

# Earnley Parish Council

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Newsletter Winter 2014/15

## Parish Council Precept

The precept is money collected by the District Council on behalf of the Parish Council via your council tax bill.

In addition to the loan payments for the money borrowed to contribute towards the Bookers Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme, the Parish Council is looking to build several reserves to protect and replace in due course the assets that it owns.

Therefore, your Parish Council has made the difficult decision to increase the parish council precept going forward from 1st April 2015.

The Parish Council tax charge for a band D property will be £40.76 p.a. compared with £35.92 p.a. This is equivalent to 78 pence per week

## PARISH OBJECTIVES

At the Earnley Parish Council Annual Meeting in May 2014 a proposal was made, and a vote taken to agree that we work towards Parish Objectives over a five year term. This is an alternative to an expensive and time consuming in depth Neighbourhood Plan, that some of the larger parishes in the area may produce.

After meetings with Chichester District and West Sussex County Councils information was gathered from a sample of residents (about 15% of households) establishing a view of local positives and negatives. This information has been used to create a questionnaire that will empower Earnley Parish Council decision making and help the District and County Councils take our wishes into consideration for their actions.

Our intention is to canvas each household over the spring/summer to note their views and seek their ideas. To achieve this we need more volunteers to help cover the whole parish, ideally one person per group of houses who has time to talk to their neighbours. If you think you can help please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@earnleypc.org

## 160 dwellings Clappers Lane

The appeal for the Wates application for 160 dwellings in Clappers Lane was heard by a planning inspector at a 5 day hearing which started on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

The Consortium of Western Manhood Parishes was formed in the summer 2014 at the instigation of Earnley Parish Council so that parishes of East Wittering & Bracklesham, Earnley, Birdham, West Wittering, West Itchenor, Apuldram and Donnington could unite with a single voice to make strong representation against the proposed development at the planning appeal.

With the financial backing of all these parish councils and local resident groups sufficient funding was made available to employ the services of an experienced transport consultant. Julia Bowering and Robert Carey spent considerable time and effort in gathering key data on jobs, shopping, education and travel issues to back up the work of the traffic consultant. Robert also took on the arduous job of acting as attorney for the Consortium. He did a terrific job cross examining the expert witnesses and in presenting the Consortium's case to the Inspector. Julia endured a long cross examination by Wates very experienced barrister. She did a splendid job in presenting her research work. The planning inspector even remarked that he was impressed by the quality of the material.

A big 'thank you' to Julia and Robert for the considerable time and effort they put into this on behalf of the local community. Thanks also to other members of the public and local councillors who put forward evidence to the inspector. On the 9<sup>th</sup> January the planning inspector issued his report and the good news is that he dismissed the appeal. The inspector's full report and reasoning can be read on [www.earnleypc.org](http://www.earnleypc.org)

However, this is not the end of the story; Wates have put in a replacement planning application for 110 dwellings on the same Clappers Lane site, which will in due course be considered by the District Council Planning Committee. The Consortium will make its views known.



The Annual Meeting of Parish Electors is due to be held on 18th March 2015.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your views.

## We would like your email address .....

The Parish Council occasionally receives information that it would be good to pass on to as many residents as possible. Please email the clerk@earnleypc.org your email address to receive this information. Your contact details will not be passed on to any other party and we will not bombard you with emails.

## Schedule of Meetings ....

Planning Meeting 26th February

Planning Meeting & Full Council  
26th March

Planning Meeting 23rd April

**Annual General Meeting**  
14th May (small hall Birdham Village Hall)

Planning Meeting 28th May

Planning Meeting 25th June

Planning Meeting & Full Council  
23rd July

No meeting in August

Planning Meeting & Full Council  
24th September

Planning Meeting 22nd October

Planning Committee & Full Council  
26th November

No meeting in December

All meetings will commence at 6.45pm at Bracklesham Barn unless advertised to the contrary. You are always welcome to attend. It's your Parish Council and we would welcome guidance and involvement from you.



### Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections will be held on 7th May 2015. Two of your current Parish Councillors have indicated that they will not be standing. Please take this time to think about if you would like to consider becoming a councillor and continue the work improving your surroundings.

Give one of your councillors or the Clerk a call and have a chat about what is involved.

## Flood Relief Work in the Parish



On Thursday 20th November the Earnley Bookers Lane Flood Relief Channel was formally opened by Darcy Powell, a local resident aged 10, and Pieter Montyn, our county councillor. As well as the local press, over 50 people attended the event, including residents, parish councillors, councillors and officers from both the district and county councils and officers from the Environment Agency.

The new channel runs for over a quarter of a mile, crosses under two roads and links in to the Medmerry channel running alongside Earnley Manor Close. It cost over £500,000. The project took 2 years to design and build and is the result of a collaboration between the County Council, the Environment Agency and local residents. The Birdham and Earnley Flood Prevention Group would like to thank all those involved, particularly officers from the Environment Agency and Councillor Montyn for his unstinting support throughout. Local involvement was crucial to the project's success, with residents contributing £40,000. Earnley Parish Council and its clerk also played a vital support role from the beginning, as well as contributing towards the funding.

The Flood Prevention Group are currently working with the Environment Agency and the County Council's Operation Watershed Fund to put in place major improvements to the Grange Rife which runs through Almodington. Works are due to commence in February 2015 and should significantly reduce flood risk in this area. We are working with the Parish Council and the Almodington Association. There are also plans to improve flood risk in Somerley, although these are at an earlier stage.

Watch this space!

Robert Carey, Chairman of the Birdham & Earnley Flood Prevention Group and Earnley Parish Councillor.

### Useful Contacts ....

District Councillor Graeme Barrett  
01243 512180 gbarrett@chichester.gov.uk

District Councillor Peter Clementson  
01243 513512 pclementson@chichester.gov.uk

County Councillor Pieter Montyn  
01243 511319 pieter.montyn@westsussex.gov.uk

Community Warden Drew Allardice 07825681547

## Your Parish Council

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