

# **Nash Parish Council Annual Review**

**1/4/2016-31/3/2017**

## **Overview**

The year has again been a busy one for the Parish Council. There have been a number of major planning issues to deal with in addition to the day to day activity of commenting on planning applications and administering and maintaining the Parish Council's areas of responsibility.

## **Councillors**

In the review period Cllr Williams was re-elected Chairman of the Parish Council. Mrs Redshaw and Mr Rooney resigned as Councillors, the Parish Council records it's thanks to both of them for their service. Subsequently, Mrs Jones was appointed as a new Councillor.

## **Gypsy and travellers and Nash Park**

A planning application to make the use the site permanent was heard by AVDC in July. The Parish Council vigorously opposed the application although notwithstanding this AVDC granted permission. The Parish Council considered whether there were grounds for a Judicial Review and all residents received a letter advising them of AVDC's planning decision and asking whether there was support for the Parish Council to undertake further work to ascertain whether there were grounds for a Judicial Review. Six residents responded to the letter of which three offered some financial support for a Judicial Review of AVDC's decision. The Parish Council had made clear in its letter that seeking a Judicial Review was an uncertain and expensive activity and without overwhelming support and full financial backing from residents the Parish Council would not be able to pursue such a course of action. As a consequence the Parish Council decided that it had no mandate from residents, or indeed the financial backing, to pursue a Judicial Review.

Since 2010, the Parish Council had spent a considerable amount of time and energy on the matter writing numerous letters and emails to AVDC, attending AVDC Planning Committee meetings, lobbying and meeting with John Bercow, M.P., and meeting with the Secretary of State for Communities. Regrettably, all of this had not been able to prevent the site becoming permanent for gypsy and traveller use. To a large extent the outcome was due to the failure of AVDC to provide alternative Gypsy and Traveller sites.

## **S106 moneys from the completion of the development of All Saints Close**

The Parish Council is still considering how these moneys can be best used for the benefit of the village. They can only be spent on prescribed leisure and recreational facilities. Residents' views on the matter are welcome.

## **Church Farm, the undeveloped part**

An enforcement notice was been served by AVDC on the land owners requiring the rebuilding of the former buildings by 7 December 2017. To date there is no sign on the ground of any progress on the works and the Parish Council have been pressing AVDC for details as to what is happening.

## **AVDC Local Plan**

AVDC published their draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) in June and the Parish Council commented on this. Under the plan Nash is regarded as a 'small' village with the result that if the plan is approved little, if any, development will be permitted during the currency of the plan.

## **Neighbourhood Plan for Nash**

An application was made in May by the Parish Council to designate Nash Parish as a Neighbourhood Area. After a period of consultation this was approved by AVDC. Work is ongoing by a Committee with delegated powers from the Parish Council to progress the Plan.

## **Possible changes to Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council.**

With central government cut backs to the funding of County and District Councils (and resulting in cut backs to Parish Councils as well) BCC and AVDC are looking at ways to streamline their activities. Both are now proposing the creation of a Unitary Council or Councils which would mean that the new Unitary Council(s) would carry out the functions of both the County and District Councils. BCC and AVDC have both submitted their differing proposals for the creation of a Unitary Council or Councils and the matter is with the government Minister for a decision.

## **Grass cutting of areas previously cut by Bucks County Council**

The Parish Council has now taken over responsibility for the grass cutting of areas in the village owned by BCC. This is the first year that this has taken place and the Parish Council is satisfied that the work is a big improvement on that undertaken by BCC. This partly a result of more frequent cuts, once a fortnight. While there is a contribution towards the cost by BCC this not sufficient to meet the actual cost with the result that the shortfall is met by the Parish Council.

## **Nash Parish Council's precept for 2016/17**

The Parish Council decided in January that its precept for the next financial year would again remain the same as the previous year that is £12,500.

## **Footpath outside Holywell Cottages.**

Our BCC Councillor, Cllr Chilver, had hoped to be able to nominate these such works as priority works in the 2016/17 BCC budget but was not afforded this opportunity as the year's footways budget was fully taken up with the completion of

previous years' schemes. Cllr Chilver is hoping that the works can be included in BCC's 2017/18 budget.

### **Dog litter in the village.**

This has continued to be an issue of contention and was one of the matters raised by some residents at the last Annual Parish meeting. As a result Councillors decided that efforts should be made to ensure that there is a strict enforcement on the ban on dog litter and that a reward should be offered for evidence of any offending. Despite the offer of a £100 reward for any information leading to a prosecution no evidence of any offenders has been provided to the Parish Council.

### **Recent works in the village.**

In the recreation ground the concrete pipes in the play-area have been removed and the area seeded for grass; other works of repair have been carried out to the play-area. In addition the western boundary hedge of the recreation ground has been cut back. Around the village the footpaths adjacent to Winslow Road and by the Thornton Road crossroads have both been re-edged. A new village noticeboard has been erected by the allotments and the bus-shelter has been rescued from an abundance of vegetation.

### **Planning application for 9 houses in the paddock to the rear of All Saints Close.**

A planning application in respect of land at Church Farm 4 Stratford Road Nash (the paddock at the rear of All Saints Close) was submitted for the erection of nine dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. The Parish Council held a meeting for residents in order to discuss the application. Following a unanimous decision of those attending to oppose the application the Parish Council sent a detailed submission to AVDC opposing the application.

Nash Parish Council

24/5/2017