

# BECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



10<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Annual Report 2017 – 2018

A report to the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2018, by the Members of the Parish Council. Covering the last years activities and looking ahead to the new municipal Council year.

# Beckington Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017 – 2018

### CHAIRMANS REPORT

Thank you to the members of the public for attending our annual meeting, my report will be short and to the point, and will briefly review the last year whilst highlighting our aims for the next twelve months.

This year has been one of flux, with a new chairman, a new clerk and a number of councillors stepping down for personal and health reasons. I'd like to place on record my thanks to them and hope that they will continue to be involved in the activities of the Parish place and the auditor has given us a thumbs up from our mid-year audit for our procedural work.

On a personal note I'd like to convey my thanks the constituents of the village – their engagement in recent events has been staggering, and it gives me great pleasure to see such passion for maintaining the integrity of the village. I'll go on to speak about the future.

The Bettering Beckington Survey is still a priority, and we must aim to fulfil the wishes of the village to the best of our abilities. The take up of the allotments has been incredible, Simon and I will be working on this shortly in terms of putting together a management committee, agreeing a charging rate and understanding how we can help all of those people that have applied, get access to an allotment – which will be a tough ask.

The Bus Shelters – this is my number one priority for the year, and I'll be looking closely over the next weeks at the budget to see how we can expedite this project.

Planning – we must continue to protect the village from opportunist and speculative planning applications – Mendip Local Plan Phase 2 is very clear about our role in assisting with housing development, and our job is to ensure they are held accountable to that local plan.

Assets – we again have a responsibility to ensure the village assets are well maintained, and I know there are already plans in place for some renovations over the warmer months. We also have achieved a small surplus, which we shall be re-investing in project work throughout the next year.

Most importantly, our role is about making Beckington an even better place to live and work, and I would like to thank the councillors and the clerk for their sterling efforts this year and look forward to continuing the work we have begun over the next twelve months.

CLlr Mark Wilson – Chairman

## FOOTPATHS REPORT

Beckington is well endowed with footpaths. During the past year general maintenance and clearance have been carried out by interested residents but particularly by the continuing good offices of the Mendip Ramblers.

In the Rudge area some stiles have been modified to make them more user friendly and new ones have been installed where equestrian activity has made it necessary. Some improvements to drainage have been attempted.

The footpath which begins from Sue's Walk and which runs behind the houses on the Warminster Road has in part been "moved" a few metres into the field. At the point where this path changes direction briefly to get into the next field and where footpath FR1/17 goes diagonally across it the farmer has fenced off the right-hand field boundary to offer walkers the opportunity of an alternative route to the track beyond.

Sue's Walk has, as usual, been given special attention since it forms such an important link between the Warminster Road and St. George's Church. Copies of Beckington on Foot have been given out on an ad hoc basis.

Cllr Liz Wright – Council Member for Footpaths & Rights of Way

## PLANNING REPORT

Beckington Parish Council has been invited to comment to Mendip District Council on many planning applications varying in scale, scope and location- from tree felling in the Conservation Area to larger scale industrial development on the periphery.

The Parish Council has responded to most of these invitations and when doing so constantly bears in mind the impacts which will be made on the special character of the village being very aware that we have a conservation area.

In recent months there have been several applications which have had an impact on the parish. The application which included a car showroom bordering the A36 and opposite the Bathway Service Station was refused following a public meeting which was well attended, and which informed our response. Recently a new scaled down application for a new car dealership and electric charging points has been submitted. This is currently being responded to and residents have been informed. Following Mendip District Council's refusal of the Redrow 11 application for over 20 new houses an appeal was lodged, and this will be heard in Shepton Mallet in June 2018. Developments at Trees Farm move apace and moo2me now operates from there. Following our appeal against the conversion of "holiday lets" to 7 residences at The Full Moon in Rudge being lost separate sales of the Full Moon at Rudge and the "holiday lets" have been made. Change is underway. Recently a planning application for the considerable expansion of the facilities at the Bathway Service Station was approved. Building is currently happening in many parts of the parish.

Beckington Parish Council has responded to the Mendip District Council Local Plan Part 11 consultation and members were particularly concerned with the development boundary.

It seems that the character and role of Beckington are changing.

Cllr Liz Wright - Temporary Planning & Development Portfolio Holder

## RUDGE REPORT.

Meetings have been convened and held at The Full Moon when updates have been given on planning issues, including The Full Moon and Trees Farm and other matters of interest, particularly superfast broadband, mainly by interested residents.

Changes in the Rudge area are now clearly visible with the separate sales of The Full Moon and the "holiday lets" and the business of moo2me running from Trees Farm.

A watching brief has been kept on our assets, the telephone box, known as Rudge Information Point and the water cupboard. They have both undergone routine maintenance by members of the local community.

Concerns of the community of Rudge have been taken to a couple of Police and Community Together meetings (PACT). These have included speeding vehicles, heavy farm vehicles using Rudge Lane and burglaries.

Hand deliveries have been made concerning planning matters.

Potholes needing repair have been reported to Somerset Highways, water leaks to Bristol Water and rubbish dumped close to the public highway to Mendip District Council. Damage being caused to the grass verges has been reported to Somerset Highways.

The Parish Council noticeboard had to be repaired and recently moo2me have generously agreed to fund this.

A pre-Christmas get together was held in The Full Moon in late December 2017 and a litter pick was organised by a local resident in March 2018.

Cllr Liz Wright - Rudge Representative

## BETTERING BECKINGTON

No report

## FINANCE (INCLUDING THE BECKINGTON CHARITIES)

No report

## HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

No report

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENT & COUNCIL ASSETS

No report