

Beyton Parish Council Chairman`s Report

Well our prayers were answered, the latter part of summer was beautiful, however, I did notice that the best sunshine occurred on week days and not weekends-must be something to do with rewarding the retired members of the community !

The last couple of months have been a rather quiet period for the Parish Council but on reflection we have moved forward on a number of our targets. A summary of these follow together with a report on the enjoyable activities.

Autumn Clean-up. Saturday 22nd October

We are all set to meet up at the bus shelter on The Green at 10:00 am and then to enjoy free drinks and refreshments for all volunteers at The Bear. Please come and join in - the more the merrier.

Dog Fouling.

I am really happy to say that there has been no further reports of dogs fouling our footpaths. Thanks very much dog owners.

Village Green Lease.

Sorry, but no progress has been made here. It still remains one of our most important objectives.

Flooding in the village.

Some good news here, however, we must not rest on our laurels:

Thurston Road: Last year the stream was cleared at the north end of The Green and no flooding occurred. There has been no preventative maintenance carried out this year, so keep your fingers crossed.

Quaker Lane: Suffolk CC has arranged for the main ditch at the westerly end to be dugout and for broken drainage pipes to be replaced. This should prevent further flooding here.

Manor Farm Drive: The soak away drain at the entrance has proved to be inadequate during heavy rain periods, the County Council has agreed to try to improve this.

Drinkstone Road: Suffolk Highways have requested that the land owners clear the ditch adjacent to the road clear the stream. A positive response has been received and remedial work should be completed by November.

The One way Street: Flooding here appears to be the result of blocked drains and is still to be addressed by Suffolk Highways.

The bottom line is that the Parish Council is committed to work with the local

authorities to make Beyton as free from flooding as possible.

Emergency Plan for Beyton.

A draft plan to protect vulnerable parishioners in the event of adverse weather, power outs etc has been drawn up. We expect to submit this to Suffolk County Council and the Environmental Agency in October.

Play Equipment Inspection and Risk Assessment.

The annual independent inspection was carried out in August, the overall assessment recorded as Low Risk. Some minor attention was recommended and some of the remedial work has all ready been completed by Andy Rollett and Eric Maffey

The full inspection report is available for viewing on the Beyton website.

Railings over the stream on The Green.

These have all be repainted with the exception of those on the sharp bend on Thurston Road which were considered as too dangerous to attend to because of traffic flow at this blind bend. My thanks to Roy Crosby for his painting skills.

Road Safety.

The Parish Council has in principle agreed to support the purchase of a new speed camera and a vehicle activation sensor (VAS) for use by the Beyton Community Speed Watch team. The investment is quite considerable, something in excess of £5,000 however, we are hoping to receive a major contribution from our County Councillor, Penny Otton by way of her Location Budget. The Speed Watch Team sees the acquisition of this equipment as essential to road safety in our village, the final decision on the purchase is expected to be made during October.

The summer grass cutting of the road verges has fallen short of an acceptable standard. There have been many junctions where insufficient cutting has resulted in a significant lack of traffic visibility. One of the worst affected areas being the junction of the A14 slip road and Thurston Road. On two occasions this year members of the Parish Council were obliged to cut the grass and hedges themselves – this is not satisfactory and must be addressed in future.

Defibrillator .

The campaign led by Thurston Community College, Beyton Village Association and Beyton Parish Council has successfully gained funding from the National Lottery to buy the defibrillator. The equipment will be installed in the redundant phone box on one way street side of The Green by the end of September. Joe Churchill, our Member of Parliament has been invited to officially hand over the defibrillator to Ruby Last representing the village of Beyton. Ruby is a year

twelve student from Thurston Community College and has been a key driver in making the investment possible. The official hand over ceremony will be on Saturday 22nd October at 10:00 am. We would like as many people to attend as possible and of course then join the litter pick and refreshments at The Bear. There will be two training sessions at Thurston Community College, Beyton Campus, Church Road on CPR and the use of the defibrillator in October. The exact dates and times will be posted on the Parish Council Notice boards.

New Notice Board. Quaker Lane.

The current notice board in Quaker Lane has seen better days and will be replaced in November.

Rougham Parish Magazine.

After 15 years as Editor of the Rougham, Beyton, Hessett and Rushbrook Parish Magazine, Barbara Jones has decided to retire to allow her to enjoy her lovely grandchildren, dogs and husband. We thank Barbara for her dedication to the job over the many years and wish her much enjoyment with her family. Tim Elliott has kindly taken over as Editor, his contact details are: phone 01359 270365. email rbhparishmagazine@gmail.com

Beyton Village Map

David Kemplay has kindly produced a new village map and house finder to be mounted in the notice board at the side of the bus shelter on The Green. What a beautiful job, such detail, it must have taken him hours of dedicated time to achieve. Thank you David.

The new map was required to include the new houses built in the last decade or so in Beyton. Whilst we admire the new map, we should remember its predecessor designed and produced by Tom Miller which admirably served the community since the millennium.

Cricket Bat Willows.

I hope that you have all seen the notices of the intention to remove 10 mature trees and replace them with 14 new ones. Two parishioners have expressed concern that this may affect the views over The Green and will be invited to join a meeting with the tree surgeon prior to the cut in October.

Rounders on the Green and Film evening.

Once again the BVA put on a great evening, what a shame the Tostock team won the rounders game. I must say that I discovered muscles that I didn't know I had when they ached the next morning

Barn Owls.

Even the owls love Beyton. The BEG (Beyton Environmental Group) managed to raise three females last year and least two have fledged already this summer. More good news as there are at least three more babies that should be taking to the air around the end of October. BEG does a wonderful job of protecting the wild life around us- why not become part of the group? Call Cathy Cass on 270785 if you want to protect our wonderful environment for future generations.

Yoursb

Graham Jones