

# FRPC Parish Council for The Farnhams

## Information for the Parish Council Meeting on 28 January 2019

### 3 Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda - for information only)

#### 3.1 Update on Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group ("NPSG")

Unfortunately, the NPSG was unable to meet in December 2018 (Chairman was unable to attend due to ill-health) or this month (Clerk was unable to attend due to snow). A date is currently being arranged for the next meeting at which it is planned that the Group will look at the estimated timescale for preparing the Plan, any voluntary or professional support requirements and formulating a consultation and communication strategy.

#### 3.2 Update on Facebook page

The PC now has a Facebook page and the Clerk would like to thank Saera Carter (Vice Chair of Stoke Poges Parish Council) for her assistance in setting this up.

#### 3.3 Update on Beeches Road consultation

The Clerk is currently arranging meetings between the Chairman and Mrs. Rolfe, Mr Howden and Mrs Jebson in order to understand the issues prior to suggesting a strategy for taking this forward.

#### 3.4 Feedback following meeting with SBDC following the result of the car park referendum

On 13 December 2018, the Chairman and the Clerk attended a meeting with SBDC Portfolio Holders for Environment (Clr Luisa Sullivan and Clr Barbara Gibbs) and Julie Rushton the Parking Manager at SBDC. The purpose of the meeting was to investigate possible options following the result of the car park referendum. During the meeting the SBDC Portfolio Holders made it clear that there was no money to reinstate the free half hour car parking which was withdrawn in 2011 and expressed a reluctance to enter into any agreement which would see the Parish Council subsidise the free half hour.

From the perspective of the Parish Council in any such agreement SBDC would seek an up front payment, a figure of £17,000 was discussed, based on the estimated annual loss and then a balancing payment would be required at the end of the year based on the actual loss to SBDC. The SBDC representatives felt that the second payment would be a significant sum due to a reduction in ticket purchases for longer periods due to what they call 'double dipping' i.e. people returning after the first half hour and putting another half hour ticket on their vehicle rather than initially purchasing a ticket for a longer period. There would therefore be financial uncertainty for the Parish Council.

A three month trial was discussed by one of the Portfolio Holders but an up front payment to cover the estimated loss to SBDC would be required and there was concern that three months would not be a sufficient period to draw any meaningful conclusions.

The Portfolio Holders suggested that free half hour parking would not benefit the shops and businesses as it would encourage shoppers to carry out the tasks planned quickly rather than to browse generally, which is facilitated by shoppers having to purchase a ticket for a longer period. The idea of holding a farmers market or similar was suggested to change the offering and encourage shoppers to visit.

#### 3.5 Update on May 2019 election

As per my email of 18 December 2018, confirmation has been received that the parish council elections planned for May 2019 have been postponed until May 2020 following a formal request by Chiltern

### 3.6 Update on agreement with enforcement company

On 21 December 2018, the Clerk signed Constant & Co's terms and conditions and instruction form.

### 3.7 Update on changes to household recycling centres

BCC made their final decision on 7 January 2019 regarding the future of their recycling centres. The main changes being introduced, which it is estimated will make cost savings of £1.25 million, are as follows:

1. Introduce charges at all Buckinghamshire household recycling centres for anything that is classed as non-household waste. This includes waste resulting from the construction, demolition, renovation or alteration of homes and outbuildings, and rubble, soil and treated wood resulting from garden landscaping. However, all green garden waste will continue to be accepted without charge. Charges will be phased in from 1 April 2019.
2. From 1 April 2019, reduce daily opening at the household recycling centres at Rabans Lane (Aylesbury), Chesham and Burnham from seven to five days a week by closing them on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
3. Permanently close the household recycling centre at Bledlow from 1 April 2019.
4. Close the household recycling centre at Burnham permanently from 30 September 2019, subject to a financial review of the effectiveness of the other changes, which could mean that closure is postponed.

## **4 Open Spaces**

### 4.1 To review recommendations of the Open Spaces Working Group ("OPWG")

#### 4.1.1 Arboriculturalist's Report (December 2018)

The OSWG recommends that the work detailed in the report is carried out and has asked Capability Landscapes Limited, the contractor responsible for the areas surveyed, to quote for the work. A copy of the tree database will be circulated to councillors.

#### 4.1.2 Contracts

Although the Parish Council previously agreed to seek one year extensions to the contracts relating to the devolved services, the OSWG recommends that new four year contracts are negotiated to ensure the best price is secured but that these contracts should include a one year break clause to protect the Parish Council.

Further, the Parish Council currently enters into 15 separate contracts in order to maintain the services. The OSWG recommends grouping certain contracts together in order to streamline the process and ensure that the best price is secured.

#### 4.1.3 Additional sign for Ingrams Copse

Following comments from The Woodland Trust, the OSWG reviewed the number of signs detailing who to contact in the event of a complaint at Boundary Copse, Ingrams Copse and Jubilee Copse. The Group felt that there were sufficient signs in Boundary Copse and Jubilee Copse but identified only one in Ingrams Copse, which is at the main entrance. The OSWG recommends purchasing another sign for Ingrams Copse to be placed at one of the entrances from Langtons Meadow.

#### 4.1.4 Clearing tent encampment in Boundary Copse

Despite the clerk reporting the rubbish left in Boundary Copse following the tent encampment in October 2018 to SBDC the items remain and could be considered a health and safety concern. The OSWG recommends instructing a contractor to clear the site and dispose of the rubbish. Capability Landscapes Limited and Constant & Co have been suggested.

#### 4.2 To consider setting criteria for the Kingsway Green project and holding an extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting to make a decision on the way forward

To be discussed at the meeting.

### **5 Finance**

#### 5.1 To receive a report of the Finance Committee meeting held on 21 January 2019

There will be a verbal report on this item during the meeting.

##### 5.1.1 2018/19 year end forecast

A copy of the forecast will be circulated to councillors.

##### 5.1.2 2019/20 budget

A copy of the budget will be circulated to councillors.

#### 5.2 To agree the Precept for 2019/20

To be discussed at the meeting.

#### 5.4 To note receipt of quarterly management information to 31 December 2018

A copy of the quarterly management information will be circulated to councillors.

#### 5.5 To consider payment of an additional £551.55 towards the LAF project for dropped kerbs/footway reconstruction

Changes were made regarding the work for dropped kerbs/footway reconstruction in Langtons Meadow and Green Man Hill. The work increased from three pairs of dropped kerbs to four, including additional kerb works/junction realignment plus another 20m<sup>2</sup> of footway reconstruction and new double height kerbs. BCC has advised that due to the changes this work requires £551.55 of additional funding and unfortunately there is no further LAF funding available. BCC has therefore requested confirmation that the Parish Council will settle this additional amount. The amount that the Parish Council has already committed to fund is £8,000.

### **6 Planning**

#### 6.3 To consider the proposed names of properties on the Dippingwell site

The Clerk has been contacted by the developer of the Dippingwell site with a request to agree to their suggested development name and property numbers. They propose to call the development Dippingwell Court and number the three properties to the front of the site 1,2 and 3 and then the three properties to the rear of the site 6, 7 and 8. They also propose to change the existing properties to 4 and 5.