

**THE 115<sup>TH</sup> VILLAGE CONFERENCE HELD AT THE  
BELL CENTRE, GREAT BADDOW ON THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2009**

Prior to the official meeting, a reception had been arranged from 7.00 p.m. for parishioners to meet with Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors and the Essex County Councillor for informal talks.

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Christine Shaw, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The business meeting of the Village Conference then started at 7.30pm.

1. **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs Christine Shaw (Chairman of the Parish Council) presided over the meeting, which numbered 14 members of the public and 11 parish councillors. The members of the public included Police Sergeant Nikki Gander, Community Commander John Moulson, John Shaw (Chairman of the Great Baddow Parochial Charities), John Emery (Great Baddow Times Editor), Dan Glading (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) and Richard Beck (Great Baddow Community Association).

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous Village Conference held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008, which had been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Christine Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs Maureen Miller.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

4. **PRESENTATION AND REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

Sergeant Nikki Gander spoke to the meeting about the recent changes that have been made to the local policing team. There are now two dedicated Neighbourhood Specialists and 3 PCSOs, who are based at Moulsham Lodge police station. This has resulted in better consistency in dealing with problems. Ongoing support for the Youth Facility is being provided. Various measures have been taken recently to catch and convict burglars, to remove prolific and repeat offenders and to deal with problem premises. Rogue traders are also being targeted. The number of crimes per month in the Great Baddow and Galleywood area has fallen from 140-160 to 80-100 and the detection rate has gone up from 6% to 30%. There have been some very tangible benefits over the last year and the team are working to continue this.

Parishioner's Questions and Comments

4.1 Where does Moulsham Lodge Police Station fit in?

The police team is back in the police station now as it turned out that the office in the Vineyards was unsuitable. There is always a police presence at the Youth Facility at the times that it is open.

4.2 Speed checks in Galleywood Road have not been done recently.

Suggestions are always welcomed for locations and times at which to do speed checks and this can be done. Cllr A Sosin also told the meeting that Essex County Council has recently undertaken a speed survey in Galleywood Road.

4.3 What will happen when the new parking restrictions come in? Will this be monitored?

Any effects from the new restrictions can be monitored. SIDs are also being put outside Beehive Lane school. Cllr A Sosin told the meeting that the restrictions have been approved by Chelmsford Borough Council and will be put in sometime in the summer.

The meeting was told about a charity quiz that is being held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 at police headquarters and anyone interested should contact Sergeant Gander for details.

5. **REPORT FROM THE FIRE SERVICE**

Community Commander John Moulson gave a presentation to the meeting. Great Baddow is a day crewed station and the officers attended 460 incidents in the 2008/2009 year. There has been a 22% decrease in the number of people killed and seriously injured in Road Traffic Collisions and there has also been a reduction the number of secondary fires, due to fewer vehicles being set on fire. The fire service works with young people, undertaking various activities and also engages with the hard to reach communities by making home fire safety visits. Commander Moulson addressed the meeting about the recent review that had taken place about the possibility of closing the Great Baddow station. It has been recommended that a further feasibility study needs to be undertaken to consider what is happening in a wider area and the potential knock-on effects that there might be. This will be published for consultation and the public will then have a chance to comment.

Parishioner's Questions and Comments

5.1 Is the Fire Service control still in Shenfield?

There is a new headquarters alongside the A12 near Kelvedon but the Hutton site has been retained. There are concerns about a regional control being based in Cambridge but this probably won't be happening until at least 2013.

With the consent of the meeting, the running order of the meeting was changed from that advertised on the agenda to take the reports from the village groups before the Parish Council Report.

6. **GREAT BADDOW COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Richard Beck, the Chairman of the Association gave a report. Membership remains at about 1600 members, the turnover is £250,000 per annum and the centre employs 15 full and part time staff. Thanks are given to these people for their work. The Association has continued to provide facilities for members and the wider community.

The finances are in good shape in spite of increased running costs and usage of the building is very high. The usual programme of events has been run and various donations to charity have been made. There have been no major changes to the building this year but a continuous maintenance programme is in place.

Good neighbourhood policing has cut down the instances of vandalism, which makes the place safer and cuts down on repair costs. The Association also applauds the opening of the Youth Drop-In and hopes that it continues to thrive.

The Parish Council is thanked for its continued support.

7. **GREAT BADDOW PAROCHIAL CHARITIES**

The Chairman, Mr John Shaw, gave the report. The constitution and the objectives of the Parochial Charities remains the same. The Trustees have met on 5 occasions during the year to deal with the routine administration and trustee indemnity insurance has been taken out. Sadly, two almspersons died during the year but they have now both been replaced. Replacing these people was hard due to the restrictions placed by the charities deed and thought had been given to asking the Charity Commission for changes to the constitution but this matter was not progressed.

The windows in Kinghams are to be replaced but this has been delayed because of problems because the building is in the conservation area. The garden at St Mary's Court is now being sorted out. A new boiler in Kinghams

is being considered for the future. New fire extinguishers, fire alarms and CO alarms have been installed and disaster recovery plans have been drawn up. Revd Alistair McGregor retired after twelve years as a trustee. Grants were made in December for the support of the needy of the parishes of Great Baddow and Galleywood. Each resident of the Almshouses was presented with a Christmas gift.

8. **GREAT BADDOW ARTS AND LEISURE CENTRE**

David Saddington was not present at the meeting and no report had been received from the Arts and Leisure Centre.

9. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Mr Dan Glading, the Neighbourhood Area Co-ordinator gave a report. Unfortunately, ill health during the year has prevented him from fulfilling all of his duties. Bulletins have been displayed as a means of communicating to the public. As ever, volunteer help has not been forthcoming. The PCSOs have been very helpful, particularly in the Meadgate area. Bogus callers continue to be a problem and there have been a number of cases of arson. Residents should be vigilant and report anything to the police.

10. **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

A detailed written report had been circulated to all those present providing details of the Council's activities during the 2008/2009 financial year. The Chairmen of the Committees then proceeded to expand verbally and answer questions on the report.

11. **GROUNDS AND ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Stephen Martin thanked Peter Jeffrey and the team for the fantastic job that they do in all weathers to keep the parish looking good and in keeping the facilities in working order. The office staff were also thanked for their input into the administration elements.

New equipment in the teenage play area is being installed and the contractors have now finished. Fencing on the All Weather Sports Courts has been replaced, which is part of an ongoing replacement plan. These courts and the football, cricket and tennis facilities all continue to be very well used. The Council has been continuing negotiations with the Great Baddow Cricket Club for the provision of a site to locate a cricket practice facility

The Lawn Cemetery continues to be well kept and is looking lovely again this year. The cemetery gets very favourable comments from both residents of the parish and visitors alike.

Thanks were given to Terry Hull and Anthea Reeve, who are the Allotment Representatives, for their help and support during the year. Plot availability is still very limited and the Council is looking acquire further land to establish a new allotment site.

Parishioner's Questions and Comments

11.1 Does Luxfield belong to the Parish Council?

Cllr Martin confirmed that it does and that the boundaries are to be marked and a management plan is to be drawn up.

12. **HIGHWAYS AND AMENITIES**

Cllr Andrew Sosin addressed the meeting and told those present about highways improvements and maintenance issues that have been completed in the last year. The Parking Review in the village has finally happened and changes have been made to parking restrictions. The Parish Council will continue to press for a review in the Meadgate/Baddow Road area. The Council has also submitted comments to the A12 Enquiry. Thanks go to Don Hood and Mike Passfield, for their work as litter pickers in keeping Great

Baddow cleaner than it might otherwise be. Cllr Mrs Maureen Miller is also thanked for her continuing vigilance and persistence.

#### Parishioner's Questions and Comments

- 12.1 Does the Parish Council have a view on the diverted buses?  
The bus service is free to choose the route it wants to use. Cllr Margaret Hutchon from Chelmsford Borough Council is representing users in talks. Cllr K Ronaldson attends the Essex County Council meetings of the Passenger Representatives, where the vast majority of concerns are raised about buses not turning up.
- 12.2 Galleywood Road is swept regularly but the side roads are not.  
The roads are swept twice a year and will be done if reported to the Highways Authority.
- 12.3 The matter of the sewers in Church Street was raised.  
The Parish Council did write to Anglian Water some time ago and received a reply. The matter will be investigated.
- 12.4 Should there be a bus indicator on the Blue Lion side of the road?  
This is developer funded and so it is unlikely.

#### 13. **PLANNING**

Cllr Mrs Diana Ronaldson addressed the meeting. She said that the Planning Committee meets every two weeks and that during the year they had dealt with 126 applications. Members of the public are always welcome. The Parish Council's Planning Committee is not the Planning Authority. Borough councillors can be asked to call-in applications and representatives of the Parish Council will then attend the planning meeting at the Borough Council. Trees also come under planning if they are in the conservation area or have TPOs on them. The Planning Committee use the guidance on extensions from Chelmsford Borough Council to help in their deliberations. Members of the Planning Committee attend study days to keep up to date on changes to planning law. Thanks were given to Sid Bass, who had been the Chairman of the Planning Committee for the past five years and to Mrs Cheryl Cook, the Administrative Assistant, for her work at Planning Committee meetings.

#### Parishioner's Questions and Comments

- 13.1 Are there times for starting work on developments?  
The Planning Authority can put conditions into planning permissions.

#### 14. **PARISH HALL AND BELL CENTRE**

Cllr Mrs Diana Ronaldson addressed the meeting. The Parish Hall will be getting new security doors at the front and the flooring in the foyer, corridor and toilets will be replaced. The work surfaces and the refrigerator in the kitchen have been replaced. Problems with a leak in the main hall continue and expert advice is being sought. A fire risk assessment has been carried out and as a result some new electric wiring has been installed and further smoke alarms have been fitted. Lynn Alderson, the caretaker, Helen Bonner, the cleaner and Mick Pratt, the handyman were all thanked for their hard work

Essex County Council, the landlords of the Bell Centre, has undertaken an assessment of the boundary wall and repairs are to be carried out. The lease with the landlords limits the number of cars in the car park to three. A number of new hirers have started using the Bell Centre and this is good news. Lynn Alderson, the caretaker/cleaner was thanked for her work.

#### 15. **PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES**

The Clerk reported that the accounts close on 31<sup>st</sup> March each year and are audited by an external auditor. The audited accounts are then made available for public inspection. The un-audited Receipts and Payment figures were circulated to those present. Cllr Andrew Sosin explained about S106

monies and that they are monies given to the Parish Council under legal agreements made with developers, for improvements to the area and facilities.

Parishioner's Questions and Comments

15.1 Given the interest in environmental matters, would it be possible for heating costs to be shown in the Annual Report?  
The publication of basic costs could be investigated.

16. **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Last year saw change in the office staff and this year has seen a change in name! Congratulations were given to Cheryl, the Administrative Assistant who changed her name from Clark to Cook when she got married just before Christmas.

Another extremely successful year was had with two performances from Essex On Tour. There was a children's show again in November which worked well and a magician in the early part of the year, who gave an excellent performance.

A new event for this year was taking part in the Essex Book Festival and Elaine Bryan, the Assistant Clerk and Cllr Mrs Angela Martin were thanked for organising it. The author was Sophie Hannah and the event went very well.

The Youth Drop In Facility finally opened in the old opticians shop in Marrable House. It has been extremely successful and thanks go to the YMCA and Mike Humphrey in particular, for the way it is being run. The police are also thanked for their support in managing the small difficulties that arose in the first few months. Larger premises are needed but that is a project for the future. The sessions for the younger children are still being run at the Bell Centre, which are also organised by the YMCA.

Thanks were given to all the staff and councillors for all their hard work. Special mention was given to the Clerk for compiling the evidence needed for the Council to retain its status as a Quality Council. John Emery was thanked for his work as the Editor of the Great Baddow Times, which reached its 50<sup>th</sup> Edition during the year. The delivery system is still being worked on to make certain that as many households as possible notice it coming through the door.

Ideas and comments are always welcome. The Council's aim continues to be to enhance facilities for parishioners and to make Great Baddow a place that people find attractive and welcoming to live.

Parishioner's Questions and Comments

16.1 No mention has been made of the Village Design Statement  
The VDS is reaching the final stages and the fourth draft will be going to the Borough Council shortly and then going out to public consultation. The VDS has taken time because of the size of the parish, growing development and changes in the rules.

17. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no matters raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.00 pm, with the Chairman thanking those in attendance for coming.

Signed: ..... Dated:.....  
Chairman of the Parish Council