

NEWSLETTER

Badgers Mount Parish Council properly understands and is able to reflect the views of local residents, be it wholesale rejection of any development, or support for Quinn's proposals, or anything in between. In due course the Parish Council will undertake formal consultation with residents, but at this stage we would welcome hearing your initial, immediate reaction to the development proposals. We expect that BMPC will be discussing Broke Hill in one form or another at all its upcoming meetings for the foreseeable future – please come along!

MEETING DATES TO JULY 2018

1st February	Full & Planning meetings
15th February	Planning meeting (if required)
1st March	Full & Planning meetings
15th March	Planning meeting (if required)
5th April	Full & Planning meetings
19th April	Annual Parish Meeting & Planning meeting (if required)
3rd May	Full & Planning meetings
17th May	Planning meeting (if required)
7th June	Full & Planning meetings
21st June	Planning meeting (if required)
5th July	Full & Planning meetings
19th July	Planning meeting (if required)

All meetings start at 7.30 pm in the Badgers Mount Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome!

CONTACT US

Parish Council telephone number: 07452 886977

Email : clerk@badgers-mountpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Website: www.badgers-mountpc.co.uk

Welcome to the January 2018 newsletter from your Parish Council.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Parish Clerk

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer as Naomi Morgan resigned in December 2017. This is a part time, home based position which will involve preparing agendas for and minutes of meetings which are held on the first Thursday of each month with a second planning meeting if required on the third Thursday; keeping financial records and dealing with general correspondence, maintaining the website etc. For more information please contact our Council Chairman, Roy Blamey by writing to 3 Crest Close or emailing him via roy.blamey@badgersmountpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

New Councillor

Following publication of notices advising the vacancy for a councillor, ten electors asked SDC to hold an election. Notices inviting nominations were displayed and only one nomination was received from Alistair Dunlop who is therefore deemed to be duly elected to the council.

WEBSITE

Our website is now regularly updated by two of your Parish Councillors. It offers meeting minutes, agendas and other useful information about matters the Council is involved in. Please ensure that you visit it regularly to keep up to date with current issues in the community. If you have any suggestions or feedback about the website we would like to hear from you. You can drop us an email, telephone us or join us at one of our Council Meetings.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Date – Thursday 19th April 2018.

What it is and why we do have one? It is the Annual Parish Meeting when the Parishioners and local societies/individuals are invited to speak and set up small presentation areas to highlight their own contribution to the Parish. It is your night come along and interact with everyone who also has an interest in Badgers Mount.

We would hope to have representation from the following if possible:

Polhill Garden Centre	BMRA
Badgers Mount WI	Woodland Trust
Gary Williamson, District Councillor	Kent Air Ambulance
F M Conway Ltd	Kent Police
Halstead & Knockholt Parish Councils	

Those available will be confirmed closer to the evening.

The meeting will be opened by the Chairman. Residents will then have a chance to chat with the representatives and discuss ideas for future events. Refreshments and nibbles will be available throughout the evening. Everyone is welcome, please come and see what your Parish Council gets up to. Look out for the notices on the boards/website nearer to the time.

SPEEDWATCH

Is anyone interested in forming a Speedwatch group to monitor speeding vehicles on our roads? If you would like to get involved you will have a short training course and sites will be assessed by the police. Unfortunately this can only be done on roads with a maximum speed limit of 40 mph. Several other local villages do this and find it useful in deterring speeding vehicles. Please contact us via our email address: clerk@badgers-mountpc.kentparishes.gov.uk or phone 07452 886977

**For a large print newsletter call
07452886977**

BROKE HILL GOLF CLUB

Broke Hill Golf Club - in Halstead, opposite to Knockholt Station - has been acquired by property developers Quinn Estates. Quinn have put forward hugely ambitious development proposals for the site, to create what they call Stonehouse Park Garden Village:

“ A visionary proposal for the creation of an exemplar garden village community that can provide housing, employment, community facilities, education and sporting facilities”

Including ... some 800 homes (more than Badgers Mount and Halstead combined!), a business park with 500+ jobs, new primary and secondary schools, retail shops, medical facilities, etc., etc.

Quinn are well aware that this is Green Belt land, with no current planning permission. Our local District Cllr John Grint has been amongst those who have stressed the vital strategic significance of the site, which forms part of the essential green buffer between Greater London and Sevenoaks District, halting the spread of metropolitan urbanisation and there is already evidence of widespread public opposition to the prospect of development on the site. Individually and collectively, these are formidable obstacles for Quinn to overcome before obtaining planning permission - any permission whatsoever - even for some relatively small-scale development.

But these obstacles have not deterred Quinn from formulating their extraordinary proposals. The sheer scale of their ambition is quite breathtaking.

At this stage Quinn say they merely wish to engage with the local community, to establish what facilities the local community would value on the site. Affordable housing? Medical facilities? Schools? Employment? Quinn are quite likely to put on some kind of road show, to engage with the public, gauge their reaction, and assess their priorities.

There is a long road ahead, and this is just the start. But it is vital that

DEFIBRILLATOR

Finally, please remember that children are often very inquisitive about building sites without realising the extreme dangers that lie within. Help the contractor to keep them safe by telling them of the dangers that run hand in hand with a major construction site of this nature, large deep excavations etc. Weekends are the times of particular danger when the site is largely unmanned for long periods and they are at their most interesting to young eyes and minds, so please help us and the contractors by being aware of your children's activities.

JENKINS NECK WOOD

BMPC has written to SDC setting out our position regarding JNW, currently owned by SDC. For some time now, SDC has been looking to sell the woodland. The Parish Council's position is summarised below:

- BMPC places a very high priority on the protection and preservation of JNW.
- BMPC believes it will be impossible to guarantee the protection and preservation of JNW if the woodland is sold into private ownership. BMPC believes it is imperative, therefore, that the woodland remains in public ownership.
- If SDC is unwilling to safeguard the woodland itself, then BMPC would be prepared to enter into discussions with a view to the ownership of the woodland being transferred to BMPC for a nominal sum.
- If on the other hand SDC is determined to sell the woodland at a commercial valuation, then BMPC suggest this could perhaps happen in conjunction with the granting of planning permission for residential redevelopment of the Chelsfield Depot site on Shacklands Road, currently owned by F M Conway (FMC). BMPC believes that a major redevelopment of the site is highly likely at some (unknown) point in the future; it's just a question of when. FMC has indicated that it is *"keen to work with the PC and local people to try to devise a way for the woodland to be acquired and managed as part of a coordinated and holistic approach in the future"*.

The heated storage cabinet and defibrillator are now in place and operational. The cabinet is located on the wall at the top of the ramp leading to the Memorial Hall entrance.

Hopefully, you will never need to use the Defibrillator. However, if someone collapses with a suspected heart attack you will need to dial 999 and ask for the Ambulance Service in the normal way. The call centre will advise if the Defibrillator should be used. They will give you a pin code for the keypad that will enable you to open the cabinet and take the Defibrillator out for use. The machine gives you full instructions on how to treat the patient.

If you would like to know more about the Defibrillator, when it can be used and how to operate it the Parish Council and the BMRA are organising a drop in session in the Memorial Hall in early February.

The session will take place on **SATURDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2018** between 2pm and 6 pm and everyone is welcome to attend and raise/refresh their CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) knowledge and find out how to use the Defibrillator if the need arises. You can drop in at any time to suit you and stay for as long as you wish. The BMRA are kindly organising a soup/roll buffet which will be available until it is all consumed! A small charge will be made to cover the cost of this by the Association on the day.



SALT BINS

The Parish Council has obtained two new salt bins which will be placed at the top of footpath SR8 (footpath almost opposite to the steps to the Memorial Hall and which leads down to the Old London Road) and the top of the Care Home/Elite Motors/Fox's Garage footpath.

These bins are green and are the property of the Parish Council. The bins will be regularly monitored by the Council for salt levels. However, if you notice that salt levels are low, please contact us and let us know. The salt is for use on roads and footpaths, not on private drives for which salt is readily available from DIY stores, garden centres etc.

The yellow bin at the junction of Badgers Road and the Orpington Bypass is supplied and maintained by KCC.

When icy conditions occur, please scatter the salt thinly. If there is a layer of snow, it is more effective to clear as much of the snow as possible first and then use salt to clear the residual ice as will take a lot of salt to melt snow.

BUS SERVICES

It has been several months now since the Arriva 402 Bus Service ceased to run and was replaced with the Go Coach 431 service with a subsidy from KCC. Do you find this service satisfactory? Is there anything you would like to tell us about how you think the revised service is working, are there any issues or questions you have about it?

You will no doubt have seen that KCC are looking at all subsidised bus services and are due to start a consultation on their proposals later this month. We will strongly oppose any reduction in the 431 service, and also try to get it improved, and hope that residents will also do so. The more objections sent in, the more effect they have.

The Council recently enquired about the possibility of whether the R5/R10 services that currently run on a circular route from Orpington via Halstead & Knockholt, could be diverted to add Badgers Mount to its route. The Council believed that this would be an easy and cost effective way of public transport being provided in Badgers Mount. However, we have been advised that there is currently no demand for this to happen. What do you think?

Your feedback on these issues is important to us as it helps us to put a stronger case for change to both services to meet the needs of community members so please get in touch and have your say!

CARE HOME DEVELOPMENT, ORPINGTON BYPASS

Having been in contact with the site manager Steve Wheeler, we can advise on the progress of the new 60 Bed Care Home.

Good progress has been made over the past few weeks with the majority of unwanted excavated material having been removed using larger vehicles. The contractor has also progressed pouring of the concrete foundations, reinforcement to the retaining walls and the drainage below sub-structure.

Over the coming weeks the contractor aims to complete the concrete retaining walls to the front of the site and continue to prepare for the ground floor slab, which will eventually give more space within the site area and be able to provide off road car parking in time.

The contractor has requested your help and assistance in reporting any unwanted visitors to the site during out of hours periods including week-ends. If anyone should notice anything suspicious or causing damage to the site or boundary hoarding, would they please report this to the police.

We would welcome your assistance in monitoring casual parking in unauthorised areas and any delivery lorries disrupting the main highway and verges - if you do have any information or concerns to report, please get in touch with us.