

Burwash Parish Matters, May 2021

Blue Plaque Scheme

Steve Moore



Napoleon is said to have described England as “a nation of shopkeepers” and this is certainly the case in respect of Burwash. In the 1740’s there were over 50 shops in the High Street including 5 butchers, 5 general stores, 7 shoemakers, 2 tailors, a wig maker, a glover and a hatter. In addition to tradesmen including coopers and blacksmiths. Even within more recent years the High Street enjoyed a wide range of shops.

The Blue Plaque project looks to identify the many properties that were shops and businesses in the past to reflect this part of the historic nature of the High Street which we hope will be of interest to residents and visitors. The first Blue Plaques were put in place last year. The project was halted over the past few months but is now back underway, with letters going out soon to various High Street owners inviting them to display a Blue Plaque in their window. It is free to participate, and we hope many owners will agree to take part.

Burwash in Bloom 2021



One of the traditional Burwash events returns in June this year. Burwash in Bloom is open to all residents whose property is visible from the roadside. It involves taking a picture of your display: hanging basket, patio pots, troughs or wall baskets and completing an entry form which will be available from the Burwash Parish website, Facebook page, F J Jarvis and Sons Butchers, The Flower House, High Street, Burwash or Orchard Nursery, Burwash Common. Completed forms can be returned to these locations. Alternatively, you can email your entry together with the photograph to cllr.berry.wraight@burwashpc.org.uk

Entry forms need to be in by Saturday 19th June and judging will take place from 21st to 23rd June.

The Neighbourhood Plan

An independent examiner has judged that, following a few minor ‘tweaks’ approved by the Steering Committee, the Neighbourhood Development Plan is ready to go to a local Referendum, for approval by the local community. It will then become a material consideration for future planning applications in the Parish.

Litter Picking Scheme



The Parish Council is working with Sam Dowling to set up a 'Brighter Burwash' Scheme to address the issue of litter in the communities. Look out for the invitation to take part! We are hoping to recruit a team of volunteers who will help to clear the litter from the roads and paths around Burwash. The intention is that this will become a monthly activity under the Love Burwash banner.

Later in the autumn, there will be a Love Burwash Week where other areas of the environment can be cared for such as the Finger Posts and pavements. It is hoped to include the School, families and other groups in fun activities which will help to improve the local environment. Watch this space and please respond positively when you are invited to join the Love Burwash scheme.

Speed Reduction through Burwash Village

The Parish Council is continuing to press ESCC for a decision on matched funding for the proposed scheme to reduce the speed limit through the High Street. We had anticipated that a decision would be reached early in 2021 but have now been advised that this will be delayed, as *'delivery of (their) current capital programme for local transport improvements has been significantly impacted by restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and they are focussing (their) limited resources on progressing existing, approved schemes.'*

Our financial commitment remains in the budget for the year ahead.

Parish meetings



The Annual Parish Meeting is being held online on May 4th. The agenda and related documents will be available on the Burwash Parish website and on the temporary notice board at the Parish Rooms. (We are intending a programme of improvement on the Parish 'hut' and a decent notice board will be provided when that work is completed).

As the Government has decided that Zoom meetings for local government should end after 7th May, we are considering how to bring back 'live' meetings, which may mean resuming in a safe place in July. The Parish Assembly, which the Council organises on behalf of the community to showcase local organisations and provide an opportunity for face-to-face discussions, will be organised when we are able to do so safely indoors. As soon as a date has been agreed, we will of course notify you on the website and e-bulletin.

New Facebook page for Burwash Parish Council



If you have a Facebook account, you can now access the new Burwash Parish Council page, which will include up-to-date information about issues which concern the communities here. Just go to Facebook and enter 'Burwash Parish Council'. The page is headed with the above picture. Please tick the 'like' box and invite others to do so, as this will give it greater prominence and make it easier for others to locate.

If you don't have a Facebook Account, you can still access it by entering:

<https://facebook.com/BurwashParishCouncil> on Google or other search engines. The same information will also be found on the Council website: burwashparish.org.uk and on the e-bulletin which you can sign up to from the Facebook page or from the website.

Finally, my apologies to Mary Clarke for spelling her name incorrectly in the April edition in the item about Village Gates.

Cllr Brian Newman