

RAVENSDEN PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2019

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bernie Russell	772230 (Chair)
Jane Ferguson	771971 (Vice Chair)
Sue Jacobs	771273
Alison Myers	772518
Tom Wootton	07771575227
Philip Kenmore	771482
John Collins	771138

We would like to thank Helen Hudson for her years of service to the Parish Council and welcome John Collins as her replacement

LOCAL M.P.

Mr Alistair Burt 01234 314491
Burta@parliament.uk

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Mr Stephen Moon 01234 870061
Ms Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant
Phillippa.MartinMoranBryant@bedford.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Parish Council meetings are held on a Tuesday evening in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Date of meetings for 2019/20 are:

Sept 24th 2019

Nov 26th 2019

Jan 28th 2020

Mar 24th 2020

May 25th 2020 (Annual Meeting)

All residents are welcome to attend these meetings

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to know about (or contribute to) village concerns and events please contact Mike Hudson on mike@ravensdenvillage.org.uk to be added to the email address list
everyone@ravensdenvillage.org.uk

For any Parish Council information please look at the website
www.bedsparishes.gov.uk and select Ravensden.

Our Rural Police Contact for Ravensden Is:

PC6270 Charlotte Norris, Community North Rural Team, Bedfordshire Police, Biggleswade Police Station, Station Rd, Biggleswade. SG18 8AL Tel 01234842515. E-mail <charlotte.norris@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk>. She will be working with PCSO Callum McHattie

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following our introductory meeting in the Village Hall, the Parish Council are moving forward with Ravensden's Neighbourhood Plan, so that residents will have a say about how the village should develop in the future. Although primarily about future housing developments, it also focuses on green spaces and other ways of enhancing our village and our life within it. It is vital that we have a strong steering group of villagers with a mix of skills, experience and enthusiasm as it needs to be a plan produced by residents, not by the Parish Council (although several of us will be involved). You can contribute as much or as little time as you are able to spare. If you are interested and would like to be involved, even just as a supporter, please contact Bernie or Jane. Please could you let us know by 1st July 2019 so we could meet near the end of July.



PARKING ON PAVEMENTS AGAIN!!

Please could residents ask their visitors not to park on pavements; it does present a hazard for buggies and pedestrians. This has improved, but still ongoing. Please be thoughtful and considerate of your fellow residents. Cars belong on driveways or parked safely on the road.

SPEEDING TRAFFIC

We are collecting data from the Electronic Traffic Advice sign, which has now been in place for over a year. In brief, 20-25 % of the traffic is speeding. We are hoping to present the mayor with this information with a view to long-term traffic calming measures.

DOG FOULING AGAIN!!

There is a particular problem with dog fouling in Vicarage Close – please can we remind you to pick up your dog's poo!

COMMUNITY TRUST

The Community Trust aims to serve the community of Ravensden. Grants are awarded for personal development, and people who are in need. This might include students or youngsters furthering their education (for example, to buy text-books, laptops or equipment, or for career development. It might also include people who struggle to finance unforeseen expenditure, for example washing machine or boiler breakdown.

The grant might also be awarded for people in financial need who require taxis to hospital, or parking fees to visit relatives. Carers might also apply.

The Trust wants to support the local community, so please apply. All applications are treated in confidence.

For more details contact Bernie Russell or Jane Ferguson/Phil Kenmore.

PLANNING

The Parish Council has responded to 16 planning applications this year, most of which we have approved. However, we did oppose a significant minority, at least one of which has been refused. We also made a substantial response to both versions of the Local Plan.

In the original Plan there was a proposal for 100 houses at Graze Hill which the PC approved, with some reservations. The current proposal for 200 houses with access by a roundabout at the top of Cleat Hill is, in our opinion, totally inappropriate and out of character with the local setting. We have suggested an alternative and safer access by road through Freeman's Common.

The Parish Council attended the Consultation Events on the proposed East West railway and submitted a detailed response on the 5 available options. We chose Route B as this was not only the cheapest, but the local station would be out of Bedford and the actual route, in our opinion, would disrupted fewer villages.

COMMUNITY LITTERPICKS

The Borough Council continues to sponsor 2 community litter picks in Ravensden each year.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the community litterpick in April 2019. It was very much appreciated.

We filled many bags of rubbish from our verges and ditches. We also intend to have another litter pick in October, the date is to be announced.

We would appreciate two hours of your time to help keep our village looking tidy and pleasant. We meet in the layby next to the Curry Mansion. All gloves, tongs etc. are provided by the Borough Council.

BULKY WASTE

There will be a bulky waste removal skip sited in the village – dates and locations can be found on the Bedford Borough website at <http://www.bedford.gov.uk/recycling>