

BENSON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Hall, Sunnyside, Benson, Wallingford. OX10 6LZ
Tel: 01491 825038 e-mail: bensonparish.council@virgin.net

Minutes of the Benson Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 22nd September 2016 at 7:30pm in the Benson Parish Hall Committee Room.

Present:

Cllr P Peers	(Chair)	(CPP)
Cllr P Baylis		(CPB)
Cllr J Fowler		(CJF)
Cllr R Jordan		(CRJ)
Cllr S McCann		(CSM)
Cllr T McTeague		(CTM)
Cllr P Murray		(CPM)
Cllr D Olley		(CDO)
Cllr T Stevenson		(CTS)
Cllr R Workman		(CRW)
Proper Officer:	P Eldridge	(CLK)

OCC Cllr M Gray

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies.** Cllrs F Lovesey M Winton.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** – Cllrs P Baylis, J Fowler and T McTeague declared an interest in 9.b.iii recommendation to keep bees on an allotment.
3. **To receive reports from the following:**
 - a. Cllr M Gray – OCC Member. Cllr M Gray reported:
 - i. The resurfacing of the A4074 from the McDonald's roundabout to the Riverside café had been completed.
 - ii. On the County and District council's proposals for unitary councils.
 - iii. That OCC's push to provide 'safeguarding had been extended to include other groups including the elderly.
 - iv. That OCC were overwhelmingly against the provision of additional Grammar Schools in Oxfordshire.
 - v. On the new highways liaison service for parish councils.
 - vi. That OCC had engaged a consultant to review the Oxfordshire Roads with the aim of making recommendations on how best to improve them.
 - vii. Cllr J Fowler asked if Cllr Gray would be able to assist him to have a dialogue with an OCC representative with the aim of the parish council leasing the land known as the salt store? Cllr Gray responded that he would contact Karen Lister and try and arrange a meeting. Cllr D Olley asked if OCC planned to put more affordable housing at the Meer? After a brief discussion it was agreed that Cllr Gray would add the requirement to the meeting with Karen Lister. Cllr P Peers noted that the work on the road and the pavements adjacent to the new development on Oxford Road had been completed.
 - b. Cllr F Bloomfield – SODC Member. Cllr F Bloomfield was not present at

the meeting but had sent a written report attached at Annex B.

c. Cllr R Pullen – SODC Member. Cllr R Pullen was not present at the meeting.

4. **Public Session:**

a. The developer of the Orchard behind 22/24 Blacklands Road addressed the chair explaining that after a meeting with the planning officer a revised planning application for the development on the Orchard would be submitted resolving the objections against the development. The chairman of the Benson Parish Council planning committee Cllr J Fowler responded by saying that the council would review the new plans once they are submitted.

b. A representative of the Benson United Football Club (BUFC) management committee addressed the chair noting:

i. BUFC is a growing club which is setting up additional teams. The representative continued that one of the new teams is for an older group and that is why additional larger goalposts are required.

ii. The new goalposts have now been found to overhang the garage wall where it had been planned to store them and so the alternative suggested is the back of the hall wall adjacent to the stage.

iii. The representative continued that another alternative would be to store the posts against the tennis court fence locking them, top and bottom to the fence posts. The chair responded that the parish council would need to be consulted on the location for this if permission by the tennis club to store the posts along the fence was granted.

iv. The representative confirmed that the club had public liability insurance. Cllr P Murray explained that this should be checked out as the liability insurance would need to cover players and non-players.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting: To approve and sign minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th August 2016. **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council meeting held Thursday 25th August 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr P Peers chair of the parish council signed the minutes as a true record.

6. **Benson Parish Council Planning Committee:**

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the planning meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2016. **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council planning committee meeting held Thursday 8th September 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr J Fowler chair of the planning committee signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To consider Planning Applications:

i. **BPC53/16/P16/S2852/LB.** Fifield Farmhouse Road, Between Cottesmore Lane and Fifield Manor, Benson, WALLINGFORD, OX10 6HA. Conversion of existing utility space and above to be part of main dwelling. Remove existing external door, replace with wooden casement window. Internal work.

Members unanimously resolved to object to the application on the grounds that they had concerns over the style and placement of the roof lights and other ways to provide the requisite light should be

investigated.

ii. **BPC54/16/P16/S2853HH.** Fifield Farmhouse Road, Between Cottesmore Lane and Fifield Manor, Benson, WALLINGFORD, OX10 6HA. Conversion of existing utility space and above to be part of main dwelling. Remove existing external door, replace with wooden casement window. Internal work.

Members unanimously resolved to object to the application on the grounds that there was insufficient detail on the plans.

iii. **BPC55/16/P16/S2647/LB.** Ivy Cottage 10 Castle Square, Benson, OX10 6SD.

Repair and replace windows and side door.

Members resolved by 7 votes with 3 abstentions to return no objections.

iv. **BPC56/16/P16/S2938/HH.** 4 Sunnyside, Benson, OX10 6LZ. Two-storey rear extension & addition of roof lights.

Members unanimously resolved to return no objections.

v. **BPC57/16/P16/S3015/HH.** 35 Blacklands Road, Benson, Oxfordshire, OX10 6NW.

Single storey rear extension.

Members unanimously resolved to return no objections.

c. To note Planning Decisions:

i. **BPC40/16/P16/S2221/HH.** 21 Old London Road, Benson, OX10 6RR.

Rear 'chalet' extension.

Permission Granted.

ii. **BPC04/16/P15/S4227/O.** Rear of 22 and 24 Blacklands Road Blacklands Road Benson OX10 6NW.

Outline application for the demolition of no's 22 and 24 Blacklands Road and the erection of 19no. dwellings, including 16 starter homes (all matters except access reserved) on site of no's 22/24 and land to the rear.

Permission Refused.

iii. **BPC43/16/P16/S2568/HH:** Merrienda, 4 St Helens Crescent, Benson, OX10 6RX.

Garage conversion and extension, demolition of conservatory and subsequent building of single storey rear extension, addition of side first floor dormer and building of front two storey extension with open lean to porch.

Permission Granted.

d. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee. Cllr J Fowler reported that he had been contacted by the chairman of the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Neighbourhood Plan and invited to a meeting of local Neighbourhood Plan teams with the aim of lobbying SODC to be stronger in their consideration of planning applications in places that are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, whilst they are finalising their Local Plan and the housing supply target is not met. Cllr Fowler continued that he had accepted the invitation.

7. Benson Parish Council Finance Committee:

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Finance Committee held on Tuesday 13th September 2016. **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council finance committee meeting held Tuesday 13th September 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr P Peers chair of the finance committee signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To present finance recommendations to Council:

i. **Recommendation to full council that Griffiths and Partners are engaged to prepare valuations of the council's land holdings, maximum 12 properties, at a cost of £150 +VAT per property. To engage**

Members present resolved by 9 votes with 1 abstention to approve the recommendation.

ii. **Recommendation to full council that Christopher Bates is engaged to prepare reinstatement valuations of the council's building's at a cost of £80 +VAT per hour the cost not to exceed £1000 +VAT.**

Members present unanimously resolved to approve the recommendation.

iii. **Recommendation to full council that the new circulated Finance Regulations are adopted by Benson Parish Council.**

Members present unanimously resolved to approve the recommendation.

c. To receive a report from the chairman of the finance committee. The chairman of finance committee had nothing to report.

8. Benson Parish Council Halls Committee:

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Halls Committee held on Thursday 1st September 2016. **Members who were present at the Benson Parish Council halls committee meeting held Thursday 1st September 2016 resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting by 4 votes with 1 abstention.** Cllr T McTeague chair of the halls committee signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To present halls recommendations to Council.

i. **Recommendation to full council that permission is granted to Benson United Football Club (BUFC) to store folding goalposts on the rear wall of the hall directly adjacent to the outside of the rear of the stage on brackets to be installed by the club with the following conditions:**

1) Posts should be stored with crossbars facing down to avoid individuals swinging on them whilst attached to the hall wall.

2) That BUFC assume full responsibility for the upkeep, public liability including player injury, security and insuring of the stored goalposts.

3) Benson Parish Council is provided with copies of all insurance certificates.

4) That the goalposts are stored side by side and padlocked

together on the provided brackets.

5) Nets should be removed from the posts and stored in garage after each use.

After a vigorous discussion it was **resolved by 8 votes with 1 against and 1 abstention to defer the recommendation** so that further discussion between the chairs of Halls and Recreation and Lands could be held with BUFC. It was also agreed that Cllr S McCann should inform BUFC of the decision.

Action: Cllr McCann to inform BUFC of the council's decision on the storage of goalposts. **CSM**

c. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Halls Committee.

Cllr T McTeague reported that she had received an updated plan from Mr Cutler Architect showing an updated layout for a new parish office, kitchen and toilets ready for the next halls meeting. Cllr P Peers asked that the clerk circulate the electronic copy of the plan to all Cllrs.

Action. Clerk to circulate an electronic copy of the hall regeneration plan to all Cllrs. **CLK**

9. Benson Parish Council Recreation and Lands Committee:

a. To approve and sign the minutes of the Recreation and Lands Committee held on Thursday 8th September 2016. **Members who were present at the Recreation and Lands committee meeting held Thursday 8th September 2016 unanimously resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting.** Cllr P Baylis chair of the Recreation and Lands committee signed the minutes as a true record.

b. To present recreation and lands recommendations to Council:

i. **That Benson Parish Council allocates funding not to exceed £1500 +VAT for the purchase of new bicycle racks to be installed around Benson village.**

Members present unanimously resolved to approve the recommendation.

ii. **That Benson Parish Council adopts the policy for the Use of Rivermead park area.** Cllr D Olley noted that the Rivermead area was not a park. Members present agreed that the recommendation should be reworded as:

That Benson Parish Council adopts the policy for the Use of Rivermead area.

Members present unanimously resolved to approve the recommendation.

iii. **That Benson Parish Council permit Mr P Collins to have one hive of honey bees on his allotment, subject to strict adherence of council policy, including provision of all insurance documentation and proof of appropriate body membership, as required.** After a brief discussion it was agreed that additional text was required to cover revocation of the agreement. The recommendation was changed to read:

That Benson Parish Council permit Mr P Collins to have one hive of honey bees on his allotment, subject to strict adherence of council policy, including provision of all insurance documentation and proof of appropriate body membership, as required. Benson Parish

Council reserve the absolute right to revoke this or any other permission on keeping bees on council allotments at any time. Members resolved by 6 votes with 4 abstentions to approve the recommendation.

c. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Recreation and Lands Committee. Cllr P Baylis reported:

- i. That 2 new picnic tables had been installed at Rivermead. The task had been carried out by the Benson Scouts with assistance and supervision from Benson Parish Council Staff.
- ii. The access road into the new development opposite the Benson CoE Primary School along with the adjacent footpaths have been completed.
- iii. The survey prepared by Cllr S McCann had been published on the internet.
- iv. That she had written to the secretary of the Benson Community Association to ask what plans, if any, they had to move the Wells Corner Memorial before roadworks on the Littleworth development started.

10. Benson Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

a. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Steering Group. The report is included at Annex C.

11. Benson Parish Council Working Groups. To receive reports from the Benson Parish Council Working Groups:

- a. The Technology Committee Chairman Cllr P Baylis reported that:
 - i. The upgrade of the parish office computers with Microsoft Office 365 is complete,
 - ii. Oxford IT has installed Microsoft Cloud services onto the office computers and important data and files is being transferred over to the cloud.
 - iii. The installation of Sage on the new Halls Manager computer has been done and the halls manager is now able to work on invoices.

12. Benson Parish Council Chairman:

- a. To receive a report from the Chairman. The chairman Cllr P Peers reported that:
 - i. Cllrs P Peers and J Fowler attended the SODC planning committee meeting for the discussion on the decision of the Blacklands Road development. During the discussion many concerns and objections to the development were made by Cllr Fowler and other residents living in the area. The final decision by the SODC planning committee was to unanimously refuse the application.
 - ii. A meeting had been arranged with the new sliding door installer Executive Alarms to discuss the installation and the locking system provided.
- b. To report on any items or issues brought forward. No items or issues were brought to the meeting.

13. To discuss and agree any Proposals or Approvals. No proposals were

submitted.

14. Correspondence:

- a. To review correspondence and post received as detailed on attached list (to follow).

Post received for meeting Thursday 22nd September 2016

Post/Emails Received	Action
1. Better Broadband circulated Mon 5 th Sep 2016 at 12:11.	Noted
2. Response from a resident of Sunnyside to a notice not to park on the Sunnyside Recreation Ground circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 08:26.	Noted
3. Volunteer recruitment for primary school children in Oxfordshire circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 08:43.	Noted
4. Invitation to Community First Oxfordshire AGM - 27th October 2:00pm circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 09:10.	Noted
5. Oxfordshire County Council Customer Liaison Services for Town and Parish Councils circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 09:29.	Noted
6. Neighbourhood Planning Bill circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 10:22.	Noted
7. Letter from the Benson art group commenting on the new doors Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 10:32.	Noted
8. Councils binning black and coloured sacks in recycling bins Councils binning black and coloured sacks in recycling bins circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 10:36.	Noted
9. Football Goalposts and Circus email trail from BUFC bins circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 11:18.	Noted
10. Note from a Benson resident giving up 3 garden tubs circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 12:35.	Noted
11. County Director Corporate Services Stake Holder Update circulated Wed 21 st Sep 2016 at 07:39.	Noted
12. Fields in Trust Awards 2016 - Nominations now open circulated Thu 22 nd Sep 2016 at 08:00.	Noted
13. Benson Neighbourhood Plan – Shopping Facilities circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 08:57. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan representative should reply to the parishioner that sent the letter via the clerk. Action: Clerk to send response to parishioner	NHP
14. Bensington Society Notice Board circulated Tue 20 th Sep 2016 at 09:39. Cllr P Peers to draft response for the clerk to send to the Bensington Society. Action: Cllr P Peers to draft response to Bensington Society.	CPP CLK

- b. To review Parish Office Notes as detailed on attached list (to follow).

Parish Office notes Thursday 22nd September 2016

1. Halls Manager Computer has been installed. All 3 parish office computers have been upgraded with Office 365 and attached to the Microsoft One Drive Cloud so that data can be secured, backed up and shared between staff. Annual Maintenance contract is now in place.	Noted
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15. Finance:

- a. To sign off the reconciled bank statement for the current account as at 31st August 2016.

Members present unanimously resolved to approve the reconciled bank statement as at 31st August 2016

- b. To sign cheques as detailed on the attached list (to follow).

Date of Invoice	Organisation/ Individual	Description	Cheque Number	Amount
21/09/2016	HMRC	September PAYE and NI	506042	639.84
21/09/2016	GM Stock	September Salary	506044	140.00
21/09/2016	OCC	September pension	506043	957.68
21/09/2016	A Bates	Handyman services	506045	1206.90
12/09/2016 and 31/08/2016	Sage	Second Sage licence and Sage Cover renewal	506046	192.00
16/9/2016	Oxford IT	Office 365, support plan and onsite support visit	506047	196.19
12/09/2016	Viking	Invoice proformas and post- its	506048	25.39
31/08/2016	Grundon	Waste collection August	506049	114.10
31/08/2016	Allder Glass	Repairs to fire escape	506050	102.00
31/08/2016	Colliers	Cable ties, hooks, padlock and paint	506051	108.97
07/09/2016	Earth Anchors	Anchors for Rivermead picnic tables	506052	115.14
31/08/2016	Executive Alarms	Emergency light repairs in PH and Pavilion	506053	654.00
31/08/2016	Donovan Bros	Cleaning consumables	506054	211.44
30/08/2016	Renewables First	Hydro feasibility study, Env consents and outline design	506055	4451.04
24/08/2016	OCC	NP TVERC data search	506056	87.00
21/09/2016	Clearview (Paul Smith)	Window cleaning Sept	506057	140.00
01/09/2016	Garden Furniture Scotland	2 picnic benches for Rivermead (Previously signed)	505041	799.98

16. Questions to the Chairman:

a. Cllr T McTeague asked: there appears to be a difference of opinion about the ownership of land/building of the youth hall. Please could you clarify.

Cllr P Peers provided the following answers to the questions:

- i. Who owns the land? The land is owned by Benson Church of England Voluntary School Trust
- ii. Who owns the building? Although the current building was paid for by Benson Parish Council, legal advice we have received is that it is owned by Benson Church of England Voluntary School Trust.
- iii. What sort of lease do we have? The current lease expired in 1984 but since neither party has taken steps to cancel and BPC continues to pay the rent, it is deemed to have 'rolled on' each year since then.
- iv. Who is responsible for ensuring it is a safe building and it satisfies statutory regulations? The lease BPC has is a full repairing lease and Clause 2b states that BPC has a duty "to maintain the premises in good

condition and keep all buildings and other structures placed thereon during the term in good and tenable repair. Therefore, I believe it is BPC's responsibility.

17. Items for Councillors to Note:

a. Cllr D Olley noted that there is still confusion over disabled parking spaces at the Millstream car park. Clerk confirmed that there is only one disabled parking space which is outside the new disabled toilet. Clerk continued that signage removed from the site of the old disabled space would be displayed at the new disabled space on the toilet block wall.

Action: Clerk to arrange for disabled parking space signage to be installed.

CLK

b. Cllrs S McCann and T Stevenson noted that parking on double yellow lines around the village is getting worse in general but particularly outside the fast food outlets. It was agreed that the clerk should report the issues to the local PCSOs.

Action: Clerk to report parking on double yellow lines to local PCSOs.

CLK

18. To confirm the date of the next council meeting.

Thursday 27th October 2016.

19. Dates of Next Meetings:

a. Parish Council Meeting. Thursday 27th October 2016.

b. Finance Meeting Tuesday 18th October 2016.

c. Halls Meeting Thursday 13th October 2016.

d. Recreation and Lands Meeting Thursday 10th November 2016.

e. Planning Meetings (to be notified).



Peter Eldridge
Proper Officer
4th October 2016

Annex A
Actions for Parish Council Meetings as at
22nd September 2016

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|-----|--|--------------------------|
| 1. | Clerk to review signage around Rivermead paddling pool banning dogs in the pool council meeting minutes 26th May 2016 (22.b.i.).
<i>Review complete new signs to be ordered. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 2. | Clerk to order picnic tables for Rivermead council meeting minutes 23 rd Jun 2016 (9.b.ii.).
<i>Tables ordered, delivered and installed. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 3. | Cllr P Baylis to circulate details of seats to be purchased to Cllrs council meeting minutes 23 rd Jun 2016 (9.b.iv.).
<i>In progress.</i> | CPB |
| 4. | Cllr Fowler to ask SODC why a full environmental impact assessment is not required council meeting minutes 23 rd Jun 2016 (15.a.6.).
<i>Action closed.</i> | CJF |
| 5. | Clerk to mark current action on the BCH briefing complete and take a new action to arrange the briefing when feasibility study is completed council meeting minutes 28 th Jul 2016 (5.).
<i>Added to diary. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 6. | Cllr Peers to respond to the Household waste consultation council meeting minutes 28 th Jul 2016 (14.a.7.).
<i>Action closed.</i> | CPP |
| 7. | Cllr Baylis to review policy on erection of sheds on allotments council meeting minutes 28 th Jul 2016 (14.a.17.).
<i>In progress.</i> | CPB |
| 8. | Cllr P Baylis to review responsibility for ragwort clearance of leased parish council land council meeting minutes 28th Jul 2016 (16.d.).
<i>In progress.</i> | CPB |
| 9. | Clerk to place an item on the next regular halls agenda to discuss new door installation council meeting minutes 25th Aug 2016 (8.a.iv.).
<i>Item added. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 10. | Cllr Baylis and clerk to review additional dog fowling signs at Aldridge Triangle council meeting minutes 25th Aug 2016 (9.b.ii.).
<i>In progress.</i> | CPB
CLK |
| 11. | Clerk to pass email on heavy goods vehicles to OCC Highways council meeting minutes 25th Aug 2016 (14.a.11.).
<i>Email sent. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 12. | Cllr McCann to inform BUFC of the council's decision on the storage of goalposts council meeting minutes 22 nd Sep 2016 (8.b.i.).
<i>In progress.</i> | CSM |

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|-----|---|------------|
| 13. | Clerk to circulate an electronic copy of the hall regeneration plan to all Cllrs. council meeting minutes 22 nd Sep 2016 (8.c.).
<i>Plan circulated. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 14. | Clerk to send response to parishioner council meeting minutes 22 nd Sep 2016 (14.a.13.).
<i>Response sent. Action closed.</i> | CLK |
| 15. | Cllr P Peers to draft response to Bensington Society council meeting minutes 22 nd Sep 2016 (14.a.14.).
<i>Response discussed with Bensoc. Action closed.</i> | CPP |
| 16. | Clerk to arrange for disabled parking space signage to be installed council meeting minutes 22 nd Sep 2016 (17.a.).
<i>In progress.</i> | CLK |
| 17. | Clerk to report parking on double yellow lines too local PCSOs council meeting minutes 22 nd Sep 2016 (17.b.).
<i>Reported to PCSOs. Action closed.</i> | CLK |

Annex B SODC Report from Cllr F Bloomfield

PCSO update

Each year we provide £100,000 to part fund six PCSOs. Here's a quick update of just some of the activities they carried out to support people in South Oxfordshire.

Between April and June 2016, our PCSOs organised and attended a number of events, including a talk for older people in Henley to help them avoid being scammed by fraudulent cold callers, giving crime prevention advice to almost 300 homes in Wheatley, and giving an internet safety talk to pupils in Wallingford. They also assisted 268 victims of crime.

To read the full quarter one report from our PCSOs visit our neighbourhood policing page. <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/community-safety/neighbourhood-policing>

Flying the flag

Wallingford Castle Meadows have again been awarded the Green Flag, the national award given to parks and green spaces by Keep Britain Tidy. This is now the ninth time that the site has received the award.

Wallingford Castle Meadows, which is managed by the Earth Trust, has also received Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the third consecutive year.

Better Broadband

As you will be aware the council has provided additional funding to the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme to extend broadband coverage across the district. The delivery of the additional district funded coverage is now underway and runs until December 2017. You can find out the latest plan for your local area by visiting the postcode checker map at

<http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/content/coverage-map>

However, please note that the map is not able to identify remaining coverage issues at a premises level and there may be some gaps in coverage. As the Better Broadband team has achieved savings in delivering the first phase this could be available to help plug coverage gaps and we are therefore keen to hear from communities or areas where there are still issues to help us identify specific problems. To highlight any issues contact broadband@oxfordshire.gov.uk with your full address (including postcode) and telephone number.

Changing sacks to boost recycling

From 3 November, we'll only empty green wheelie bins if the recycling in them is loose or in clear sacks.

Despite a recent campaign to raise awareness about the problem of contamination, some people continue to contaminate recycling, particularly with food waste and dirty nappies. When this happens whole truckloads of recycling are rejected at the recycling centres - take a look at our video to see how bad the problem is when people use black or coloured sacks.

[http://southandvale.us8.list-](http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=baaa88f201&e=eda6ce4f57)

[manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=baaa88f201&e=eda6ce4f57](http://southandvale.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=33bec1cf8b5523ad47c7183a0&id=baaa88f201&e=eda6ce4f57)

So we're insisting on clear sacks or no sacks to help us identify contaminated bins.

From 3 October we'll leave a bin hanger on any bins containing black or coloured sacks explaining the problem. We'll empty the bin on that occasion, but if it happens again after 3 November we won't empty the bin but will leave another note to explain why.

For more information please contact the waste team on 01235 422406.

Yellow letter

All homes across both districts should receive a yellow letter from us asking residents to confirm who currently lives at their address. We need this information to make sure everyone who is eligible to vote is able to do so in future elections.

As soon as people get their yellow letter they should visit www.householdresponse.com/southandvale to confirm their details are correct or, if not, provide the correct information. If someone doesn't have access to the internet the yellow letter contains details on the alternative ways to respond.

If there's a public noticeboard in your area, please help us spread the word by displaying this poster.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pyg5dx1iueykq81/Yellow%20letter%20-%20when%20it%20arrives.pdf?dl=0>

Rats and mice

Two cases our Food and Safety Team have been dealing with received a lot of publicity following successes in court last month.

On 15 August Little Angel's children's nursery, based in Marcham, was ordered to pay £6,740 after we found mouse droppings in their kitchen during an inspection last October. Then on 19 August Magistrates backed our decision to order Didcot takeaway Delight 2 to close its food storage area following a rat infestation and awarded us costs of £1,280.

Can your community benefit from payback?

Are there any areas of your community that could do with a bit of a tidy up, or a lick of paint? Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company can arrange for offenders given Community Payback sentences to help out.

They can do work such as clearing overgrown pathways, removing graffiti, repairing public benches or repainting play equipment in public spaces. By making things tidy it can also help deter vandalism and other crime from taking place. To find out more get in touch with Diane Major on 01869 328500 or Diane.Major@thamesvalleycrc.org.uk

New grants scheme

We've launched a new revenue grants scheme - any non-profit organisation can apply, like a charity or local village committee. The grants are from £10,000 to £100,000 over four years and can be used on revenue spending - so things like rent and rates, salary costs, and marketing and publicity.

We're launching these grants to help us meet our new corporate objectives, including investing in the district's future and building thriving communities. Applications are open from 27 July until 15 September this year. We know that councils spreading the word is one of the main ways groups find out about grant funding, so it'd be a great help if you could let your communities know - just put them in contact with the grants team on 01235 422405.

**Annex C
September Neighbourhood Plan
Report**

Benson Neighbourhood Plan Report – September 2016

1. SEA Screening

There is still no substantive progress with the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment). The consultant working with us has been in contact with a company he has worked with in the past that undertakes SEAs but it is slow progress.

2. Timeline

We have a draft revised timeline but until we have a way forward on the potential for a relief road, it is not being published. The relief road is really the 'critical path' now as if it does prove possible, we will need to hold a consultation with the village and allow for more housing in addition to the 241 already approved (the land owners where the road would be situated will want some housing allocations in return for giving up part of their land for the road).

3. S106 Priorities

I received no feedback from either Halls or Rec & Lands Committees to my request for input as to how the S106/CIL funding should be utilised. Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan Team will produce recommendations as to how the funding should be used and report back to Full Council.