

NEWSLETTER

September 2017, issue 7

Parish Council matters

The Parish Council welcomes a new councillor, Sarah Sinclair, who has been co-opted following the resignation of Bernard Nix a few months ago. Sarah brings a new perspective to the Parish Council being the parent of school-aged children. There is an increasing number of young families in Purley on Thames, so it is important that they 'have a voice' on the council. We are really pleased Sarah is joining us. If you would like to find out more about what the Parish Council does and how it works you can speak to the Parish Clerk, to me or any of the other councillors or come as an observer to a parish meeting.

The Parish Office sometimes receives information from local residents about speeding issues in Purley on Thames. When there are concerns about speeding the local community needs to collect speeding data then, when we have a picture of a problem in a particular area we can refer it to the Traffic and Road Safety Team at West Berkshire Council. To be effective at tackling excessive speed in this way, we need a team of Speed Indicating Device (SID) volunteers to gather the data. West Berkshire Council provides training for using the equipment and all volunteers must attend. We currently have three Parish Councillors trained with SID but you don't need to be a councillor to do this and Purley needs at least six qualified people. The next SID training session is on 25th October 6.30-8.30pm in Newbury. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Clerk on 0118 984 4507 or e-mail clerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk. At the training you would need to be photographed in order that an authorisation card can be issued.

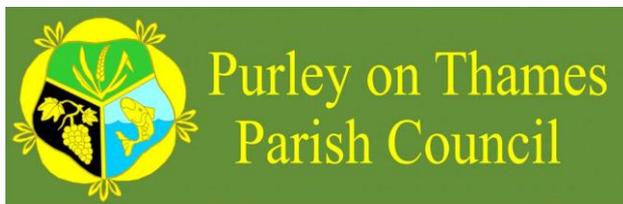


Sue Briscoe
Chair of Purley on Thames Parish Council

CCTV installation

As a result of recent vandalism and antisocial behaviour, we have now had CCTV cameras installed on the Barn, the Pavilion and the Parish Office to give full coverage of the buildings and recreation facilities at Goosecroft.

Additional lighting will also be installed over the coming weeks to ensure safe access to the Parish Office during the darker winter months.



New crossing on the Oxford Road

Work on putting in a new pedestrian crossing on the Oxford Road should be completed in the next few weeks. The crossing at the end of Theobald Drive is intended to help school children cross the road safely.

2018 Grants

As a result of higher than expected expenditure in other areas – including the unexpected costs of vandalism and increasing safety and security – the Parish Council has decided not to award grants for the 2017-2018 financial year.

Electoral Review of West Berkshire

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has conducted an electoral review of West Berkshire, and its draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements are now available. To find out more and to see the proposals for new ward boundaries, go to consultation.lgbce.org.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk

As part of the review, LGBCE is seeking the opinions of local people and organisations on:

- whether the proposed wards reflect local communities;
- how the proposals might be improved; and
- whether the proposed names of wards are right.

You have until Monday 13 November 2017 to have your say.

Recycling Centres in West Berkshire

Now that residents of Purley on Thames are no longer able to use the Reading Borough Council tip at Smallmead, we thought it might be helpful to give some details of the two recycling centres run by West Berkshire Council.

Padworth recycling centre is the nearer of the two being off the A4 Bath Road, just before the turning to Aldermaston. It is a mini-household waste recycling centre so some items, such as furniture and gas bottles, are not accepted there. The larger Newtown recycling centre is further away, on the A339 south of Newbury. Information about what can be recycled at each of the centres, as well as opening times and maps, are available at info.westberks.gov.uk/article/34354

Both centres are operated on a permit scheme and a permit must be displayed when visiting the centres. Every West Berkshire household was sent a permit, but new or replacement permits may be requested online at www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=33333

Village matters

Sunflowers!



The picture next to Sue Briscoe's piece at the start of this newsletter is of a giant sunflower grown by Parish Councillor Bill Ayling. To give a better idea of how tall the plant is, here's Bill just about able to reach the top of it ... with the help of his stick!

If you've also grown a sunflower – tall or short – from the seeds we gave out earlier in the year, please do send us a picture, we'd be very pleased to include it in the next newsletter.

Community Champion Awards 2017

On Monday 11 September 2017, West Berkshire Council launched the Community Champion Awards. They are intended to acknowledge and thank those who go the extra mile for the good of others within the community, and there are four categories for nominees living within West Berkshire:

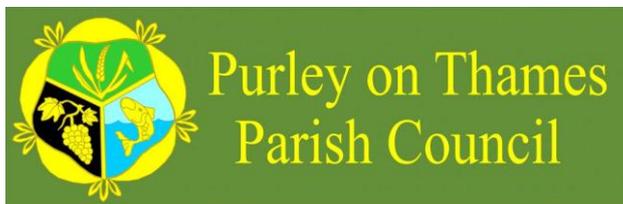
- The Pat Eastop MBE Junior Citizen of the Year (nominees must be 18 years or under);
- Volunteer of the Year;
- Community Group of the Year; and
- Lifetime Achievement.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 27 October 2017 and, if you know of a person or group you believe deserves recognition for work within the community, nomination forms can be downloaded at www.westberks.gov.uk/communitychampion.

Pangbourne Working Men's Club car park

It seems that quite a few people have been fined after using the car park recently, often because of misunderstanding the rule changes.

When using the car park at Pangbourne Working Men's Club, please be aware that you have to pay in the car park itself (not at the Dolphin Centre, the tickets are not interchangeable). Also, there is now an intelligent system which records registration numbers of cars entering and leaving the car park, so it is no longer possible to wait in the car park without buying a ticket.



Farmers' Market

There have been a few queries about when the Farmers' Market is held in Purley on Thames. It is held in the morning of the second Saturday of every month in the Large Hall of the Barn at Goosecroft. The Small Hall hosts an array of local crafters at the same time so there's something to interest everyone.

Allotments

This month, the annual allotment invoices will be sent to allotment holders. If you are interested in taking a half or quarter plot, please contact the Parish Office.

Volunteering opportunity

We have been contacted by the Befriend project West Berkshire, a charity managed from the West Berkshire Volunteer Centre, as they're looking for new volunteers in the area to befriend lonely people aged over 55 years. Befriending is widely recognised as an effective way of tackling social isolation and improving well-being. This scheme has run since April 2016 and has over 50 volunteers who are DBS checked and referenced. Once trained, a volunteer is carefully matched to someone then, just like a friend, they visit or arrange a trip once a week or so.

If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Befriend West Berkshire at 1 Bolton Place Northbrook Street Newbury RG14 1AJ, by e-mail – befriend@vcwb.org.uk – or by telephone, 01635 49004.

Contact

For further information on matters raised here and other local issues, please see the Parish Council web site – www.purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk.

If you would like to contact us, our telephone number is 0118 984 4507, or you may e-mail asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk. Villagers are also welcome to come and see us, the office public hours are:

Monday	2.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	9.30am to 2.30pm

If you know of anyone who might like to sign up to our newsletter, please ask them to contact asstclerk@purleyonthames-pc.gov.uk giving the e-mail address they'd like us to use.