

## **PC meeting report Jan 2023**

In public comment, a resident and member of the Community Plan Group, CPG, raised issues related to Butt Lane South and asked for a progress report on the priorities identified in the plan (see below). A member of the cricket club asked for support in providing an all-weather wicket (see below).

### **PC update on its responses to Community Plan priorities from 2019**

**1) Communications** - The Council is grateful to Cathy Smith for agreeing to set up an online diary for village events on Facebook, and the Clerk will work with her to bring more content from social media on to the village website. Organisers of events are encouraged to use the diary to avoid clashes. Labels have appeared on BT Openreach broadband cabinets on Springdale Lane, indicating that Ultrafast broadband, 1 Gb or 1000mb/s compared to the current 'normal' of 50-70mb/s, is here & says to check postcodes. However, in none of the postcodes checked so far is it actually available yet, but people can register an interest. The link to Openreach below simply says they are planning to upgrade it in the future. Last time broadband was a major issue, pressure on Openreach was needed to get it moving on providing the fibre cabinets, then rolling out provision. Apart from a bit of political pressure through our MP and NCC, it was also vital to encourage residents to register an interest through their provider or by using the Openreach link. In the end, it was probably a commercial decision that it was worth 'doing' East Bridgford because of the likely rate of return shown by the interest levels, so residents are encouraged to register their interest even if they may not need it for a couple of years (there is no commitment at this stage). <https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/where-when-building-ultrafast-full-fibre-broadband>

**2) Traffic and highways issues** - The renewed and revised scheme for Community Speed Watch which was unexpectedly published by the police before Christmas is being considered alongside the potential purchase of a data-recording speed indicator sign, similar to one being used in Ravenshead. PC volunteers used to get involved in the speed watch scheme until it was changed into a very unwieldy version several years ago. Any residents who might be interested in training for, and taking part in, the community speed watch scheme alongside Councillors should contact the Clerk, Sharon Ellis, on [parishcouncil@eastbridgford.com](mailto:parishcouncil@eastbridgford.com).

**3) Green belt, development & planning** - Revised plans for Butt Lane South, published on 20<sup>th</sup> December, still contained many contentious issues, and the overall judgment is that it is even worse than before. While some planned houses have been removed from the green belt area, an access road & other 'built' items remain, and the number of houses at 59 is still well over the 45 set out in the Local Plan(2). Concerns to do with these matters, plus a lack of garden or amenity space on plots, inadequate planting, lack of buffer zones & cutting back of the hedge along Springdale Wood have been included in objections by the PC, the EBWBG, the CPG and individual residents. The PC continues to object, by strongly supporting the detailed objections of those groups. It will monitor the process closely, and investigate seeking a judicial review if necessary. There has also been a review of the Conservation Area by RBC, with full involvement of the PC & consultation with other village organisations, led by Cllr Maywhort, and there will be a report back in due course.

**4) Youth activities** - The Scouts have reported that the hut is ready for use by all sections of the movement, having fitted it out. The PC has replaced the 'WI' letters on the fingerpost

signs with a Scout symbol, and has committed significant funding to assist with upgrading costs. The PC also agreed to support the cricket club's project to provide an all-weather wicket which will assist in the development of youth cricket. Apart from managing any contract as the land owner to save on VAT, it committed to providing up to £5000 in 'match' or third-party funding. As part of its commitment to youth activities, the cricket club was also urged to encourage participation by girls and women.

**Butt Close and pavilion matters** - At the time of writing, the installation of solar panels on the pavilion roof was due to be completed in mid-January. This project led by Cllr Storr, is an important step in reducing the Council's carbon footprint as part of its response to the issue of climate change. The PC will support provision of a memorial bench requested by the Sports Club in recognition of the very long & substantial contribution to village sporting activities of Brian Smith, who died last year.

There is photographic evidence of deep & wide tyre tracks on the field around Christmas time, left by a motor bike, probably a miniature one, or electric scooter. The editor of the local Facebook page kindly agreed to publish a reminder, repeated here, that such vehicles are not allowed on the field because of the damage which can be caused to playing surfaces.

**Dog fouling** - While the overall situation has improved over recent years, there are still a few but persistent cases around the village. One such is a bizarre case which occurs on Butt Lane where the mess is picked up and bagged, but then the bag is placed on the side of the path!

**Election year** - May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 is the date when local elections will be held, including one for this Parish Council. More details will become available nearer the date.

The next meeting will be on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 in the chapel, preceded by a meeting of the Assets and Environment Committee at 7pm.