

# Bishop's Itchington Parish Council

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017



**BISHOPS ITCHINGTON**  
PARISH COUNCIL

Hosted by



## Bishop's Itchington Parish Council Chairman's Review of 2016/17

We've been kept busy over the last 12 months, not least not by 20+ planning applications that needed our response and several others on which we are consulted.

Last May, the first phase of GLH was granted at planning committee, amid some controversy. BIPC objected due to the increase in traffic through the village and, thanks to a detailed assessment by Cllr Holmes, put forward a strong argument that the transport assessment - used as a reference and as justification throughout - was flawed.

After a robust objection on our part and refusal by Stratford District Council, Gladman's appeal was heard last May and, despite the evidence provided by Councillors Christian-Carter and Kettle, the inspector upheld the appeal, meaning permission was granted. Since then, with significant input from Cllr Christian Carter and our cemetery manager, Mrs Val Powell, we have spoken at the planning committee against the very controversial application next to the cemetery. Sadly this decision also went against our wishes.

On a more positive planning-related note, the application for the new pavilion has been submitted following the work of Cllrs Mann and Parker and the enthusiasm of the residents in the pavilion working party.

The BI Neighbourhood Plan Group, which includes six residents and Cllrs Wilson and Heatley is wading through the data from 340 NDP questionnaires and 282 housing needs survey forms and working toward the first draft of a plan with the help of a planning consultant.

You'll shortly see formal notices regarding the changes to the speed limits that enable the traffic calming to be delivered. This has had significant design input from Warwickshire County Council and Cllr Holmes has led the liaison with officers there. In addition, many of you will have seen our speed watch volunteers, up early in the morning and monitoring speeds in areas where excessive speed is a problem. These will hopefully continue, but more volunteers are needed to keep it going.

Here in Bishop's Itchington, we have the benefit of a district councillor who wears more than one hat. Cllr Kettle also sits on the parish council, keeping us up to date on all that's happening at SDC. Chris has been hugely supportive through the several planning applications we have dealt with this year. He also heads up our finance group.

On the topic of finances, you may be aware of the community grant scheme which has helped several village organisations this year. To date, we have supported the carnival committee, the memorial hall, the local scout group and the Bishop's Itchington Community Project.

To all members who have served the council this year, the residents who support us and our ever patient clerk, Alison, THANK YOU.

**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 consulted by SDC on every planning application and this means that each 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. Take the recent planning application for energy storage units by the cemetery. Given the number of people who were against these storage units, the parish council listened and acted accordingly by objecting to this planning application on many planning grounds. Two parish councillors spoke against this planning application at SDC's Planning Committee meeting and although, on this occasion, the planning application was granted by SDC, the parish council had, yet again, represented the majority view, just as our democratic process allows.

**Cllr Judith Christian-Carter**



## **Bishop's Itchington Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Bishop's Itchington Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) working group works on behalf of the parish council. Over the past 12 months, the group has refocused on the need for a plan for the parish, to ensure sustainable development. It was identified that an up to date housing needs survey providing quantitative and qualitative data was needed. With support from Warwickshire Rural Community Council and Stratford District Council, these surveys were conducted over the summer of 2016.

The group has brought on board a local planning consultant, Neil Pearce, of Avon Planning Services. Neil has experience of working with several local groups on neighbourhood plans and formerly worked at Stratford District Council.

A neighbourhood plan cannot be anti-development, but it can put in place policies to ensure that any development (not just housing) is appropriate for the area. As part of this, the plan requires consideration of potential development and suitable sites. Using data from the 2016 survey, a consultation event with members of the community is scheduled for May 2017.

The production of a neighbourhood development plan is lengthy and goes through several phases of consultation. The small group has gained some valuable new faces from the community but is looking for additional volunteers to assist with the process. Most importantly, we need members of the community to engage with the consultations that occur.

**Alana Collis-Dugmore**  
**Member of BI Neighbourhood Development Plan**

## **Traffic Calming**

### **Potted History**

The current round of traffic calming activity goes back to public complaints about speeding through the village in 2012 which led to the parish council arranging a traffic survey on Gaydon Road in October 2012 which clearly showed that there was a problem with excessive speed. Following this the parish council engaged with WCC Highways to look at traffic calming options. These were limited by the fact that no funding would be available from WCC because there have been no fatality accidents in the village, and any scheme would therefore rely on Sec. 106 funding from developers.

During 2013 and 2014 various meetings took place with WCC Highways and both Banner Homes and Persimmon, culminating in a scheme (which could be achieved with around £80 - £100,000 of S106 money) being presented to the February 2015 parish council meeting. It was resolved to put this scheme to public consultation, which included an exhibition on 29th April 2015.

At the June 2015 parish council meeting it was agreed to engage an external contractor to analyse the public consultation data, and a working party, consisting of 3 councillors and 6 members of the public, was set up to consider the results of the analysis and decide on next steps. The working party met in early September 2015 to discuss the analysis results. As a result they then met with WCC Highways on 25th November of that year to discuss what options were available to vary the proposed scheme, based on the biggest concerns expressed in the consultation, i.e. the loss of the Plough Lane roundabout, and the loss of the pedestrian crossing near Lakin Drive.

The working party met again in early January 2016 to agree on the recommendation it would make to the parish council, and at the January 2016 parish council meeting they proposed adoption of the WCC scheme, subject to:

1. The retention of the Plough Lane roundabout on a new raised table junction
2. The retention of the pedestrian crossing by Lakin Drive, which would result in no raised table junction at Lakin Drive
3. Extra speed cushions at each end of the B4451 to reduce speeds at the entry points to the village (using monies saved from the deleted raised table)

The council voted to accept the working party's recommendations, and this decision was relayed to WCC Highways.

### New Traffic Survey

The council commissioned a new survey for one week in February 2016 at 6 locations (5 on B4451, plus Plough Lane). This showed lower figures than the 2012 survey but confirmed that there is a problem with traffic speeds, especially at the entry points to the village on both the B4451 and Plough Lane. The summary results of the 2012 and 2016 surveys are shown in the following table:

**2016 Traffic Survey Summary Data**

	Site 1		Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 6	Site 5
	Gaydon Road		Gaydon Road	Plough Lane	Gaydon Road	Station Road	Station Road
	Oct-12	Feb-16	Feb-16	Feb-16	Feb-16	Feb-16	Feb-16
<b>Average Speed N</b>	41.7	33	23.3	38.9	31.8	29.1	35.5
<b>85th %ile Speed N</b>	48	38.8	27.7	45.4	36.8	34.3	41.0
<b>Average Speed S</b>	43.2	35.4	26.7	35.1	32.6	29.8	31.6
<b>85th %ile Speed S</b>	49.1	40.5	31.1	42.8	38.3	34.8	36.9
<b>Average Volume N</b>	2389	2593	3095	1304	2714	2224	2141
<b>Average Volume S</b>	2618	2428	2921	1312	2454	2111	2088
<b>Class % Cars</b>	79	83	84	79	68(S) - 81(N)	85	83
<b>Class % LGV</b>	12	10	9 - 10	15	18(S) - 10(N)	7 - 8	10
<b>Class % HGV</b>	9	7	6 - 7	6	14(S) - 9(N)	7 - 8	7

The 2012 survey was only carried out in one location, on Gaydon Road at the south end of the village, and was the same location as Site 1 for the 2016 survey, so the results can be compared in the Site 1 column above. We will conduct a further survey once the scheme is implemented and has settled down so we can quantify the effect of it on traffic speeds.

### **2016/17 Progress**

Since the funding for the scheme is dependent on Sec. 106 monies from the developers, no further progress was made until the Persimmon funds were received by WCC in June. At this point the detailed design work started, and at the end of August the plans were forwarded to the parish council. Some changes had been made due to budget constraints and our request to retain the Lakin Road crossing. Specifically, both crossings will remain at road level (not raised tables), and some extra speed cushions have been added. At the September meeting the parish council decided to give the go-ahead to WCC Highways to arrange the next step, which was a public consultation. The consultation packs were eventually distributed to affected households just before Christmas, and the consultation ran until the end of January.

A total of 9 households responded to the consultation. An officer from WCC attended the February parish council meeting and confirmed that she would be discussing the results with the design team. Since then she has confirmed that the design will go ahead as is, and the next steps are:

1. All respondents will receive a letter from WCC Highways
2. Two legal orders have to be implemented - one for the re-location of the changes in speed limits, and another for the physical implementation of the traffic calming measures. These then have to be advertised with an opportunity for public objections. At the time of writing, the current plan is to advertise these by the 2nd week in April
3. If there are no objections, the scheme should be signed off at the June WCC Highways meeting. If there are objections this may lead to a delay of a month
4. The scheme should then begin implementation in August/September

As Harold Wilson said, "a week is a long time in politics", but a year is very short in local government!!

**Councillor Peter Holmes**

## **Bishop's Itchington Community Speed Watch Group**

Firstly, the parish council would like to thank all the volunteers for giving up their time to undertake speed checks during the last year. There is a lot of work involved in this activity; it is not just being there on the day, but collating results and liaising with Warwickshire Police.

The BI Community Speed Watch undertook 13 checks in 2016, concentrating on Gaydon Road and Station Road, within the 30mph speed limit.



The group currently consists of four volunteers who were trained by [Warwickshire Police](#) , with two volunteers who are able to assist.

**BI Community Speed Watch Group Members:**

Ian Crossan  
Peter Holmes  
Bev Mann  
Melanie Wheeler  
Peter Wilson  
Sue Wilson

All volunteers wear the mandatory hi-vis jackets and regulatory signage is always visible on both approaches to where the check is taking place. Volunteers use a calibrated laser speed gun and for an offence to be recorded, the vehicle must be recorded as travelling 10% over the speed limit, plus 2mph. \* In a 30mph zone, the vehicle must be exceeding 35mph to be recorded.

Results of speed checks were forwarded onto Warwickshire Police, and owners of the registered vehicles notified of their offence. Additionally our local community police officer has carried out his own speed checks in 2016.

**Brief summary of the speed checks carried out through 2016**

<b>Bishop's Itchington Community Speed Checks</b>				
<b>Location (30mph)</b>	<b>No. of Checks completed</b>	<b>No. of Vehicles travelling above *35mph</b>	<b>Average Vehicle Speed</b>	<b>Highest Recorded Vehicle Speed</b>
Station Road	5	13	40mph	48mph
Gaydon Road	8	180	39mph	51mph

Going forward this year, there are likely to be fewer speed checks, as the laser equipment is now shared between Southam, Bishop's Itchington and Gaydon.

**Cllr Sue Wilson**  
**BI Community Speed Watch Group**

# Reports from Village Organisations

## Bishop's Itchington Runners

Bishop's Itchington Runners has gone from strength to strength since the group started in May last year. We have had a great turn out for our weekly running sessions over the cold, dark winter months as we have moved from the playing fields to the lit roads and pavements in the village. We had eight of our runners complete the Regency 10 km Run in early April and have just had our first sessions of the year back on the playing fields again. We meet at 7.30pm at the playing fields every Monday evening to do an interval session. Every 8 weeks we do some timed laps around the village meeting in the same place. All levels of runners are welcome age 12 and upwards. We have a Facebook page with over 130 likes now and the weekly sessions are posted on there along with details of races coming up, running tips and links with a local physio to answer your queries.



**Sarah Price**  
**BI Runners**

## B I Community Centre

Since our last AGM in April 2016 the committee have set out to re-establish café facilities and re-invent regular use of the centre for families within the local community.

The usual renting out of centre facilities for functions has continued with an increased uptake and interest from families and organisations using the resources available.

Over the summer of 2016 we focused on families with pre-school and school age children and ran weekly events promoting continued social engagement and learning opportunities with the aim of increasing school readiness for the new term at Ladybirds and Bishop's Itchington Primary School. In the months that followed we held successful fundraisers such as the Macmillan Coffee Morning and other seasonal events such as Halloween and Christmas activities. Alongside this we planned for centre improvements through grant applications and planned a programme of activities for the first three months of the year. The centre has been successful in securing grants from the County Councillors' Fund and the parish council which will support much needed improvements in facilities and further youth and community activities. These have included:

- Inspirational Play (programme for children aged 0-5 with parents/carers) in conjunction with the Parenting Programme (6 weeks)

- The REAL programme (Literacy and Language learning for children 2-5 with parent's/carers) facilitated by Jan Lennon under SMART START funding (5 weeks)
- A stay and play group with a focus on different areas of play each week (ongoing)
- Community events in collaboration with the carnival "Make, Bake and Grow" committee

Further collaborative programmes are planned for the forthcoming months. Regular groups continue and are managed by committee members. These include:

- Weekly youth group
- Seasonal football coaching
- The centre is also regularly used for parish council meetings, the neighbourhood planning group, men's breakfasts and fitness classes.
- The allotments are now all allocated and being proactively maintained and managed

We have new additions to the committee who have brought great new ideas for groups and activities within the centre for the benefit of the local community such as 'The Men's Shed, who will meet at the centre to look at community projects that can be supported through skilled work.

**Orlaith Horsman**  
**BI Community Project**



**Record of Councillors' Attendance 2016/17**

There were a total of 12 parish council meetings during the council year May 2016 to April 2017.

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Number of Meetings Attended</b>	<b>Percentage Attended</b>
Cllr Richard Shimmin (resigned March 2017)	8 / 11	73%
Cllr Adam Dugmore	12/12	100%
Cllr Judith Christian Carter	11/12	92%
Cllr Alan Heatley	11/12	92%
Cllr Peter Holmes	10/12	83%
Cllr Chris Kettle	9/12	75%
Cllr Michael Mann	12/12	100%
Cllr Robert Parker	11/12	92%
Cllr Sue Wilson	11/12	92%

**Bishop's Itchington Parish Council**  
**Financial Report Year Ended 31 March 2017**  
**(Subject to audit)**

The following information is an extract from the 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>Financial Statements (subject to audit)</b>		
<b>For the Year ended 31 March 2017</b>		
<b>Receipts &amp; Payments Account</b>		
<b>Year Ended 31st March 2016</b>		<b>Year Ended 31st March 2017</b>
<b>£'s</b>		<b>£'s</b>
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
72,000.00	Precept	84,000.00
3,440.00	Council Tax Support Grant	2,600.00
22,000.00	Grants - General	12,362.00
4,350.00	Burial Ground Fees	2,790.00
1,243.30	Sec 136 reimbursements	1,243.30
8,116.90	Misc	699.57
589.14	Interest on Investments	499.96
37.97	Pavilion/Playing Field	138.37
5,366.62	VAT Refund	7,027.01
-		-
-		-
-		-
<b>117,143.93</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>111,360.21</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
29,811.62	Salaries and Expenses	30,556.39
15,262.26	Grasscutting & Trees & Other Grounds Maintenance	19,905.94
7,187.12	General Administration	8,010.07
177.70	Village Equipment & Street Furniture	7,457.95
9,715.62	Burial Ground	6,279.40
3,648.62	Parish Office	3,657.82
2,097.08	Grants	3,572.84
5,894.89	Pavilion/Playing Field	2,703.71
67.84	Neighbourhood Plan	1,427.04
1,000.00	Memorial Hall (Grant)	976.55
252.00	Other Expenditure	216.00
-	Provision for Doubtful Debts	-
452.50	Yellow Land	-
6,444.02	VAT	6,362.55
-		-
-		-
-		-
<b>82,011.27</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>91,126.26</b>
<b>35,132.66</b>	<b>Surplus / deficit</b>	<b>20,233.95</b>

**BISHOPS ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Financial Statements (subject to audit)  
For the Year ended 31 March 2017

**Statement of Funds at 31 March 2017**

<i>Brought Forward as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 £'s</i>		<i>Carried forward as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 £'s</i>
47,000.00	National Income Bond b/f	47,000.00
-	Transfer to NS Income Bonds	-
47,000.00	National Income Bond c/f	47,000.00
70,156.84	Current Account b/f	105,289.50
117,143.93	Receipts	111,360.21
(82,011.27)	Expenditure	(91,126.26)
35,132.66	Net movement in year	20,233.95
105,289.50	Current Account c/f	125,493.45
<b>152,289.50</b>	<b>Net funds c/f</b>	<b>172,493.45</b>

**Grants Paid**

<b>Payee</b>	
BI Community Project (shed)	737.00
BI Carnival Committee (gazebo)	304.84
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	75.00
Crafty Cuppa (hire of hall)	288.00
Memorial Hall (cinema screen)	976.55
St Michael's PCC (disabled access to churchyard)	1,000.00
BI Scout Group (new equipment)	1,384.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,765.39</b>