Parish Council Vacancy** – There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council. Anyone wishing to find out more about becoming a parish councillor should please contact the Clerk for more details.

Robin Gater – Chairman