



## **Message from the Chairman**

There have been a number of changes at the Parish Office since our last newsletter. Jennifer Bailey our Assistant Clerk has retired, and Esther Cope has joined us. I would like to thank Jennifer for her six years of service, and I am sure you would like to join in wishing her all the very best for the future. Esther has joined as Assistant Clerk with a view to replacing Susan when she retires later in the year.

The Borough Local Plan (BLP) has been officially approved by the inspector and we can now expect to receive detailed planning applications for the sites that have been extracted from the Greenbelt by the plan. Our Planning Chair Louvaine Kneen will give more details in her article in this newsletter.

Your parish council took the decision some three years ago to undertake some air quality measurement readings from a number of points around the parish. Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic came along, and distorted traffic flows and meaningful readings could not be taken. With the recent resumption of near normal life, we have received the first report of the state of the air in the parish. An article on this topic also appears in this newsletter. Air quality is not as good as it should be in what is a semi-rural location.

In our last newsletter I reported that Bray Studios had a pending planning application before the Royal Borough for a significant expansion of their operation. This planning application was approved, and you will see that construction work is currently being undertaken.

The Aldi Superstore on Dedworth Road is now up and running and preparations for gravel extraction from the Water Oakley Site behind the Olde Queens Head Public House have been made. It is anticipated that up to eighty lorry loads of gravel will be transported every weekday from the site to the gravel grading and washing plant in Monkey Island Lane. This represents a lorry movement every 4 minutes on this section of the A308.

It is to be regretted that the long awaited A308 Study was not completed before the BLP inspector made her decision. The A308 Study was funded by Central Government to the tune of £575,000 in December 2018 and was intended to be undertaken by a third-party consultancy company and be completed by mid-2019. Here we are three years later, and we still do not have the report. Covid 19 cannot be cited as a factor as the report should have been completed before the pandemic hit us.

On the brighter side we look forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations this summer. Long may she reign!

CLlr Ken Elvin - Chairman

## **Jubilation**

A Jubilee is an anniversary and the celebration of the seventy years since Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne, seems about to give rise to "Jubilation" in many forms across the Parish of Bray, some making use of its public open spaces such as Bray and Holyport Greens. (Jubilee Field in Bray was so named in recognition of an earlier anniversary of this Queen's coronation).

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June beacons will be lit across the country and one of these will be on Bray Green at 9.45pm. Earlier that evening, there will be hospitality (A special tart and something to drink) at Bray Village Hall. The Cricket Club in Bray is planning a family event.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June in Holyport there will be a picnic on the Green from 12 noon to 7pm. Participants should bring their own food, drink, and red, white, and blue bunting. Holyport Street will stage a street party on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm to 4pm for those who wish to join in. The Memorial Hall in Holyport is planning an event at the hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The Fisheries Ward of Bray Parish is holding a ticketed private event on 5<sup>th</sup> June while Fifield has a varied and interesting programme. From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June there will be a scarecrow festival in gardens. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, a street party will be held outside the Fifield Inn and in the car park. Those attending should dress in 1950's style (with a prize for one group judged the best). For children (same venue) there will be a fancy-dress competition for "Best King or Queen."

Every Ward in the Parish plan to plant a tree or trees. Roses (either Queen Elizabeth II or Platinum) will be planted at Bray War Memorial, in Bray Cemetery, Fifield Open Space and in the Lich gate gardens.

There was some rain as well as rejoicing on Coronation Day itself seventy years ago. Let us hope the sun shines for this anniversary and its events.

Cllr Margaret Pierce - Bray Ward

## **We Need You!**

Do you live in the Bray or Holyport wards of Bray Parish?

Do you like to have your say on local issues?

Would you like to get more involved by becoming a Parish Councillor?

Bray Parish Council are looking for residents who take a keen interest in their local community and would like to get more involved.

We have a number of vacancies within the Bray and Holyport ward areas.

Bray ward being represented by 5 Councillors. Holyport ward being one of the largest wards in Bray Parish, represented by 6 Councillors, an area that includes Holyport Green, Moneyrow Green, Sturt Green, Touchen End, Braywoodside, Harvest Hill Road, Stompits Road, Springfield Park and Aysgarth Park.

The Parish Council deals with a variety of issues within this area that relate to the Parish Cemetery, Play areas, Footpaths and Bridleways, Street lights, Conservation planning proposals, as well as, protecting the green belt.

Ideally the resident must live in the Bray or Holyport wards of Bray Parish and be able to commit to meetings that mostly take place in the evening at Braywood Memorial Hall, Fifield, with the occasional committee meeting that might take place during the day.

The evening meetings normally consist of one planning meeting per month and a full council meeting every six weeks of all parish representatives to deal with recommendations that have been made from the committee meetings.

It is an exciting time to join Bray Parish Council and if you feel that you would like to get involved and would like to learn more about the issues that are being faced by the local community. Please contact the Parish Office on 01628 777997 or [clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Cllr Derek Wilson - Holyport Ward

## What the Borough Local Plan means to Bray Parish Council and Planning within it.

During the Borough Local Plan (BLP) Consultation period, Bray Parish Council wrote to RBWM and the Inspector strongly recommending not to build on the Bray Parish Council Green Belt sites put forward for reasons of flooding, lack of infrastructure, air quality, etc. Unfortunately, within the BLP, there are still some included and the sites have now been taken out of Green Belt to facilitate building on them. The sites within BPC with forecasted development are:

- Part of Harvest Hill – approximately 700 dwellings - Adjacent to the Harvest Hill site is the Maidenhead Golf Club with approximately 2, 000 dwellings plus.
- Triangle Site (used to host Littlewick Green Show) – Industrial building linking into Priors Way
- Land next to Thames Valley Hospice on Windsor Road - 100/150 dwellings
- Land at/around Squires and land opposite on the Windsor Road - approximately 500 dwellings plus a School

Since the BLP approval RBWM have launched a resident's consultation on sites which includes ex Green Belt sites of the Maidenhead Golf Club, Harvest Hill, and Triangle:-

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/planning/planning-policy/non-development-plan/placemaking/placemaking-and-south-west-maidenhead>

- Community Needs – Wednesday 30 March 2022, 6.30pm
  - Connectivity – Wednesday 6 April 2022, 6.30pm
  - Sustainability and the Environment – Wednesday 13th April 2022, 7.15pm (please note later start time)
- The links for joining the live sessions via Microsoft Teams will be added to the webpage 90 minutes before each event.*

We strongly encourage residents to join these meetings and get involved, or to watch the recordings to find out what was said.

Whilst writing no planning applications have been received yet for these sites, it should be noted that as they have now been removed from Green Belt in the BLP this part of the planning protection has gone but other planning considerations still apply i.e., Infrastructure, Air Quality, Flooding, etc. BPC will be raising these as appropriate when notified by RBWM, as BPC are a Statutory Consultee on all applications, and can confirm that we will be holding Public Meetings for residents to be able to attend

Finally, there are now new Planning Policies further to the adoption of the BLP, these can be found at the following link on pages 8 and 9:-

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/development-plan/adopted-local-plan>

Bray Parish Council and other Parish Councils have asked RBWM for training on these to ensure that we understand and use them correctly.

Cllr Louvaine Kneen - BPC Planning Committee Chair

## Borough Local Plan – Impact on Parish – Traffic & Air Quality

The Borough Local Plan (BLP) has now become the Adopted Local Plan since February 2022. The BLP was supposed to be a plan that ran from 2013 to 2033 which would provide a blueprint for development in The Royal Borough. Years later we now have a plan but there is much information needed to ensure it meets both the needs of residents and just as importantly, considers the health and wellbeing of us all.

Throughout the consultations many have asked about the infrastructure to support these developments, but answers have been few and far between. The Parish has one of the busiest roads in the borough, the A308, but the BLP is about to add to that volume of traffic. The BLP has released some land previously designated as Greenbelt. As Greenbelt it was protected but now it is available to developers:-

- Land on Bray Lake adjacent to Hospice – 100/150 houses
- HA11 land previously known as the garden centre sites - 500 houses
- Water Oakley – planning granted for 130 houses but now will accommodate the expansion of Bray Studios.
- Gravel Extraction near Monkey Island Lane; this is a ten-year project of extraction and infill.

We still wait to see plans that will cope with this increase in traffic volumes. The massive development on Maidenhead Golf Club will also impact on the A308.

We can all see the traffic jams, but we cannot see the impact all this development is currently having on air quality. BPC already measures air quality in the Parish, and we are alarmed at the results (<https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/2022/02/01/air-quality-monitoring-report/>)

We already have an AQMA in the Parish ([https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la\\_id=315](https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/local-authorities?la_id=315)) .

BPC will be asking RBWM to provide details on how they will deal with the increased traffic volumes created by the housing and construction. We will also be asking how they will take effective action on air quality as we believe at the moment they are not.

If any resident would like more details or to discuss traffic and air pollution issues, please contact me initially via email [brian.millin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:brian.millin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Cllr Brian Millin - Chair BPC Transport and Highways Committee

## Flood Working Group

Recently Bray Parish Council formed a Flood Working Group to tackle some of the issues raised by local residents that impact their lives.

The inaugural meeting took place 10<sup>th</sup> November with a number of parish councillors representing their wards throughout the parish. This first meeting was to establish how best to proceed for future meetings, as this subject is particularly important to residents when The Bourne bursts its banks or surface run-off from local fields.

Last year we had cases of cottages being flooded in Moneyrow Green, due to the widespread flooding that took place in Holyport. This is the reason this committee has been created to allow local residents to have their say through the Parish Council. In order that we can ensure the authorities Environment Agency and RBWM are aware of these issues that affect our residents.

At our meeting held on 10th January we also had attending a number of local residents from Moneyrow Green, Sturt Green and Oakley Green and Fifield who provided an invaluable contribution to the group in getting a better understanding of the issues being faced from a local perspective and we attended a walk of the Holyport area to look at first hand some of the issues being raised.

Surface water run-off from localised fields do cause flooding issues to local footpaths that run throughout the parish and in extreme circumstances this water can run-off onto roads and should be taken away by the highway gullies.

Unfortunately, some these gullies' have not been cleaned on a regular basis due to some of the pandemic restrictions, which has allowed leaves to be built-up during the autumn period allowing the water to go elsewhere and in extreme conditions flooding properties situated in low lying levels.

This issue of surface run-off from land should also go into localised ditches, but not all are left clear for the rainwater to disperse, and this is due to riparian owners not taking responsibility for the ditches immediately outside of their properties. This is covered by a separate article that has been written by Susan Cook in this newsletter.

A further meeting has taken place on 21<sup>st</sup> February of this group to give two-way conversation that has taken place and if anyone wishes to take part in this Flood Working group, please contact the parish clerk for further information.

Cllr Derek Wilson - Chair of Flood Working Group

## Living on the Edge

‘Watercourses enhance our lives in so many ways and yet they can also pose a threat when in flood. They need to be respected, protected, and improved for our benefit and for future generations. That is why there is a significant amount of legal safeguards that we all need to comply with.’

© Environment Agency - Living on the Edge

### Your Rights

If you own land or property next to a river, stream, or ditch you are a ‘riparian landowner’, you should check your property deeds to see if a wall or hedge marks your boundary, if the watercourse marks the boundary, it is assumed you own the land up to the centre of the watercourse.

If you own land with a watercourse running through or underneath it, it is assumed you own the stretch of watercourse that runs through your land. If it is owned by a third party, this will be noted in your deeds.

You have the right to protect your property from flooding, and your land from erosion, however you must get your plans agreed with the risk management authority, in this area RBWM is the risk management authority for Ordinary watercourses, the Environment Agency for Rivers.

### Your responsibilities include

Water must flow through your land without any obstruction, pollution or diversion which affects the rights of others. All riparian owners have the same rights and responsibilities.

You must accept flood flows through your land, even if these are caused by inadequate capacity downstream. A landowner has no duty in common law to improve the drainage capacity of a watercourse they own.

The banks must be kept clear of anything that could cause an obstruction and increase flood risk.

You are responsible for maintaining the bed and banks of the water course along with the trees and shrubs growing on the banks.

You must keep any structures such as culverts, trash screens, weirs and mill gates clear of debris.

You should not cause obstructions, temporary or permanent, that would stop fish passing through.

You are responsible for managing your own flood risk.

### Watercourse Consents

You should discuss any plans to work on or near a watercourse with the local risk management authority as early as possible. There are many environmental factors to take into account, including flood risk, wildlife conservation, fisheries, and the reshaping of rivers and landscapes. Legislation around these includes The Water Resources Act 1991 and The Land Drainage Act 1991. You may also need planning permission.

### Culverts

A culvert is a watercourse that has been enclosed in a structure such as a pipe. These do not include sewers. If there is a culvert on your land, you generally own from the point it joins your land to where it leaves, and you are responsible for its maintenance. Culverts can collapse and cause the land above to subside if they are not properly maintained. As water cannot flow through blocked culverts, this may lead to flooding above ground.

For further information regarding this topic, please visit the link below.

[https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/EA\\_Guide\\_to\\_rights\\_and\\_responsibilities\\_of\\_riverside\\_ownership.pdf](https://www.wlma.org.uk/uploads/EA_Guide_to_rights_and_responsibilities_of_riverside_ownership.pdf)

Mrs Susan Cook – Clerk

## Budget and Precept

S49a of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (LGFA) requires the parish council to calculate its budget requirement for the financial year. The budget figures were based on 2021/2022 revised estimates plus inflation. Inflation for the Financial Year 2022/2023 was assumed at 4% unless alternative figures had been provided.

In accordance with the provisions of s 41 LGFA 1992, the parish council must notify by the end of January the amount it wishes the precepting authority (RBWM) to collect on its behalf for the forthcoming financial year. To do so, the parish council must pass a resolution setting the budget and the precept by 31<sup>st</sup> January annually. Following the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the following budget and precept were approved at the Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### Budget and Precept 2022/23

The approved budget for 2022/2023 is.

#### Income

Precept £204,350.00

Income £13,260.00

Transfer from Reserves £5,903.00

**Total Income £223,513**

#### Expenditure

Council Administration £145,939.00

Salaries £77,574.00

**Total Expenditure £223,513.00**

The accounts for the year 2021/2022 are currently being prepared and details of these will be provided in due course at <https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/services/finance/#accounts>

Mrs Susan Cook - Clerk

## St Michaels Church

Dear Bray Residents,

Greetings from St Michael's your Parish Church.

Over the last few months, we have been able to return in many ways to the traditional form of worship at St Michael's, and we were particularly thankful to be able to hold all the festive service associated with Christmas and Easter. Congregations are building up nicely, but we have not forgotten the many virtual participants, who continue to enjoy regular Sunday morning worship online. This new phenomenon is particularly valuable because it prevents those who cannot attend in person, from being excluded. Residents of care homes, we know, particularly value what is now a permanent feature.

At Easter we said farewell to our Curate, Kevin Colyer, who is moving to take up an appointment as Pioneer Priest at the church of St James, Over Darwen inn the diocese of Blackburn. We are sure that Kevin will find life in Lancashire somewhat different from Bray, but we know that he will do an excellent job. We wish him, Nicki, and the family every happiness in their new home.

The 70th Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty the Queen will be marked at St Michael's by the ringing of a quarter peal on the afternoon of Thursday 2 June.

On Sunday 17 July we are looking forward to our annual Jazz on the Lawn at the vicarage. Josephine Davies and her quartet will once again be playing that afternoon at 3.00pm, tickets £10 at the gate.

Ainsley - The Revd. Ainsley Swift, Vicar of Bray



## Bray Parish Charities

Is money getting tight for some of those things you really need?

Bray Parish Charities is a consolidation of several small charities dating back to 1684 for benefit in the "Ancient Parish of Bray". Its objects are to help people in need of assistance by making grants or paying for items, services, or facilities.

Grants up to about £250 are available for costs such as transport, clothing, furnishing, kitchen equipment, domestic appliances, children's clothes or toys, laptops, or other small requirements.

Applications can be made by individuals, or by organisations on behalf of individuals, in which case identification of the beneficiary is not required.

Applications should be made by letter to the Charity Secretary –

Mrs. Margaret Pierce  
Aleyn House  
1 High Street Bray  
SL6 2AA

01628-625355

John Seymour - Trustee Bray Parish Charities

## Bray Tennis Court

Did you know there is a tennis court for hire at the entrance to Jubilee Field in Bray? The cost is £6.00 per hour and can be hired by contacting the parish office at [assistantclerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:assistantclerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Report It

RBWM as the Local Authority are responsible amongst other services for Roads and Pavements, Waste, Environmental Services, and Leisure.

If you have any problems with potholes, flooding, fly tipping, litter, graffiti, missed bins, problems with smoke or noise, then it can be reported online at <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/report-it>.

Reports made to RBWM this way are consolidated to show where there are particular problems within the area and help to provide data on further works that may be required. We have been asked to encourage residents to use this method of reporting problems to RBWM.

Mrs Susan Cook - Clerk

## Meeting Dates

Dates for meetings may be found on the website at <https://brayparishcouncil.gov.uk/calendar/>

## Ward Councillor Contact Details

<b>S Cross</b>	<a href="mailto:suzanne.cross@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">suzanne.cross@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>K Elvin</b>	<a href="mailto:Ken.Elvin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Ken.Elvin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>J Glover</b>	<a href="mailto:Julie-Ann.Glover@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Julie-Ann.Glover@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>C Graham</b>	<a href="mailto:Chris.Graham@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Chris.Graham@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>L Kneen</b>	<a href="mailto:Louvaine.Kneen@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Louvaine.Kneen@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>N Marsh</b>	<a href="mailto:Nicola.Marsh@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Nicola.Marsh@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>B Millin</b>	<a href="mailto:Brian.Millin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Brian.Millin@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>N Pellew</b>	<a href="mailto:Nick.Pellew@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Nick.Pellew@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>J Phillips</b>	<a href="mailto:Jackie.Phillips@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk">Jackie.Phillips@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>
<b>M Pierce</b>	01628 622289
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Do you know where this is?



Answer from Autumn Edition

St Michaels Church entrance shows these arrows – but we do not know what they mean or why they were engraved.