



February 2017

Issue No 2

THE BEACON

Bean Parish Council News Letter
Web Site

<http://www.hugofox.com/community/bean-parish-council-13254/bean-parish-council/>

Parish Clerk: Jan Becket 01474 832999.

Email beanparishcouncil@btinternet.com



Chair: Cllr Anna Munday 01474 708044.

Email annamunday@btinternet.com

Your Councillors are:

Cllr. Mrs Chris Bates

07718 597160

Spiritsrest@icloud.com

Cllr. Keith Burgin

07970 740922

keith1.burgin@gmail.com

Cllr. David Hammock

01322 383792

David.Hammock@dartford.gov.uk

Cllr. Keith Impiazzi

01474 702911

kimpiazzi@googlemail.com

Cllr. Mrs Anna Munday

(Chairman) 01474 708044

annamunday@btinternet.com

Cllr. Mrs Sally Weeks

01474-832806

sallyannweeks@talktalk.net

Cllr. Duncan Wood

(Vice Chairman)

01474 706678

duncanr.wood@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Clerk:

Mrs Jan Becket

01474 832999.

Email

beanparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Your Community Warden is:

Paul Hassell

07813 713285

Memorial Tree

We are pleased to advise that we will shortly be planting 3 wild cherry trees on the grass verging between the gate to the field opposite the entrance to Bean House and Beacon Drive. One, sponsored by Bluewater Community

Forum, will be in memory of Councillor Alison Sakellariou, former Chair of Bean Parish Council who sadly died, whilst in office, in January 2016 and the other two sponsored by Bean Parish Council and The Trustees of Bean Youth & Community Centre in memory of all those who have served the village.



A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet Junction Improvements

On 18th January 2017 Highways England started six weeks' consultation. Surprisingly, there was only one Option, for each junction, meeting the Brief. Unfortunately, for Bean Residents, preferred Option 5 shows 1-11 Ightham Cottages demolished for an enlarged roundabout.

Also, the Bean 'Spirits Rest' Horse Sanctuary land would be taken for a new, eastbound slip-road to A2. The proposed Bean junction improvements broadly follow the existing road layout but with an additional bridge over the A2 adjacent to the existing bridge and a new slip road on to the A2 for eastbound traffic. It retains the existing junction layout but with the current roundabouts enlarged and converted to traffic signal control. A new bridge over the A2 for southbound traffic is provided to the east of the existing Bean Lane Overbridge, which is retained for north-bound traffic. There are other Options and combinations that are being reviewed. Please find details of these, together with the Parish Council's response to the consultation on the Parish Council web site.



Deadline is 1st March to **have your say or write:** -

www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

Freeport A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet junction improvements

Look after your vulnerable neighbours this winter

Vulnerable and elderly people can find it difficult to get out to the shops or to keep their house adequately heated during the cold weather.

Anyone can help their vulnerable neighbours by performing some simple actions. Ensure their home is warm and they have everything they need to manage during the cold spell.

Picking up shopping or medicines for them during bad weather can make all the difference and could prevent them having to leave the house themselves and risk a fall.

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Do you clean up after your dog?

It is becoming increasingly difficult to walk around Bean without incurring ever increasing piles of dog excrement fouling our footpaths. The Mount footpath, School Lane, High Street and Beacon Drive are especially bad and what makes this even worse is that these are the routes used by Mums and their children to get to and from Bean School. If you are a dog owner, walking your dog/s along this route, especially at night, please make sure that you clean up after your dog. It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. The regulations state specifically, that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after a dog. Make sure you pick up the mess straight away, seal the bag and place the waste in a bin. This could be a dog waste bin, a normal litter bin or if this is not possible take the bag home and put it in your own bin.

Do not throw the bag over a fence, hang it on a tree or leave the bag on the pathway. Make a note of where the public bins are on your route so that you can dispose of the waste responsibly.

If you are not prepared to clean up after your dog perhaps you shouldn't have one!



Bus-shelters

You will have noticed that the bus-shelter at the bottom of Beacon Drive has been re-furbished. This has been done by our Parish Handyman and we hope you are pleased with the improvement. A new bus-shelter will be installed this month outside the Doctor's surgery, a little further up Beacon Drive, and we hope that the residents that use the bus stop



on a regular basis will benefit from this addition although unfortunately due to the narrowness of the path at this location we were unable to install a shelter with sides.

SCHOOL ITEMS

A Multi Use Games Area has now been completed on the school field and children have been enjoying it at break times, lunch times, PE lessons and After School Clubs. Historically the elements and the clay soil combined have left the school field unusable at certain times of the year so the MUGA is of huge year round benefit for all the children. The girls football team are currently top of Dartford Schools Pink League. The boys team are trying hard in the Red League and won their last game 6-0. Some of the children also play in the Dartford District League.



The schools Summer Fayre is on Saturday 10th June 2017 and a warm welcome is extended to everyone

Improvements to the Community Centre



In the last year, the Trustees have been very busy making a number of improvements to the Community Centre. In the back garden, they have replaced a section of the grass with artificial lawn and laid paving to the side. This month they are installing a lean-to

give shelter to those who would like to sit outside. The nursery now have their own secure area of the garden divided off from the lawn by a picket fence. Inside, hand-dryers have been installed in all the toilets to replace paper-towels and LED lighting has brightened up the hall.

Drivers for Bean Bus



As a community, we are very fortunate to have our own community bus but without drivers it is a wasted asset, and we risk losing it. We urgently need drivers, during the day, evening and weekends. If you are interested in helping or would just like to find out more information about what is involved, please contact either Colin or the Parish office.

Information about your property

If you would like to check which day your refuse collection is, look at your planning history and building controls or check out who your Dartford Borough Councillors are the website address is:

<http://windmz.dartford.gov.uk/myproperty/SquizMyPropertySearch.aspx>