

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS - 2019

INTRODUCTION

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the 2019 Annual Parish Assembly. This is the meeting where we tell you what we have been doing and what we hope to be doing in the future for the benefit of all the residents of Binley Woods. The following are just a few of the items we have dealt with.

TGI ISLAND

We have now had almost 3 years of disruption at the TGI end of the Village, since the Toll Bar underpass has been completed. Still there are vehicles getting in the wrong lane on the A45 and having to go all round TGI island to get back onto the A45. The signage is an absolute joke but Highways England is not interested in our problem. Perhaps they will find out for themselves when TGI is started and the roads are completely blocked.

We have encouraged residents to write in regards the proposed plans for the flyover and the noise we as residents will get from the road. Again, Highways England responded saying that we will get used to it and in time, and we will not notice the increase. We could have a real battle on our hands as a village on the M40 have only just had noise barriers installed after 12 years.

POLICING

Policing throughout the country has its problems, and the Rural areas have suffered the most. We have also been hit with retirements and people leaving which means replacements need to be away for training etc. We do now have a PCSO who seems more 'pro-active', and we are attempting to forge a new partnership with him. We really need to get back to where we were with the previous PCSO's, which had formed a great communications link into the police.

HIGHWAY VERGES

We have now got over the hiccup of changing contractors for the grass cutting around the Village. It was again a learning curve for both 'Lakeside' and the Parish Council, but things now seem to have calmed down. Last winter, we looked around the village again for areas to plant trees. Having done this the past 5 or 6 years, we felt we needed to give these time to establish before we start to install more. Coupled with this, Councillor Peter Claisse has moved from Binley Woods towards Leamington, and is no longer involved with the Parish Council.

LITTER PICK

It is amazing what a few residents can achieve in a short time. Twice a year there have been up to 25 people volunteer two hours of their time to do a Litter Pick around the Village. It is only when they get back to the Pavilion with the black bag full that you realise just how much litter there is around. We are a fairly tidy area, but towards TGI and around the shops can be really bad. It is also very interesting what people leave behind. The Parish Council would like to thank all those people who take part in order to make Binley Woods a nice place to live.

DOG FOUL BINS

Without going on about it too much, dog foul is a real problem. Not just in the park and back field, but in and around the streets. We have received numerous complaints and most of them from dog walkers. This is when you know it's bad. We will take the offenders to the authorities if we can catch them, as it can be really dangerous. The darker evenings seem to attract more as people think they cannot be seen. If you see anybody not picking up, please report it.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

The main questions we get asked is what is happening to the Speedway, Garden Centre and Pope's Garage. The short answer is 'nothing yet'. Everything is speculation and things seem to be taking time. We have heard many rumours that plans are being drawn up for housing at the Speedway, and an elderly peoples complex at the garden centre, but we will not know until applications are actually submitted to RBC. The consultation meetings in the past were just to judge peoples feelings so any plans that are submitted can reflect these and maybe go through smoothly.

Pope's is another site which continues to be a real eyesore. Again, nothing has been put to RBC other than the plans agreed for two large houses around 5 or 6 years ago. We don't know what the hold-up is.

Finally, we have nothing to report about the Sherwood Farm development at this point in time. We were shown draft plans in February and informed that they would be submitted towards the end of April, but we have received nothing from RBC yet. There were 80 properties on this draft of which 8 were starter homes and a further 8 were bungalows. All the residents in close proximity were sent a copy of the scheme and a letter, but nothing else has been done. Again, it's watch this space.

CONCLUSION

Once again your Councillors have been busy working on behalf of residents, in an attempt to make Binley Woods a nice and pleasant place to live. The above are only a few of the issues we have dealt with. We were supposed to have an election this year, but with Councillor Claisse moving away, there were only 9 Candidates. This meant that once again, we were all elected unopposed. It also means we are one Councillor down in number, so if anybody would like to come onto the Parish Council, they can now be co-opted, so please see me after the meeting and I will give more details.

I would like to thank all the Councillors for their commitment and hard work, and to our Clerk, John Cook, who keeps us all in order.

Finally, on to the forthcoming year and what we hope to achieve. In the short term, we have been approached by Warwickshire County Council to see if we would take part in a 'Good Neighbour' scheme. This would be a bank of volunteers who would be available to provide assistance to vulnerable and needy people, with some help. It might be an errand to the shops or a lift to the doctors. The more volunteers the easier it will be to arrange, and the less each person would need to do. It is on a voluntary basis, and we know most people do this at present, but only very locally to their house. It could be a real lifeline to many residents throughout the village.

We are also looking at starting a 'Dementia Café' where patients and carers can relax together and swap ideas and enjoy a nice cuppa. We have had 4 people interested and will be approaching the Village Hall Committee to try and get a regular booking date. Last week I visited one in Bulkington and the information given was invaluable.

The bigger issues we will be dealing with will be the new developments, should plans be submitted, and the flyover at TGI Island. Each will have very different problems which we hope to be able to resolve. If we cannot, we will be coming back to you for some support.

Thank You.