**Your Parish Council Update - February 2021**

The first meeting of 2021 kicked off similar to how we said goodbye to 2020 with need to hold the meeting over Zoom.

**January 2021 Parish Council Meeting**:

**Neighbourhood Plan:**

Mr Truluck was in attendance to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and the consultation process that is running until 24 February 2021. This is the Final Consultation draft that has been made available county wide and to key National agencies for their comments. It is also available to all Broad Chalke residents.

Feedback will be reviewed and any appropriate amendments made to the Plan and an independent Examiner appointed to review the Plan prior to it being submitted to a local Referendum which is currently planned for May 2021. (This date will be subject to Covid-19 position & possible restrictions).

Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to contact the Parish Council or to the Steering Group for an informal discussion before submitting a formal response to Wiltshire Council.

**Low Lane Footpath:**

Following site-visit and further discussion, the Council agreed that, to make any lasting improvements, substantial engineering works would be required, and this was not considered appropriate for this path.

**Parish Council Communications:**

Due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the Council meetings are continuing to take place via Zoom Video Conferencing and because this will be the ‘new normal’ for the foreseeable future the Council are reviewing Microsoft Teams as a possible alternative as this will support collaboration for all Council activities. Additionally, the Council are to investigate the use of Social media to aid the dissemination of Council news to the community. This will be further reviewed at the next meeting in February.

**Playground Report:**

Mr T Cave-Gibbs reported on the annual RoSPA Playground inspection report. The report highlighted:

* some excellent repairs that had taken place since the last inspection
* a lot of the equipment and surfacing are not compliant with current standards but as they were installed prior to these coming into force there was not the requirement to upgrade them.
* some actions to make safer specific items of equipment but these were generally highlighted as low risk issues.
* some equipment to be kept under review.

Some actions have been agreed and implemented. It was also agreed to secure costs for replacement support timbers that will need replacing in the coming months and to look at programming this work in the new financial year, post April 2021 unless budget underspends permit within year action.

**Census 2021**

The Census takes place on 21 March 2021. **T**he Council are strongly supporting this to ensure take up by the whole village – this is an important event that only happens every 10 years. The data collected is vital to help understand what our society needs now and what it is likely to need in the future. The information collected helps plan and fund services in our area. This could include transport, education and healthcare. Charities also use census information to help get the funding they need. Businesses use it to decide where to set up, which creates job opportunities. You will receive information on the timetable and requirements in the next few weeks. Please take the time to supply the information requested.

**Mobile Refill Project**

The Council received information from this Project which is all about refill and reuse. Whilst the Council supports the principle, there would be concerns should the mobile unit visit Broad Chalke and take business from the village shop. Details have been sent to the Hub Management Committee.

**Mill Mead Public access agreement** The previous access agreement has now expired. Signs will be posted on the entrances stating it is now a ‘Permissive Access’ site and this is granted by the landowners. The Council would like to thank Mr Jowett for making this available to benefit the community and encourage all to make use and respect the quiet enjoyment of this lovely riverside nature reserve. There will be occasions when access is not permitted to enable maintenance works to be undertaken safely.

**Financial Report from Clerk**

With three months of this financial year the council are set to targeted to come in just under the agreed budget of £8,468.

**Future Parish Council Meetings F**uture meetings will be kept under review but the intention is to hold the next meeting on 10th February 2021 via Zoom.

**Contact Details**

Council Chairman – Tom Hitchings email: Tomhitchingsbroadchalke@gmail.com

The Parish Clerk - Chris Rothwell email: Clerkbroadchalke@gmail.com

Social Media & Publicity – Simon Dawes mail: sdawesbroadchalke@gmail.com

The Parish Council Website is - https://www.broadchalkeparishcouncil.com