



Dear all

Christmas may be well behind us, but I would like to say how much I enjoyed our Christmas services at Beckingham. We were very spoilt by having a period of milder weather!

Now writing during Lent, my attention is very much on our journey to Easter. We travel from the 'Cradle to the grave'. I heard a radio presenter saying this lunchtime that Lent was passing people by as it was too close to Christmas and people were too used to different months been attached to certain abstinences such as 'Dry January'. Is this true? I have certainly never given up chocolate (or alcohol for that matter) as a means of testing myself or understanding what temptation feels like. I am not sure how helpful this is and whether it would do anything other than make me feel smug that I had achieved my goal. It also very much draws attention to ourselves and what we do when we must turn down certain foods or drinks. Our Bible reading on Ash Wednesday said that we should fast in secret and that God who sees us in secret will reward us. Maybe it is better to focus on what we can do during this time rather than what we cannot. We can most certainly pray for those experiencing crises around the world as well as those closer to home, our families, friends, and neighbours. The experiences of recent years have shown us how much we can do for those in our local community and how much this is appreciated. Someone told me this week that whilst his wife was away recently, various neighbours had sorted out having him around for evening meals each night. A clergy colleague elsewhere is cooking for at least one member of the congregation a week during Lent in the parish where he is curate. Planning to do positive things on a regular basis also requires effort and putting ourselves out for someone else. Last spring I skipped one hundred times a day for a month to raise money for Cancer Research, temptation to not go outside in the cold was a regular occurrence! Things which we start in Lent can of course go on to be a regular part of our lives.

As a Church and community, we are currently benefiting from the generosity of Beckingham Highway Trust as we have new gates made for the church to replace those which are falling in to disrepair. All Saints' Church is an important building within the village and I am hoping that we can ask Bishop Nicholas to bless them on the afternoon of 5th May, subject to them being ready! I will ask him to visit whatever so do look out for advertisements nearer the time.

Sending you blessings as we head towards Easter.

Rev. Sara Davies

07768706952 sara.davies@lincoln.anglican.org

The Beckingham & Sutton Bugle

March 2024

Beckingham and Sutton Village News and Information



Page 2,3,4 & 5.....The full story ...How the battle of the A17 was won
Page 6.....D Day
Page 7.....A thank you from the Royal British Legion
Page 8.....From our Vicar.....

Happy Easter everyone

For more village news and to stay up to date with the latest Parish Council business visit the Village website at: www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk

How the battle of the A17 was won

There is a small insignificant field that most of us used to drive past without a second glance even if we knew that it was there, unaware of the impact that it was to have on the Parish that we call home. This small parcel of land, nestled against the Newark to Kings Lynn Trunk Road known to us as the A17, hidden behind a natural hedgerow, the meanderings of the upper reaches of the River Witham bordering another side and the remainder of its boundary shouldering up to the fences of a strategic Ministry of Defence Training Camp whilst cosying up to the Beckingham Sewage Plant in one corner.

In the late summer and autumn of 2021 your Parish Council became aware of whispers about the sale or the purchase of some land close by, the source of the rumours, a certain Lane in Newark, was enough to cause concern. As more solid evidence emerged the Parish Council through the good offices of our North Kesteven District Councillor who at the time was Mary Green of Bassingham, who totally understood our rising concerns and contacted and continuously updated the Planning Enforcement and Compliance Team at Sleaford. When we reported the presence of earth moving equipment starting work on site on the Monday before Christmas, they were then able to attend on site the same day. By Friday a Temporary Injunction had been granted by the Crown Court at Lincoln to stop all work and activities on the site.

It was expected that the injunction would be made final by the middle of January 2022. However this was not to be and a decision was deferred to the High Court in the Old Bailey. The decision there was that work and occupation could continue until all planning procedures had been followed up to secure planning consent. If the final decision was against the granting of approval the land would need to be returned to its original condition. The Judge in question was and probably still is a barrister who specialises in Human Rights cases. The sound of alarm bells being rung.

A meeting was convened by the Parish Council to inform the Village of what was happening and to try and resolve a way forward. The meeting was a mixture of dismay, outrage, anger, predictions of a crime wave and other unlawful behaviours, suggestions that access ways under the A17 be immediately closed, the setting up of a CCTV to monitor the village. All the usual pre-conceived ideas that follow this sort of activity on your own doorstep.

Page 1 of 4.....

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I just wanted to say a massive thank you to the wonderful people of Beckingham for the amazing amount you donated as part of the annual RBL Poppy Appeal.

The money you raised really does make a difference to so many people like Simon Gill and his wife Jo who both served in the Royal Military Police from the late 1980s, mainly in Northern Ireland. They got married in 1994 and left the Forces three years later. The couple now have two sons, Ben, 15 and Jake 13.

In 2012 when Jake was seven, he was diagnosed with autism and now attends a specialist school. Jake suffers with anxiety and struggles to cope in crowded places so Simon and Jo researched strategies that might improve his condition. They discovered Autism Assistance Dogs, who are trained to provide safety and companionship, helping to bring independence and a more socially inclusive life to autistic children and their families. Unfortunately, they were unable to cover the £5,000 costs required to train a dog for their son, so they turned to the RBL for help. Working with other organisations to find the funds, they helped to pay for a puppy and the family now have Rigby – named after a character in one of Jake's favourite cartoons - who came to live with them in October 2016. Jake now has so much more confidence and is able to go to places he would never have gone before.

So how did we help. Well according to the area coordinator, the total collected from his area was around £1800. But you, the wonderful, caring and generous people of Beckingham raised over £500 of that total alone. To quote from the area coordinator 'what a village you have' and frankly I could not agree more. To say I am proud to a part of this village is an understatement. So, on behalf of the RBL, people like Simon and Gill and most definitely from myself a massive thank you for all your support.

Scott Toomer.



Please scoop.....



TOWN, PARISH & COMMUNITY COUNCILS - D-DAY 80 - 6TH JUNE 2024

As you are aware, we are organising D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024, throughout the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories in Commemoration/Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on the five Beaches in Normandy, France, which took place on 6th June 1944, enabling your Council and local community to use this occasion to pay 'tribute' to the many, many thousands that sacrificed so much in helping to secure the freedom we all enjoy today. With this in mind, we have developed several ways in which your Council and community can take part in this special occasion.

(1) BEACON: Light a Beacon at 9.15pm on 6th June, as encouraged by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak (See page 3) of the Guide To Taking Part which can be viewed and downloaded from the D-Day 80 website - www.d-day80beacons.co.uk

From the Guide (see pages 41 to 45), you will see there are several styles of Beacons that can be used for this occasion, many of which you may have used for previous occasions, and those of you with the permanent Beacon Braziers and gas fuelled Beacons produced for our late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, are urged to re-use these to save money. With regard to the Bonfire Beacons (see pages 41 and 42), these are ideal for country parks, village greens and our farms throughout the UK etc.

(2) LAMP LIGHT OF PEACE: We understand that there are areas of our local communities unable to light Beacons for various reasons, so we have developed the Lamp Light of Peace (see page 39) providing a simple and cost effective way of becoming and being part of this event by lighting it at 9.15pm on 6th June next year, coinciding with the lighting of the Beacons that night, and once used for this occasion, they can be re-lit at 11am on 11th November in 'Remembrance' for many years to come. (The flame in the Lamp, along with the Beacons, will represent the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of War). We believe these are suitable for Care Homes, Hospitals, and Pubs etc, and have already had several taking part. (See examples on the D-Day 80 website).

(3) RINGING OUT FOR PEACE: With the valuable assistance of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (see website), we are encouraging every Cathedral and Church throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to ring their Bells at 6.30pm on 6th June, so we ask you to contact your local Churches etc, inviting them to take part.

(4) All those taking part in the above will be sent the Certificate of Grateful Recognition, enabling them to download, print and frame it as a permanent reminder of their involvement (see website). From the website and Guide To Taking Part, you will see there are other elements taking place, making up this Commemoration/Celebration event, with many taking part already as their personal tributes. Those taking part in this event are being asked to go to page 52 in the Guide, outlining their involvement as requested, to enable us to register their participation, and send them their Certificate.

We do hope that your Council will participate in one or more of the above, and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

My warmest regards to you all,

Bruno Peek

Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster, D-Day 80, 6th June 2024
Telephone: + 44 (0) 7737 262 913
Email: brunopeek@mac.com
www.d-day80beacons.co.uk



As 17 identical Planning Applications were eventually received the PC had worked to define a strategic response. The first thing we realised was that the only way to achieve success was to concentrate on Planning Matters and regulations and to forget all our previously mentioned fears of what the Applicants could and might do. This involved a lot of "behind the scenes" work. The PC drew up relevant objections and took legal advice from a Newark solicitor with significant experience in this field.

We also employed a Professional Planning Objection Company so that it was written and able to be presented in a manner that would create a suitable impact when presented. As part of the supporting evidence another Professional Company was employed to carry out a traffic survey on the A17, to update and display the increase in traffic and its effect t since a previous survey. This was undertaken as the PC felt that Lincolnshire Highways were not as concerned as we were. The two particular companies employed were as a result of a positive suggestion from a resident. A lot of effort was put in trying to contact Statutory Consultees, those governmental or other significant bodies that may have a need or duty to comment on Planning matters, such as the Environment Agency, the MoD, Drainage Boards etc.

These consultees would be totally unaware that work had started and therefore the PC felt that they should have as much idea of what was going on across the road as we had and respond appropriately and in a timely manner. It was bewildering and baffling that to contact such bodies at a reasonable level of authority could be so very difficult. To contact the MoD took 42 phone calls until, again another helpful resident suggested trying a number that was used during the objection to the proposed Wind Turbine some 10 or 11 years ago.

All the time, work was going ahead, probably based on the basis that the Applicants believed that the more they built the harder it would be for them to be refused permission. The PC spent time trying to gain objections from other local Parish Councils that could be affected by the new development, as far as we are aware the only PC objections were from Nottinghamshire based Coddington and Barnby PCs. However some 180-190 objections were made, the vast majority of course by residents.

Page 2 of 4.....

All contributions for the next Beckingham Bugle welcome. The deadline for the next June 2024 issue is May 18th 2024

By May of that year the 17 Applications had been refused by NKDC. This was subsequently followed in October by Notice of an Appeal against the decision by the Applicants, now known as Appellants with a Planning Inspectorate Hearing to be at the end of November. However, 4 days before the date, NKDC announced that a note had been received from the Appellants' Barrister seeking an adjournment on the basis that the appellants could not be represented, and they also asked for the appeal to be upgraded to a Public Inquiry, this having been approved by the Planning Inspectorate. Again this was viewed by us as another time wasting episode to ensure completion and total occupation of the site. After another long passage of time notice was received in May of 2023 that a Public Inquiry was scheduled for 8 days in July.

The PC had debated for some time the best way for the PC to be represented at the Inquiry, ranging from not attending to briefing our own Barrister. As by now we had a deep and meaningful relationship with the Planning Department at NK it was discussed and agreed that the PC did need to be present not only to show the depth of feeling in the community supporting the refusal but that the input must be a well thought out and well-presented.

This Public Inquiry was only the third one in the last 15 years or so in NK and to date the score was one won, one lost. Fortunately the PC is made up of 5 Councillors each of one of which has their own range of skills, knowledge, experience, confidence, abilities and other facets of character that come together to make us the PC that we are. Fortunately one of us has all the necessary Public Speaking experience that would make an ideal presenter. We worked in coordination with NK, as we are both on the same side, so that we did not repeat or make any conflicting statements that would be an embarrassment and that the salient points necessary would be well presented, by the PC's representative and this was accepted.

Two PC members attended the first day and a half of the Inquiry along with 20 or so Appellants. NK's Barrister opened and the Appellants' Barrister answered just like a TV program, all governed by a very dominant Inspector who was totally in charge of the proceedings. Statutory Consultees were present and their objections were extremely positive, surprisingly so perhaps a reflection of the effort that we had made to inform them.

Page 3 of 4.....

After our departure on the second day it was like leaving a football match at half time, no way were we going to lose this one, it seemed so one sided in terms of evidence and presentation, however time will tell. Then at the end of September, we learned of the decision that we all deserved, NK, their legal team, the PC, the rest of the village et al.

Now it is nearly spring 2024, we have all seen the buildings disappearing, the digger loading tipper after tipper with the spoil to be removed, I doubt anyone now drives past the field without having a quick glance to see that it being restored as required.

Occasionally as a Parish Councillor one wonders why I am doing this but every now and then something happens that makes it all worthwhile, especially when someone stops you in the street or the Village Hall and says thank you. Thank you also from us to all of those of you who helped us with information, advice, encouragement and support, but really it was just another two plus years in the life of a Parish Council!

Lawrence Tatton

Events Calendar

Feb 3rd Saturday Quiz Night7.30

Feb 24th Saturday Coffee Morning ..10.30 to 12.30

Feb 30th & 31st Free Beer all day!

March 2nd Saturday Quiz Night 7.35 "Connect 6"

March 23rd Saturday Quiz night 7.45 "Family Fun Fortunes"

April 13th Saturday Quiz Night "Battle ships"

April 21st Sunday Teddy Bears Picnic

May 11th Saturday Indoor League

May 13th Monday Coffee and Tea Morning 10.30—12.30

June 13th Saturday or 14th Sunday Afternoon Tea Wimbledon Finals

Last Friday of every month Open the box