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# Ellisfield Parish Council

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## Parish Newsletter July 2010

### 2 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

We have 2 vacancies for a parish councillor following the recent retirement of Cllr Peter Hopwood. Peter has been a parish councillor for 5 years and has done a sterling job, particularly in relation to securing a 30mph limit on Axford Road and restoring Hill Farm Pond, for which we thank him.

Cllr Ian Seagrave has resigned as his job has taken him abroad, Ian and family will be moving to Switzerland shortly but hope to return to Ellisfield long-term. Ian joined the parish council 2 years ago and has been acting as treasurer, reviewing finances etc.

In accordance with section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972: No request was made for an election within 14 working days of the date these vacancies were published (15 June – 02 July 2010), so we are now seeking to co-opt two new councillors

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tim Guinness, Chairman or Jacqui Matthews, Clerk. Contact details on the last page.

### Phone Box

Now the Parish Council has officially adopted the K6 Jubilee Phone kiosk at The Green, we are looking for ideas for giving it a new lease of life. Suggestions so far include an art gallery, an information point, a water fountain – if you have any suggestions, please pass them to the parish clerk.

### Accounts

2009/10 Annual Return has been sent to The Audit Commission; many thanks to Ted Dowson who once again completed the Internal Audit.

### Affordable Housing

Little concrete to report. Contact continues to be maintained with Portsmouth Estates over possible sites and ways they might be able to provide land for affordable housing in a manner that would secure a quid pro quo from the planners in respect of development of further private housing on the Portsmouth Estate. Likewise contact is being maintained with the Basingstoke and Deane Officers involved with housing in the borough and planning as well as elected councillors involved with rural planning policy setting. There is a sense that policy towards affordable housing development in small villages may change to facilitate the small developments your council favours rather than always requiring developments of 8-10 house at a time. However we also get the impression that any shift in policy is a year or two and rather than months away.

### Speeding Traffic

Despite the installation of a 30mph speed limit at the bottom of the village, speeding traffic continues to be a problem. Peter Hopwood has been liaising with Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Police to see if it would be possible to set up a Community Speed Watch. This scheme is used successfully in other counties, notably Surrey and Somerset but there seem to be reservations in Hampshire

### Climbing Frame and Slide

The Parish Council has received a request to site another piece of children's play equipment either at Lower Common or The Gravel Pits. This will involve considerable expense and the parish council could endeavour to obtain a grant to finance this; alternatively the cost could be included in next year's budget and added to the precept or the project could be financed by private donations. We would like to hear from village residents whether they are in favour or have concerns about this. Please complete and return response sheet to Parish Clerk.

## Hill Farm Pond

Peter Hopwood organised a Working Party to grade (level) and seed the area surrounding the pond on Saturday 24 April; many thanks to those who came along and it's good to see the grass has grown and the area surrounding the pond is gradually beginning to lose its 'just excavated' look.

## Christmas Fair

This year's Christmas Fair has been scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday 27 November in the Memorial Hall. Once again Caroline Cazenove has agreed to coordinate proceedings, please do contact her if you would be willing to help with this traditional event in the village calendar.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Sadly PC Andy Reid reported a slight increase in criminal activity in Ellisfield at this year's Annual Parish Meeting; however, an active scheme exists in the village with the following co-ordinators:

**Scheme 090** – Peter Hopwood – 381321 & email: [peterhopwood313@btinternet.com](mailto:peterhopwood313@btinternet.com) Area covered: Axford Road & lower parts of College & Green Lanes.

**Scheme 263** – Ray Reed – 381470 & email: [rtr@btinternet.com](mailto:rtr@btinternet.com) covering Northgate Lane, The Green and top third of Green Lane.

**Scheme 300** - Roger Graham – 381383 & email: [rogergraham@btopenworld.com](mailto:rogergraham@btopenworld.com) covering the upper part of College Lane, Bell Lane and Church Lane.

**Scheme 299 & Area Co-ordinator** - Hannah Houstin-Lacey – 381 863 & email: [laconsult@btinternet.com](mailto:laconsult@btinternet.com) covering the middle of Green Lane.

As always should you see anything suspicious or irregular? Then don't hesitate to report it – fight crime!

PC Reid would be pleased to hear from you and can be contacted on: 01256 389050 & 07768 776844.

## Application for Paintballing Centre on Herriard Common

In support of considerable concern raised by Ellisfield residents, your council made the following comments to BDBC Planning Officers in respect of application BDB/71787 Land at O/S ref 465333 144185, Herriard Common, Bagmore Lane.

### *Initial Comments:*

*Ellisfield Parish Council support the objections made by local residents both in the village and from surrounding areas including Herriard and Moundsmere. The proposed site is adjacent to a bridleway and clearly the noise of paintballing activity is potentially frightening to horses. Similarly paintballing noise will adversely affect the use of Bagmore Lane by riders (it is well used by local stables as an exercise circuit and by walkers, runners and cyclists including local cycling clubs). The operation of the site will definitely increase the traffic on Bagmore Lane and the Herriard to Upton Grey Road, already used as rat runs. Whilst the operator may argue that the increased traffic will "only be" 70 cars in and out (we understand that 6 paintballing games of 30 people making 180 people could occur simultaneously) these traffic movements will be "bunched" at the beginning and end of the day and there is no viable public transport alternative. Wendy Fabian, Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on planning application BDB63357 commented in "reasons" for rejection of planning appeal, paragraphs 6 & 7, the danger of any extra traffic in the lanes in and around Ellisfield and surrounding villages. Another concern is that the noise will carry across the valley to the houses in Ellisfield on Bell Lane. Lastly, the proposed site is in a truly rural area and the activity on the site and increased traffic on approach roads will detract from the tranquility and beauty of the area.*

### *Further comments on amendments:*

*In response to (amendments), Ellisfield Parish Council continues to support the concerns of local residents that the proposed development of the site at Herriard Common for paintballing is not*

*appropriate in such a rural area. Having carefully examined the recent amendments, none of these has done anything to address concerns which mainly focus on increased traffic, noise and disruption to wildlife and other users of the area, notably walkers and horse-riders, all of whom enjoy the countryside without affecting others, something we fear the paintballing will not achieve.*

As there have been so many objections to the application for change of use of woodland for proposed outdoor pursuits paintball centre including erection of compound containerised buildings & provision of car parking area; the application is to be considered by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council's Development Control Committee.

The meeting is scheduled for 6.30pm on Wednesday 28 July 2010 at Committee Rooms, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke.

Members of the public are able to attend the meeting to observe proceedings and those who have registered may speak.

## Planning applications since last newsletter

### Approved:

**Syiven Lea, Green Lane:** Relief of condition 3 of planning permission BDB/66518 to allow the storing of building materials to rear of workshop. Parish Council supported this application.

### Rejected:

**High Meadows, Green Lane:** Erection of double garage with storage area above following demolition of existing garage and car port. Parish Council made no objection.

### Currently under consideration:

**Upper Common Cottage, Green Lane:** Change of use of land to form part of residential garden, including vegetable and herb garden, greenhouse, brick and flint and timber raised beds, hard and soft landscaping. Retention of the use of existing timber barns ancillary to residential use of site (retrospective). Parish Council supported this application.

**Blencathra, The Green:** Extension of Time Limit specified in Condition 1 of BDB/61044 for the erection of side extension, garage and rear porch. Parish Council made no objection.

**BDB/71787 Land at O/S ref 465333 144185, Herriard Common, Bagmore Lane:** Change of use of woodland for proposed outdoor pursuits paintball centre including erection of compound containerised buildings & provision of car parking area. Parish Council objected to the application and amendments in support of considerable concern by Ellisfield residents. See enclosed slip

## Contact Details for Councillors & Clerk

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Cllr Caroline Cazenove; Brocas, The Green. 381279

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Cllr Tim Guinness; (Chairman) Widmoor Farm, College Lane. 381348

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Cllr Rose Taplin; 3 Hill Farm Cottages, Green Lane. 381417

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David Richards; September, College Lane. 381771

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Parish Clerk - Jacqui Matthews (Mayfield, Green Lane, Ellisfield RG25 2QL) she can be contacted on 381149 or at [clerk@ellisfield.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ellisfield.gov.uk). See also [www.ellisfield.gov.uk/council](http://www.ellisfield.gov.uk/council)