

OTTERHAMPTON OFFCUTS

Snippets from the May & June 2015 Parish Council Meetings

HINKLEY C COMMUNITY IMPACT MITIGATION (CIM) FUND £500k.

The ideas submitted by parishioners have been grouped together under the various headings such as children's play area, highways and enhancements. A further leaflet has been delivered to each household detailing the results and giving information about the Open Day on Saturday 27 June, 10am - 2pm in the Village Hall. It is hoped as many people as possible can visit the open day as we do want community involvement. There will also be the opportunity to update the Community Plan.

Further indecision over the Hinkley Point C Financial Investment Decision may mean a delay in the availability of the fund but the work we are doing at this time is important as it means we can undertake thorough research and planning.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Good news – we will be starting a bi-monthly newsletter with effect from mid-July 2015. It will be known as Otter Tales. EDF Hinkley B has very kindly agreed to print the newsletter for us. Barry Leathwood will shortly be writing to the various groups and organisations within the parish giving more details and asking for articles. Future Offcuts will appear in the newsletter.

Otterhampton Parish Project Team (OPPT)

We were asked to publish the names of OPPT members who have been coordinating the ideas and projects for the CIM fund:- Fiona Bennett, Pete Branson, Julie Evans, Tina Gardener, Paul Gripton, Barry Leathwood, Stuart Mason, Gary Perrett, Aly Prowse, Fred Shirley & Liz Sidebotham. We have also been working with members of the Community Plan Steering Group

COMBWICH BUOY

For the last six – nine months we have been applying pressure to the Burnham Marine Boat Shed to finish the repairs to the buoy. Most of you know that it has been away for almost 9 years. The problem we had was lack of leverage, mainly due to lack of competitors to undertake the specialist work. (No monies have been paid out as yet).

However, Bill Johnson and the Combwich Boat Club said they are willing and able to finish the work. We visited the Boat Shed during May and gave them 4 weeks to finish the buoy or else we would arrange for its removal. We are visiting the Boat Shed on 24 June to negotiate a price for the work done to date and to arrange its collection. The buoy will then be transported to the Combwich boat club where it will be finished and returned to its rightful place near the pill. We are hugely grateful to the boat club, who will also build the base for the buoy to stand on.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

We are still awaiting the requested road safety survey for the C182 Hinkley road from Combwich to the Steart Marshes turn-off (including the re-instatement of reflective markers at Dame Withycombe Hill).

We have a meeting arranged with Highways on the 9 July, where we will seek progress on the above items plus the practicalities and costs to remove the pedestrian railings between Estuary Park and the Wharf Rd as we were asked by some of our parishioners if they could be removed due to access difficulties for mobility scooter users.

We are grateful to Paul Gripton who arranged and erected the new 'no parking' signs at the entrance to, and on the track on the Common. The signs appear to be having an impact which we hope will continue with the likelihood of increased visitor numbers throughout the summer.

COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

Reductions to the bus services have left some of our parishioners with difficulties regarding travel arrangements. It is not yet known if the changes to the Slinky Bus Service (now only on Tuesdays in our parish) have improved the service.

We are however, trying to determine if there is sufficient interest in the parish for us to set up a voluntary community car scheme for parishioners who have for example, difficulty getting to health and social appointments. A number of parishes have successful schemes including locally, Stogursey, Kilve and Holford. There is an established and simple procedure that can easily be adopted and includes things such as advice on legal, tax and insurance matters, as well as eligibility to become a passenger, fare structure, waiting times etc. We have advertised for volunteers to administer such a scheme as well as volunteer drivers. Watch out for further information in the new Otter Tales.

OTHER "SNIPPETS"

Street Lighting at the Combwich Junction:

We have written to Somerset County Council enquiring about the process to install street lighting at the junction - to include lighting at the bus shelter.

Annual Audit:

The 2014/15 Accounting and Annual Governance Statement was approved and has been sent to Grant Thornton (external auditors) for formal approval.

20 mph Speed Limit in Combwich

We have been asked to enquire of Highways whether it might be possible to install a 20 mph speed limit in Combwich. In any event, no decision will be made until we have consulted with the community.

Bridgwater Bay Tidal Lagoon

We will be requesting a presentation from the Tidal Lagoon Company as it rolls out its programme of tidal lagoons, including one at Bridgwater Bay. Planning permission has just been approved for one at Swansea.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the Annual Meeting in May, B.Leathwood was re-elected as Chairman. A Vice-Chair will be elected at a later date to give the new members time to 'settle in'. Barry thanked the retiring members; Mervyn Brown, Paul Gripton, Liz Sidebotham (who had served on the Council for 12 years) and also Tim Jones and Reg Wilkes.

THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL

Barry Leathwood (Chairman)	01278 652399
Heath Bennett	01278 651356
John Berry	01278 652682
Dick Best (Stearth Ward)	01278 651063
*Bob Birkenhead	01278 653127
Julie Evans	01278 652735
Stuart Mason	01278 652067

*Bob Birkenhead was co-opted at the 4 June meeting.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR

John Edney 01278 653026

SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Julie Pay	01278 732956
Mike Caswell	01278 652043

PARISH CLERK

Aly Prowse 01278 652426

Otterhamptonpcclerk@gmail.com

FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 7PM - OTTERHAMPTON VILLAGE HALL

Thursday 2 July 2015

No Meeting in August

Thursday 3 September 2015

Parishioners are welcome to attend the meetings which commence with a short open public session where you can raise issues of concern, including agenda items. Agendas are placed on the notice boards at least 3 days prior to the meeting(s)