



The Brock News

ISSUE 70

SPRING 2021

Your Parish Council

Chairman:	
Pete Wales	622514
Vice-Chairman:	
Michael Harris	623375
Councillors:	
Alan Bartlett	623685
Ros Bowles	622230
Michael Croker	622035
Russell Horne	624389
John Korbey	01425 627746
Pauline Mueller	623129
Kevin Whittle	
(Wootton)	01425 615381
John Wingham	622292
Richard Wolstenholme	
	01425 275671
Parish Clerk:	
Heather Lawrence	622829
Finance Officer:	
Mary Pattison	622829
Planning and Comms Officer:	
Mina Beckett	622829
Groundsman:	
Ray Rideout	

Due to Covid-19 restrictions all Parish Council meetings, dates and venues are subject to change. Please see the Parish Council website for further information or contact the Clerk. The next two Parish Council meetings, which will be in the main hall at the Village Hall, are currently scheduled for **Mondays 21st June and 19th July.**

Chairman's Notes

I write this article on a sunny day with the prospect of the return to a new normality very much in sight. I have been elected Chair to serve once again which is a huge privilege and honour. Whilst the wheels of local government often turn slowly it is great when we are able to achieve things that make a difference for our village.

I welcome Heather as our new Parish Clerk. She is looking forward to meeting you all once restrictions are lifted and our new office at 70B Brookley Road is fully open.

Our work over the pandemic has been wide-ranging and varied. A replacement post-box has been located at the end of Fibbards Road with a Covid Priority box in Butts Lawn. We have supported the installation of a free cash withdrawal machine at the Premier shop and created two 'Happy to Chat' benches for residents to meet each other if they would like to talk. The changes in Brookley Road attracted much debate and the HCC consultation has now ended, with the outcomes eagerly awaited. The maintenance of Bridge 182 at Martins Road has raised a significant number of concerns recently and now the Parish Council has become involved we have been able to instigate discussions with both Forestry England and HCC to find a solution which works for our village. Discussions on parking throughout the village continue

with no easy resolution but a strategy for the village centre is being developed. Let us know your views by completing the questionnaire in this newsletter.

Even before the pandemic the intense tourism pressure on the area and its environment had been acknowledged. This pressure increased, prompting our proactive Cllr John Wingham to facilitate discussions from which the New Forest Ambassadors scheme emerged to help visitors understand and respect the village, the forest and its special environment, which has made a significant impact.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember ex-Cllr Adrian Burks and Cllr Harry Oram who both gave their time freely to Parish Council duties and who are sadly missed. Our thoughts continue to be with their families and friends.

In conclusion it has been a time of real challenge for us all but, as we consider the past and look to the future, we can all be proud of what has been achieved by individuals, groups and residents. Above all thank you for helping each other during these unprecedented times and the kindness and care you have shown.

Please note the change to Monday meetings for June and July - see panel on left!

**With very best wishes
Pete Wales**

Planning Update

This year we have met virtually on zoom, but the attendance of applicants and their agents has been continued, along with other interested parties. Anyone is welcome to join us at the monthly planning committee meeting; if only as an observer. On the website there are the rules for public engagement at our meetings.

In Brockenhurst we consider about ten plans per month, and some are more contentious than others. Many are sensible plans for extensions and minor alterations which are just a formality, but others are more complex.

One such development was the Black Knoll activity centre. The request was to demolish the old delapidated buildings and replace with a single-storey dwelling which would be less noticeable and produce fewer traffic movements along Rhinefield Road. As a Parish Council we were very encouraged by the proposal and supported it. However, the NPA objected to this and the applicant took the case to appeal. I am pleased to say that the inspector agreed with the Parish Council and has granted approval for benefit of the site.

John Korbey

Climate Action Group

In March 2020, the Parish Council decided to form a Climate Action Group to address the threats arising as a result of climate change. Chaired by Cllr. Ros Bowles, this led to the formation of a community led group, Greener Brockenhurst. Meanwhile, the Parish Council's Climate Action Group formed a list of commitments to lower the Council's carbon footprint. The pandemic brought things to a halt for many months while the Council grappled with the problems that had arisen as a result of COVID 19. Meetings have now resumed and we look forward to continuing to work with Greener Brockenhurst to bring about positive action to tackle the climate emergency. We will report back in future newsletters to update you on the progress made. Please also go to www.greenerbrockenhurst.org to see the exciting initiatives and events that are taking place and details of how to join the group if you are interested.

**GreenFest 2021
Saturday 10th July**

The Greener Brockenhurst Group is holding a Greenfest in the garden of St. Saviour's Church on Saturday 10th July from 12noon to 4pm.

Come along to discover where your recycled waste goes, get advice on making compost and growing vegetables. We will have information on solar energy and an observation hive of bees. You can learn how to make a bee hotel or what you can do to upcycle an old pair of jeans, or even just enjoy a glass of Pimms or a cream tea!

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: **Christmas Lights** :
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Although last year we were in the middle of the Coronavirus restrictions before Christmas, we managed to fit the lights around the village to try to offer a bit of cheer in difficult times. Unfortunately the restrictions meant that we could not ask our volunteers to prepare the small Christmas trees so these were missing. Although next Christmas seems a long time away, we soon have to start preparing for it and hopefully we will be able to put up the lights and trees as normal. So we will be looking for some volunteer help later in the year!

The Nalder Trust

The Council continues to run its small locally-focused social housing charitable trust, which owns four flats at Homeforde House. All four flats are currently occupied but if you would like to be put on the waiting list and you have a connection with the village please contact the Clerk.

The Council is advised on its policies by a committee consisting of both councillors and non councillors. One of these valued advisors was Dr Derek Browne and I would like to pay tribute to his long and devoted contribution to the Trust.

The Council is now looking to fill a couple of places on its Advisory committee. If you have an interest in or experience of social housing I, or the Clerk, would be keen to hear from you. The work is very occasional but important.

The Trust was recently registered as an Almshouse Charity in recognition of the service it provides and we hope to build on that status to expand our services. Advisors will form a key role in taking this forward.

Michael Croker

BROCKENHURST - THE FUTURE**An Initial Questionnaire from your Parish Council**

We may be small but this village plays an outsize role both locally and nationally. Local challenges include tourism and economic vitality. National (and international ones) include Climate Change. For a village of about 3000 residents, plotting our way through these interlocking challenges is, in itself, a big challenge.

The Parish Council has decided to ask what you (and this includes school children, students and visitors) think are the most important issues to you. This questionnaire is deliberately "open questioned" and simple. Say what you like (regardless of money or other constraints). But in doing so, please don't just think about the now, but about the next 5 to 10 years as well.

This is an initial questionnaire. The Council will look at the responses and set out ideas for the next steps on how all of us can play our part in keeping this vibrant village, thriving. Closing date for responses - 31st July 2021.

1. We would like individual responses please.
2. We don't need your email address but if you give it to us, we will use email to communicate with you, both in relation to this survey and related ones and any Parish Council newsletter we publish. Your data will be stored digitally and securely and will not be shared with third parties except as required by law.
3. E-mail responses can be sent to:
clerk@brockenhurst.gov.uk or to minabeckett.brockpc@gmail.com.
4. Web based responses can be made using this link
<http://www.brockenhurst.gov.uk>
5. Written responses can be hand delivered or posted to the Parish Council Office, 70B Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, SO42 7RA.
6. If you need this questionnaire in large print, please contact the clerk on 622829.

Thinking about Climate Change, what can we all do to restore nature and to make Brockenhurst a greener place to live, work and play in?

Brookley Road – If you could do anything you like to make Brookley Road a better place to be, what would it be?

PTO.....

**BROCKENHURST
PARISH COUNCIL**

Contact:

HEATHER LAWRENCE

Parish Clerk

The Parish Council Office
70B Brookley Road
Brockenhurst SO42 7RA.

Phone: (01590) 622829

Email:

clerk@brockenhurst.gov.uk

Website:

www.brockenhurst.gov.uk

Your Parish Council Office
will soon re-open for
personal visits.

Three things I like about Brockenhurst....

Three things I dislike about Brockenhurst....

Three things I wish Brockenhurst had....

Name: email address:

Age range (please circle which applies): 5-13, 14-18,
19-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56-65, 66 and over.

I give consent for Brockenhurst Parish Council to use my responses to this questionnaire, including any personal information provided, for the purposes described above. I understand that I may withdraw my consent at any time by contacting the Parish Clerk by email or in writing – YES/NO. (Please delete as appropriate.)

Chairmen of Parish Council Committees - Personnel & Resources: Michael Harris

Amenities & Infrastructure: Pete Wales **Planning:** John Korbey

Climate Action: Ros Bowles **Events:** Richard Wolstenholme