



TWINEHAM NEWS

Twineham Parish Council

Christmas 2020

Well, what a year... with a dearth of local events there hasn't been much opportunity for newsletters this year. However, the Parish Council just wanted to wish all of our residents a Happy Christmas and New Year. There does now seem to be hope on the horizon and, with a fair wind, we should be able to look forward to some sort of community get-together next year.

We would mention the sad passing, over the past 18 months, of some of our longest residing residents: Shirley Edell, Rosemary Keith, Daphne Mansbridge and Bernard Witney, all of whom lived in the parish for over fifty years. Some of us can share many happy memories over the years. Our sincere condolences to the families. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome several new families and will look forward to the opportunity of being able to meet up at some stage in the not too distant future.

Despite the lack of newsletters, the Parish Council has continued to operate with our Clerk, Dawn, arranging our Zoom meetings and dealing with all the various issues that still need to be addressed. A brief summary of what has been going on:

The new playground at Twineham Recreation Ground has now been completed and being enjoyed by our youngest members of the community and Twineham Cricket Club has a very smart new pavilion. The works should be completed in time for the new season and is a remarkable improvement on the very dilapidated old building. The Club would welcome new members, either full time but are just as eager to welcome occasional players and it would be nice to get more locals involved. Please contact either Richard Brock (Captain) richardwbrock@aol.com or Paul Hunter (Secretary) [phhunter22@gmail.com](mailto:p hunter22@gmail.com) direct.

The Parish Council website has been updated recently to comply with the accessibility guidelines. There is a small amount of local history on the website and it would be lovely if this could be expanded. If anyone would like to make any additions to this material, it would be most welcome. Please contact Fanny Jones regarding this.

Rampion 1 – The sub station for Rampion 1 was finally finished in September, much to the relief of those residents who live nearby. There are one or two outstanding issues regarding dead trees, grass verges, etc., which we hope will be resolved shortly. We have managed to obtain some funds from the Community Benefit Fund, notably a useful contribution towards the new Cricket Pavilion; a lavatory for the Church; some funds for benches for the Recreation Ground; and some funds for new finger posts. We also hope that the Friends of Twineham School will benefit from a new eco hut.

Rampion 2 - Just as the end is nearly in sight for Rampion 1, plans are in hand to extend the existing Rampion off-shore wind farm towards the west. The problem for us is the location of the

on-shore works. An 11 acre site is required that has to be situated within 5kms of the Wineham Lane sub-station. The three short-listed sites are (1) near Oakendene Industrial Estate on the A272, (2) Wineham Lane north of the present sub-station or (3) Wineham Lane south of the present sub-station. The Parish Council considers that option (1) is the least worst solution as the access would be directly off the A272 and cause less disruption for residents. Residents local to the Wineham Lane site have already suffered six years of disturbance from Rampion 1. To inflict further upheaval, not to mention the damage to the local countryside, would be a very bitter pill to swallow.

Marylands Nursery Site off the A272 at Bolney: Although this is not in our Parish, we are concerned that the site has been earmarked for business development and that without improvements to the junction with the A272, congestion will worsen leading to ever increasing numbers of vehicles using Bolney Chapel Road as a rat run. Along with Bolney Parish Council, we have long campaigned for a roundabout at this junction but we have now been informed that traffic signals will be installed. Unfortunately, the funding for this will not be available until 400 new build houses are completed in Burgess Hill so there will be a significant delay before these changes are made.

Footpaths: We are aware of problems with some of our footpaths and we do report these to the County Council. The Rangers make some visits to check on these but, if you do notice a problem, please report this on the West Sussex County Council website, with a photo if possible.

Highways: We understand that WSCC Highways have written to landowners asking for vegetation to be cut back where this is their responsibility. Our Clerk continues to liaise with Highways Officer on a regular basis regarding this matter.

The Parish Council has also agreed to employ a contractor to clear the gullies throughout the parish. We would remind all home and landowners that there are riparian responsibilities that require watercourses and gullies on your property to be kept clear. Over the years, this responsibility has been overlooked by many households and results in the regular flooding of the highways. Please do your bit to keep these dug clear, removing leaves, etc. Even if these are not in your actual ownership (and boundaries can be very unclear), it is a real help if you are able to help.

Finally, whilst Christmas outdoor lighting is a cheering sight, particularly after this difficult year, we would like to remind all our residents that this is a rural area and we try, as far as possible, to encourage a 'Dark Skies' policy. Darkness at night is one of the key characteristics of rural areas and represents a major difference between what is rural and what is urban. Visitor/intruder lighting needs to be appropriately positioned downwards and activated for short periods only. We are fortunate to have a good population of owls, bats and other nocturnal wildlife locally but exterior lighting disrupts their normal activities and interferes with reproduction leading to a reduced population in the longer term. Please do your bit for our countryside!

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