

Beech Parish Council

Annual Report 2018/2019

As we approach the end of the council's year, I have pleasure in providing a summary of the matters addressed over the past twelve months.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The plan is out for its first public consultation, during the last 12 months a Landscape Character Assessment was carried out to provide further supporting evidence for the plan.

Highways

Last November council approved the traffic calming scheme proposed by Hampshire Highways, the scheme has been added to their schedule of works.

In June the council responded to Hampshire County Council's street lighting survey.

We continue to monitor and inform HCC on road maintenance issues that arise from time to time such as potholes.

Development

In the past year the council has considered 17 planning and tree preservation order applications; these included:

Extensions to existing properties, new developments and the pruning of trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

Each application is considered in detail and the merits or detriments of each development assessed.

The loss of mature trees remains of particular concern to the Parish Council, and the ability of applicants of new developments to clearly demonstrate that all surface water run-off will be retained and disposed of on site.

The council have made comments on applications to this effect.

Council has also commented on East Hampshire District Council's draft local plan.

Footpaths, Bridleways, Community and Environment

We continue to monitor the state and accessibility of the footpaths and bridleways serving the village. Beech PC has continued to fund clearance and maintenance work on the footpath leading down to the A339. Where necessary we encourage those responsible to undertake maintenance and clearance of footpaths.

The council has purchased and had installed a defibrillator unit that has been positioned adjacent to the entrance to the village hall. The unit has been registered with the emergency services and appears on the national database. Training is being arranged for later in the year.

Finance

We are pleased to confirm that the Council's reserves remain safe and regular external and internal audit checks are undertaken to ensure correct financial procedures are followed.

Representatives

We thank our EHDC District Councillor, Tony Costigan, and Mark Kemp Gee our Hampshire County Councillor for their work in keeping Beech Parish Council up to date with what is happening at District and County Council levels and for all the lobbying they have done on our behalf.

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Beech Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk for their hard work and support.