

# Bishop's Itchington Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**BISHOPS ITCHINGTON**  
PARISH COUNCIL

Hosted by



## Bishop's Itchington Parish Council Chairman's Review of 2017/18

Well, it has been quite a year, and it seems like hardly any time since I was last writing a Chairman's Report.

We have seen some projects finally come to fruition in the village including, most recently, the traffic calming on Gaydon and Station Roads. There have been a couple of hiccups along the way, but in mid-April, the last piece of work was completed, raising the roundabout. This project was funded entirely from 'Section 106' contributions from the two most recently built housing estates. You may also have noticed some improvements in the parking at the cemetery thanks to a grant from Warwickshire County Council and the efforts of Councillors Christian-Carter and Heatley.

Speaking of housing estates, you may well have seen that work is underway at the cement works. There will be some work done to the site entrance on Station Road and we will keep you informed as much as possible. There are still challenges to overcome with the new surgery, in which Councillors Kettle and Holmes have been engaged throughout the year.

Earlier in the year we received the reserved matters application for the Knightcote Road site to sort out the fine details. Residents in the village had sound concerns which we took up and registered our objection to Stratford DC. We also met with the developer who put forward an amended application which ironed out some of the problems. With a couple of fundamental issues still outstanding, the parish council and Councillor Kettle (in his district councillor role) presented an objection to the planning committee. Despite the officer's recommendation to grant the application, the committee agreed with our objection and refused the application.

We have been active in planning matters ourselves. Early in 2017 we submitted a planning application for a new building on the site of the existing pavilion. In May, we learned that this was approved. The Pavilion Working Group which includes Councillors Mann, Parker and Warner along with a group of keen residents is investigating fundraising opportunities to get the build going.

We can still use more help with the Community Speedwatch, though the training is taking a little while longer than we anticipated. The traffic calming should help, but there will, unfortunately, be a minority who fail to drive responsibly so Speedwatch is still a valuable deterrent. Councillor Wilson or Councillor Holmes would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join.

Our community grants scheme is still running and this year we have helped BI Memorial Hall, BI Community Centre and BI Scouts with their projects. We have also contributed to Southam Town Council's medical appointments' transport scheme so that it covers the Bishop's Itchington area

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of Bishop's Itchington Parish Council for their continuing hard work and the council's staff who keep the village tidy, manage the cemetery and ensure that the play areas remain safe. Finally, thank you to our clerk, Alison, for keeping us on the straight and narrow all year.

**Cllr Adam Dugmore, Chairman**

## **Planning Matters**

There is one given constant to the parish council's work and that is "Planning". Yet, planning matters a lot, not only to the applicants but also to all of you who may be affected by any planning decision, be it a large housing estate, energy storage units by the cemetery, or an extension to an existing home.

When it comes to planning applications, the parish council has an extremely important role to play. All planning applications made to Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC), which fall within the parish of Bishop's Itchington, will find their way to the parish council. The parish council is a "statutory consultee" and this means that each planning application must be discussed and debated by the parish council. What the parish council decides, in terms of supporting a planning application, objecting to it, or making no representations, carries weight with SDC and is an important part of the planning process.

Whilst the parish council must always adhere to planning law and policy when responding to planning applications, it also relies heavily on what those who live and work in our village want or don't want. This year your parish council has represented your views and objected to the following planning applications:

- Bovis Homes, Knightcote Road (approval of all reserved matters)
- Ladbroke Barn, Ladbroke Road (conversion to a holiday-let)
- Phase 2 of the Harbury Cement Works (approval of all reserved matters)
- Energy Storage Unit by the cemetery (removing and varying planning conditions).

On those occasions when the parish council's objections result in a planning application being referred to SDC's Planning Committee, then one or more of your councillors attend and speak against the planning application on your behalf.

**Cllr Judith Christian-Carter**

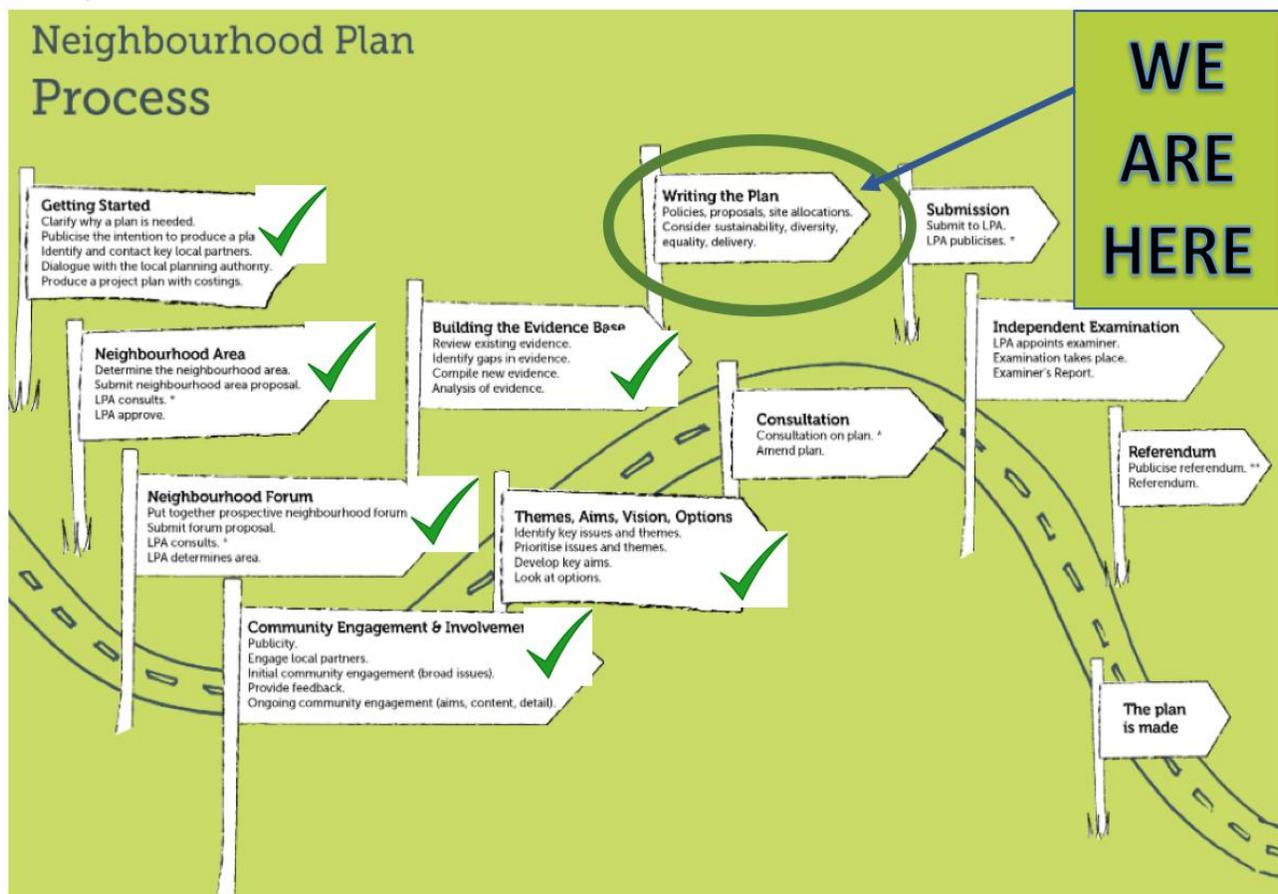
# Bishop's Itchington Neighbourhood Development Plan

The NDP working party has worked hard this year to analyse the data from the public consultation questionnaires, and are now using this data to write policies into the draft BINDP Plan.

Three new members have volunteered to join the working party, their skills and enthusiasm are much appreciated to assist in getting the NDP completed. It is probably going to be another 12-18 months before the plan is at examination stage.

A planning consultant is assisting the working group to write the plan, which, when adopted, will carry the full weight of a planning policy document, and must be taken into account when considering future developments. The working party will be applying for further grant funding, and the parish council has provided a small sum within their budget reserves to cover ancillary costs.

The value of having an NDP in place is that the local community will receive a higher rate of CIL levy, 25%, from applicable developments, as opposed to just 15% without an NDP. *The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge, introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool for local authorities in England and Wales to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area.*



Cllr Sue Wilson  
Member of BI Neighbourhood Development Plan Group

## Traffic Calming

### A reminder of the history:

- In 2012 public complaints about speeding led to a traffic survey on Gaydon Road that October which confirmed a problem with excess speed.
- Meetings with WCC Highways confirmed limited options due to lack of funding.
- During 2013 & 2014 meetings took place with WCC Highways, Banner Homes and Persimmon leading to a scheme which would be funded by Section 106 funding from the 2 developers.
- This scheme was put to public consultation in 2015, including an exhibition in April.
- The consultation had a poor response – only 45 comments were received – but a working party of councillors and members of the public was formed in September to consider the results and discuss and agree modifications to the scheme with WCC Highways.
- At the January 2016 parish council meeting, the proposed modified scheme was presented by the working party and the council voted to accept the proposal.
- In February 2016 the council commissioned a new traffic survey at 6 locations to establish good data on traffic speeds before implementing the scheme. A second survey will be commissioned 3 months after scheme completion to assess the effect on traffic speeds.
- WCC received the contributions from the developers by the end of June 2016 leading to detail design work on the scheme. Plans were received by the council in August, and at the September meeting the council agreed to proceed to the next step, which was another public consultation organised by WCC Highways. Affected households were delivered the plans before Christmas and the consultation ran till end of January 2017.
- 9 households responded to the consultation. WCC Highways considered these responses but decided to go ahead with the scheme as planned, which required creation and publication of 2 legal orders, one for moving the speed limits and a second for implementing the changes in traffic calming features. The plan was to publish these by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, and if there were no objections for the scheme to be signed off at the June WCC Highways meeting.

### 2017/18 Progress:

- Draft legal orders were approved at May 2017 PC meeting.
- Formal legal notices approved at June PC meeting and published shortly after, with a three weeks response time. Consultation closed on 7<sup>th</sup> July.
- 5 objections were received, 4 being existing objectors. The police objected to removal of the build-outs on Station and Gaydon Roads.
- Poor communication from WCC occurred after this, due to changing responsibilities for the scheme, but at the end of August we discovered that on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, WCC had approved the scheme to go ahead as published.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> November, County Cllr Bob Stevens managed to find out that the works were planned for mid-January. Subsequently we were told the 8<sup>th</sup> January, weather permitting.
- This did not happen due to the contractor, Balfour Beatty, failing to organise it.

- Work eventually started in early February with the construction of the new speed cushions. As a result, Jo Edwards at WCC received some complaints:
  - Some residents complained that the bumps were too severe and that they had to slow down to go over them
  - Others complained that they were not severe enough!
- WCC checked the speed cushions and found they were incorrect height (too high) so the contractors had to rework them. They remain variable in height and width....
- Next the build-outs were removed, along with the existing 30mph signs. We received some complaints from residents about the lack of 30mph signs but WCC told us drivers should know it's a 30mph zone from the street lights and a built-up area – true but not helpful!
- On 12<sup>th</sup> February we heard that completion of the Plough Lane junction was planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> March, with all other road markings and signage to be completed in the meantime.
- Our snow event stopped this, and the next deadline, 25<sup>th</sup> March was missed due to a broken-down tarmac lorry!
- As I write this the latest information we have is that the works are due to be completed on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April. By the time you read this we will know if that happened!

### **What's next?**

Once the scheme has been in place for a few months we will have another traffic speed survey conducted at the same locations as in February 2016. We will then be able to assess the real effect of the scheme on speeds within the village.

Speed limits are legal maximums for the road in question and are there to help protect other road and pavement users (especially children) from potential injury or death. Unfortunately, the evidence from our Community Speedwatch activities is that a significant proportion of the people who regularly exceed the speed limit reside in the village.

Please keep in mind that the scheme was designed by WCC Highways using current UK road design guidelines. The new speed cushions and raised table are **designed** to slow traffic down, and damage to vehicle suspension and/or wheels and tyres may be the outcome for drivers who don't. If this does occur, there will be no liability on either WCC Highways or Bishop's Itchington Parish Council as UK law supports the use of such road features to encourage appropriate driver behaviour.

### **Councillor Peter Holmes**

## **The New Bishops Itchington Sports Pavilion**

You may or may not know there is a group within the village who are enthusiastic about the prospect of there being a new sports pavilion built on the playing fields.

The Pavilion Makers as we call ourselves are actively moving forward in fundraising activities and gaining support from local businesses, both large and small, in an effort to get this wonderful new facility built and running in order to not just cover sporting events, but to be able to facilitate other activities too.

This is the planned final image: As you can see it is quite an improvement!



So far we have managed to raise over £130,000 in support of this venture and in order to keep this momentum, we hope to soon have some more people on board who feel as passionately about this as we do.

Going forward, the project is split into four sub-projects:

1. The main build
2. Demolition and removal of the old pavilion
3. Installation of a storage container in order to keep the new building clean and tidy
4. Installation of a new car park area to try and alleviate the parking issues we know exist around the playing field entrance

We already have support from a number of local companies and this is growing as the news spreads of what we are doing. We hope you may be interested in coming along to a meeting

sometime and seeing how you may help. We meet every third Wednesday in the month in the church hall and to plan our next steps.

**Cllr David Warner**  
**Pavilion Group**

## County Councillor's Report

This time last year we were running up to the county council elections and the Article 50 for Brexit had just been signed. The county council elections produced a large Conservative majority, unlike the following month's snap general election, and we are now less than a year from leaving the European Union. The county council is still facing significant reductions in the government grant and the cap on council tax, whilst welcome to tax payers, is putting additional strain on non-essential services. However the council is up for the challenge and our finances are in a well balanced state. A recent proposal to replace government grant with the areas business rate has temporarily been postponed so the present system will continue.

Warwickshire is becoming a popular place to live and the economy continues to be healthy. Both Coventry and Birmingham are experiencing an industrial revival with much government money being invested into their infrastructure. Last month, together with a group of fellow councillors, I met with Andy Street the West Midlands Mayor. As it was a private meeting I cannot divulge the content but suffice to say the prospect of Warwickshire joining the West Midlands Combined Authority is, to some people, still a distant dream but unfortunately it is not dead.

Locally, this last year has been dominated by the large number of housing developments that are taking place. We welcome the new residents to our village but with the population growth comes the extra strain on the infrastructure. Roads are becoming impossible at peak periods, our schools, especially secondary provision becoming overcrowded and medical facilities stretched. Developer contribution (Sec106) monies have been spent on improved traffic calming measures and also promised for school expansion. In some cases money has been made available for communities to enhance their local facilities.

Coming soon will be the additional disruption caused by HS2 construction and associated traffic. An idea of this will be experienced when a trial pit is constructed near Wormleighton later this year. HS2 has a significant community fund for those near the proposed line and I recommend village organisations seriously consider applying.

Adult and children services are the biggest drain on the county council finances. Each year statistics show that life expectancy is increasing but the cost of care is also increasing. Standards in care homes are continuously monitored and the numbers who are not able to look after themselves without assistance rises each year. People are encouraged to stay in their own home for as long as possible and demand for affordable warden supervised homes outstrips the supply. Adult social care continues to be the responsibility of the county council and the government grant decreases although an extra 3 % on council tax which is ring fenced for adult care is permitted.

The recent integration of health and adult services at government level has yet to make its effect felt but hopefully will lead to better cooperation between these two services with respect to adult care.

The pressure on children safeguarding and protection continues to grow. One of the biggest concerns is cyber-crime and the use of mobile phones to corrupt/influence teenagers. Cases of child abuse in Warwickshire are presently low but with incidents occurring in adjacent authorities there is no place for complacency. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) set up last year is establishing its reputation for protecting children.

Overall, Warwickshire schools continue to be of a high standard and over 75% of the secondary schools are now academies. Primary schools are now either becoming Free Schools or joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) either with another secondary school or as part of a trust run by the Coventry Diocese (DMAT). Whereas I support academisation of bigger schools I am not convinced that MATs which cross education authority boundaries are best for Warwickshire schools. In the Feldon Division, Southam College continues to be high performing and oversubscribed while our primary schools are also producing good results.

The Warwickshire Fire Service has had a busy year and is expecting a home office inspection later this year. Standards expected of the fire service have been significantly raised since the recent national incidents in particular at Grenfell Tower block and some school fires. We have budgeted for implementing any recommendations in this year's budget. Police and ambulance are not controlled by the county council although WCC works closely with both these services. The county council is responsible for public health together with Public Health England.

Locally, the county council has supported local business and in this part of the county unemployment is amongst the lowest level in the country. WCC has supported communities with community grants and minor highway improvements as well as some major infrastructure improvements to accommodate the extra jobs and housing being created. There is more to be done and I continue to fight for this area to be recognised, in particular the effects on both the Fosse Way and Harbury Lane as well as the effects of HS2 on roads through your village. I encourage communities to take advantage of the grants available and not be put off by the perceived bureaucracy associated with applying. Sec106 monies and the "new" CIL money will also help.

As your councillor I have been kept occupied representing residents throughout the Feldon Division in particular over education, flooding and traffic issues. I try to attend as many of your parish council meetings as I can as well as your village activities (fetes etc). As WCC's Armed Forces Champion, I have been actively involved in supporting military veterans and the county's commitment to the armed forces covenant. I also chair the WCC Pension Fund Investment Committee which oversees where the funds are invested to gain maximum return for the fund within ethical guidelines. To conform with government legislation, the fund is also combining with 11 other authorities to reduce costs and increase returns. The value of the combined fund, called "Border to Coast" and based in Leeds, is in the region of £45 Billion.

**County Cllr Bob Stevens**

# Reports from Village Organisations

## Bishops Itchington Football Club

BIFC has been in existence for nearly 100 years. It currently sports three teams – two play on Saturday in the Banbury District & Lord Jersey League. The other team plays in the Leamington Sunday League.

This season has been very successful – the first team look set to win the Premier Division championship (barring any disasters!); they have already won the Byfield & Bethel Charity Cup and are in the final of the Lord Jersey Cup and the Coronation Cup; and they are still in the Banbury Charity Cup. The Reserves have won the Eric Morris Cup.



The Sunday side have won their Division 1 cup and are through to the final of the Challenge Cup. They are also still in the Cancer Supplementary Cup and the George Dutton Cup. So hopefully, we will have a good amount of silverware at our end of season Presentation Evening! This evening is usually very enjoyable and recognises individual efforts during the season. It reflects the good social side that the club has. Players and opposition come back to the Greaves Club after the match for food and a drink or two!

Running a football club is not cheap. We are lucky enough to be sponsored by various businesses – the Greaves Club, Landsdowne Launderette, Tony's Trains, Mawsley Machinery, Bishops Fryer & Offie, ACS Scaffolding, Timms & Jones and MKM Building Supplies and our match balls are sponsored by the Butcher's Arms. This sponsorship provides kits for each team, insurance, first aid and fees.

We play down on the playing field and use the pavilion facilities. These are courtesy of the parish council, to whom we are very grateful. This season the parish council also gave us a grant from their community fund to replace the wheels on our goals (several hundred pounds!). Thanks once again to them for that.

Our presentation evening will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Stoneleigh Deer Park and anyone is welcome to join us. At the end of the season (who knows when that will be because of the weather!), we will lose both Saturday team managers unfortunately and so will be looking for replacements. Anyone interested or do you know anyone who might be? Contact Paul 613163 or Pam 613300 or any of the footballers for more information on either of these topics. Also in the future, we hope to be involved in the project to build a much needed new pavilion.

**Pam Reason, Secretary BIFC**

## **Bishops Itchington Sports Association (BISA)**

The BI Sports Association has been in existence for about twenty years and tries to identify the need for sports and leisure facilities in the village and raises funds to provide them. The biggest project during that time was the building of the all-weather floodlit courts for tennis, 5-a-side soccer, netball and basketball. BISA was responsible for the upkeep and running of the courts. However, as ongoing maintenance is not something that funding bodies allow for, we struggled financially each year to pay the insurance. Therefore, this year, we passed ownership of the courts to the parish council. BISA will still be responsible for the running of the courts, which are free for all villagers unless anyone or group wishes to block book the courts or use the floodlights. We'd like to thank the parish council for relieving us of this financial burden, which will allow us to help other projects in the village.

A few years ago a group of people approached us with a view to setting up a short mat bowls club. We looked into what equipment was required and raised the necessary funding. The short mat bowls club has been very successful, is self run and has grown to two sessions each week. They have also been able to donate to our funds as a thank you.



The other group we were able to help set up was badminton. This took a while as a suitable venue with a high enough ceiling was tricky. However, the memorial hall seemed the best place and the group has gone from strength to strength with beginners, improvers and more accomplished players enjoying sessions on Wednesday evenings. We are working with the memorial hall committee to improve the badminton facilities so that perhaps in the future the players might be able to play in a league.

BISA is also involved in the pavilion project and hope to assist with fundraising for this exciting new build.

**Pam Reason, Secretary BISA**

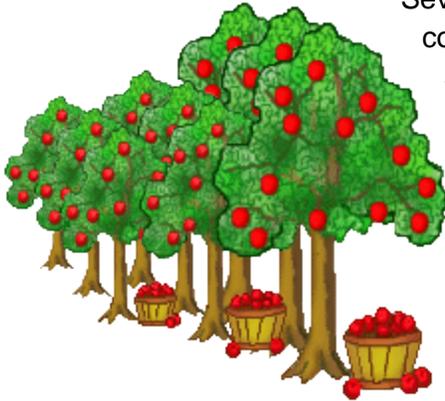
## **Friends of the Yellow Land & BING**

This group meets up every other Sunday morning for a couple of hours to manage two natural areas in the village – the Yellow Land and the mini orchard in the corner of the playing field.

The Yellow Land is situated a short way down Works Lane and leads on to the old cement works spoil heaps. It was given to the village in the 1990s and was the subject of a joint project involving the parish council and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is an area of limestone grassland and wildflowers, which supports a colony of small blue butterflies – a rarity in Warwickshire. The group works to maintain the area and prevent too much scrub regeneration, which would block out the sunlight required to allow the flowers and grasses to grow, supporting the butterflies and lots



of other insects and bugs. There is a surfaced, circular path for people to walk round and enjoy the area. This was recently resurfaced courtesy of the parish council.



Several years ago the group were given permission by the parish council to clear an untidy and unused corner of the playing field and plant a small community orchard area. Nothing of great interest was found as the area was cleared and a small number of apple, pear and cherry trees were planted. In the last few years these have blossomed and borne fruit, which is available for people to pick and try when ripe.

This small, friendly group meets every other Sunday morning at 10.30am and finishes around 12.30pm. Tools and refreshments are supplied. Interested? Contact Pam on 613300 for more information or to find out where the next meeting will be.

**Pam Reason, BING co-ordinator**

## **Memorial Hall**

The memorial hall is managed by a committee that is largely made up from representatives of the groups who use the hall. This is requirement of the Charities Commission. The managing trustees have had another busy year maintaining the building and the neighbouring cottage and fund raising for a much needed major refurbishment.

The hall continues to host a wide variety of groups participating in a huge variety of different activities. We thank the parish council for their support to fund a cooker. We do really appreciate the support that our groups give to the hall; thank you!

The film nights have been a great success. The films are shown on the last Saturday of each month attracting a regular audience of film lovers. We owe thanks to County Councillor Bob Stevens for a grant that assisted in purchasing our own projector and sound system; this has made a huge difference the quality of our film nights. When the hall was originally built it was designed to show films to help bring the community together strange how things happen in cycles.

Our newest community cohesion venture that has occurred since the last annual village meeting is the Scarecrow Trail. It created a real buzz around the village. For our first year we were really pleased with the number and the quality of the entries. It was great to see so many people walking and driving around the scarecrows. We are repeating this event on the weekend of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2018 alongside the Produce Show. The two events just seem to go together well! We are hoping that the theme of the Yellow Brick Road will spark the creative juices of the village and encourage even more scarecrows. This will now be an annual fun and enjoyable event that is accessible to people of all ages. (More details will be appearing in the Scene.)

The hall is a historic building within our village that has been part of the lives of many current villagers, it is old and it is in need of a substantial refurbishment project. As everyone is aware this kind of project is expensive however as the building was built as place where people could come together and remember the fallen we are determined to ensure that the building does return to a state that suitably honours those men and their loved ones. The managing committee will continue to work hard to make this happen but we do need help. If you can spare a little time to help in any way we would be truly grateful.

**Carolyn Went**  
**Chair of Memorial Hall Committee**

# Bishops Itchington Scout Group

Bishops Itchington Scout Group was first officially registered with The Scout Association in 1972 although there is evidence that there was a Scouting presence here for some years prior to that. This makes us one of the oldest surviving organizations, apart from WI, in the village.

Over the years we have seen many changes in Scouting, some good and some not so good. Scouting is not just about tying knots and pitching tents, although the more traditional ways still have appeal. It is now a 21<sup>st</sup> century movement embracing modern technology and modern life.

Our Scout Group includes a Beaver Colony (for ages 6 years to 8.5 years) a Cub Pack (for ages 8.5 years to 10.5 years), a Scout Troop (for ages 10.5 years to 14 years) and an Explorer Unit (for 14 years to 18 years). Our group, like all Scout Groups, is totally inclusive to all children, girls and boys and Bishops Itchington was one of the first groups in England and the first in Leamington District to accept girls as members. Quite a challenge at the time!

At present we have a membership of 50 plus young people (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts) along with a dedicated team of adult leaders all of whom give freely of their time to supply a wide range of exciting fun, adventure and education on a weekly basis.

Apart from the most important part of our group, our young people, Scout Groups cannot succeed without the help of adult volunteers. At this time Bishops Itchington Scout Group is in urgent need for new adult volunteers to come forward. We desperately need adult leaders and volunteers in our Beaver and Scout sections. We have a situation at the moment where if a leader from either of these sections is unable to make a meeting then that meeting may have to be cancelled because of safeguarding issues. So, how about it adults of Bishops Itchington? Come along and have some fun!

In 2017 our parish council awarded our group a grant of £1239.00 which enabled us to replace some of our older tents and camping equipment. This year we have embarked on a fund raising course to replace our old and tired mini bus. We need to raise £10,000 plus to replace the bus with a more up to date vehicle and to kick start this project our parish council has recently

awarded us a further grant of £2292. We have a long way to go but we hope to achieve our goal at least by the end of 2018.

We are grateful to the parish council for both of our awards and also to the ratepayers of the village as this money ultimately comes from your council tax. Our income is entirely funded by membership subscription and the generosity of other organizations, sponsors and ordinary people. Unlike other youth organizations, all of our volunteers are unpaid and we are not funded by any government department or national body.

In a few weeks' time our group will be taking part in a County Scout Camp at Bramcote along with 3500 other boys and girls for a weekend of activity and adventure. The camp is called GET IN 2018.

Later in the year the Scout Group will be playing a leading role, along with other village organizations, in the celebration of the centenary of the end of the Great War (1914-18).

Thank you to everyone who supports our group in the village. We hope to be a presence here for the young people of our village for many years to come.

**Paul Buckley, Group Scout Leader**

## **B I Community Centre**

This year the centre has been very active despite a number of challenges, however, volunteer numbers are increasing without whose support the centre could not survive. The centre is run by volunteers, supported with grants from Bishop's Itchington Parish Council, the Big Lottery Fund and the Warwickshire County Councillor's Fund.

In April 2017 Simon Tagg-Wilkinson was elected as the new chairman and Sam Farrell stepped down from the youth club, after supporting the youth club since its inception.

We were able to secure the support of a youth worker by obtaining funding to continue the youth club, which has increased its membership and has a good following of volunteers, but could always do with more. We then received short notice from Young People First (YPF) formerly Warwickshire Association of Youth Clubs, regarding the termination of the youth worker services early this year. Fortunately, again Sam Farrell has been able to step in to support for a few months whilst a further funding application is underway and the search for another qualified youth worker started.

After providing extensive support the café manager also stood down, since then committee members have managed the café and finally after some difficulty a new café manager has taken on the role, again supported by volunteers.

Funding has been received from the parish council for improvements which have included the addition of disabled toilets and additional storage. New lighting has been installed throughout the building and replacement double glazed doors and windows have been installed to improve disabled access to the building and address safety and security issues. There are still other windows and doors that need replacement and a grant will be re-submitted to Bishop's Itchington Parish Council for this purpose.

The kitchen has been refurbished thanks to a donated kitchen and parts of the centre have been redecorated, although there are plans to further improve the décor. A great deal of work was undertaken by volunteers in their spare time to maintain the centre and achieve these improvements.

The café has provided the venue for a number of community events and our selection of home baked cakes – again from volunteers remain popular with visitors, who enjoy the café. We only wish we could offer WIFI as this would be a greater incentive for potential customers, but currently there is no BT line to the building. We are looking at possible solutions to this problem, so watch this space.

Youth club remains popular and is well attended. Bishop's Itchington Youth Club usually takes place on Friday's during term time. Youth club activities include arts graffiti, quiz, movie night, pancake making, pizza making, bowling. Funding for the youth club worker has been provided through grants. Making grant applications takes time and we rely upon the good will and time of our volunteers to keep the club running and hopefully funding will continue.

The Parenting Project has used the centre to provide creative play events for pre-school children and continued to be a success.

Our regular community activities this year have included:

- Bishop's Itchington Parish Council meetings
- Neighborhood Development Plan meetings
- Circuit & Core stability classes
- Men's Breakfast Club
- Our allotment plots remain popular
- An Arts Group recently commenced meeting on Thursday evenings

Volunteers have established a seated reading area in the hall including bookshelves which have been populated with donated books. The result is that we now offer a village book swap facility. A nice place for kids and people of all ages to spend a quiet time whilst also enjoying the offerings of the café.

Last year our village post office closed, however, with support from the parish council, the Post Office have investigated the possibility of setting up a pop-up post office in the village. After visiting a number of possible venues in the village, the location selected for the potential post office was the community centre. We are now awaiting confirmation from the Post Office that all

the appropriate assessments etc have been completed, then a date set for the opening of the service.

After a very long wait, it appears that the work on the completion of the footpath alongside the community centre will soon start. Hopefully this will not impact too much on the use of the centre and we will soon see a nice footpath between the pub and ourselves.

The community centre has planned a number of themed fundraising events during the year, our next planned fundraising event will be to celebrate the 100th anniversary of The People Act 1918 and votes for women which is on 5 May 11.00am – 2.00pm.

Football sessions continue and again are well attended. Additional activities and events continue to be planned with an objective to making the community centre more inclusive. Consideration is being given to joining the Tesco Community Food Scheme with the possibility of opening a Dementia Café.

The centre remains popular to hire for private parties, at a very reasonable cost of £10.00 per hour. The Butterfly Café is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm and on Fridays from 10.00am to 12 noon.

**Simon Tagg-Wilkinson**  
**Chairman of BI Community Project**



### **Record of Councillors' Attendance 2017/18**

There were a total of 13 parish council meetings during the council year May 2017 to April 2018. These included 11 scheduled meetings of which 10 were ordinary meetings and 1 was the annual meeting of the parish council. There were 2 extraordinary meetings.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Number of Scheduled Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Number of Extraordinary Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Overall Percentage Attended</b>
Cllr Adam Dugmore, Chairman	11/11	2/2	100%
Cllr Judith Christian Carter	11/11	2/2	100%
Cllr Alan Heatley, Vice-chairman	10/11	2/2	93%
Cllr Peter Holmes	11/11	1/2	93%
Cllr Chris Kettle	11/11	1/2	93%
Cllr Michael Mann	10/11	2/2	93%
Cllr Robert Parker	9/11	1/2	77%
Cllr David Warner (co-opted May 2017)	7/10	1/2	67%
Cllr Sue Wilson	10/11	2/2	93%

**Bishop's Itchington Parish Council**  
**Financial Report Year Ended 31 March 2018**  
**(Subject to audit)**

The following information is an extract from the council's annual financial report. A full copy will be published in due course on the council's website and can also be requested from the parish council office.

<b>Receipts &amp; Payments Account</b>							
<i>Year Ended</i> <b>31st March 2017</b>						<i>Year Ended</i> <b>31st March 2018</b>	
<b>£'s</b>						<b>£'s</b>	
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
84,000.00	Precept					84,000.00	
2,600.00	Council Tax Support Grant					1,930.00	
12,362.00	Grants - General					-	
2,790.00	Burial Ground Fees					3,005.00	
1,243.30	Sec 136 reimbursements					1,271.90	
669.57	Misc					199.72	
499.96	Interest on Investments					401.12	
138.37	Pavilion/Playing Field					37.97	
7,027.01	VAT Refund					4,800.46	
-	Pavilion Fund Contributions					0.01	
-						-	
-						-	
<b>111,330.21</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>					<b>95,646.18</b>	
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>						
30,556.39	Salaries and Expenses					30,890.83	
19,905.94	Grasscutting & Trees & Other Grounds Maintenance					20,453.23	
8,010.07	General Administration					7,515.37	
7,457.95	Village Equipment & Street Furniture					1,504.00	
6,279.40	Burial Ground					2,202.39	
3,657.82	Parish Office					3,681.90	
3,572.84	Grants					5,207.30	
2,703.71	Pavilion/Playing Field					3,986.93	
1,427.04	Neighbourhood Plan					452.94	
976.55	Memorial Hall (Grant)					-	
216.00	Other Expenditure					14,756.36	
-	Provision for Doubtful Debts					-	
-	Yellow Land					2,856.25	
6,362.55	VAT					6,422.08	
-						-	
-						-	
-						-	
<b>91,126.26</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>					<b>99,929.58</b>	
<b>20,203.95</b>	<b>Surplus / deficit</b>					<b>( 4,283.40)</b>	

**N.B.**

"Other Expenditure" of £14,756.36 includes re-payment of £6383.96 NDP grant and £8372.40 paid from the solar farm fund for the refurbishment of the allotments.

**Statement of Funds at 31 March 2018**

<b>Brought Forward as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017</b>		<b>Carried forward as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	
<b>£'s</b>		<b>£'s</b>	
47,000.00	National Income Bond b/f	47,000.00	
-	Transfer to NS Income Bonds	-	
<b>47,000.00</b>	<b>National Income Bond c/f</b>	<b>47,000.00</b>	
105,289.50	Current Account b/f	125,493.45	
111,330.21	Receipts	95,646.18	
( 91,126.26)	Expenditure	( 99,929.58)	
20,203.95	Net movement in year	( 4,283.40)	
125,493.45	Current Account c/f	121,210.04	
	Pavilion Fund c/f	0.01	
<b>172,493.45</b>	<b>Net funds c/f</b>	<b>168,210.05</b>	

**Grants Paid**

<b>Payee</b>	
BI Community Project (toilet with access for disabled)	1,967.50
BI Carnival Committee (staging, sound & light system)	500.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	75.00
Crafty Cuppa (hire of hall)	288.00
Memorial Hall (cooker)	1,336.80
BI Football Club (goal wheels)	558.00
Southam Town Council (community transport scheme)	482.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,207.30</b>