

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield
Parish Council

Village Matters

Issue 1

November 2011

Welcome to the first edition of “Village Matters” the aim is to keep everyone informed on the issues and activities going on around the villages of Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield. In recent months particularly in Stanningfield several new families have joined our community, bringing new life and energy and perhaps different needs and requirements. The Parish Council can only try and help create the right environment, it’s only with your help, input and support that we can really make things happen. The following is a summary of the main issues and initiatives taking place in the villages at the moment:

Younger Generation

The villages of Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield have some great facilities and activities. We are lucky to have two great pubs the Red House and the Manger, both of which have a mixture of darts, cribbage, bar billiards, music together with great food and beer. There are any number of clubs and village activities, from the Community Association who look after the Village Hall and sponsor many activities to the Bowls, Art and Ladies clubs. There is a play ground for small children to enjoy with their parents and grandparents. All of which appeals to the over eighteens or under fives.

Recently, it has become clear there is a need to create more facilities and activities for the younger members of our community, who have footballs, bikes and a lot of energy.

The Parish Council have already started to apply for various grants which would allow us to purchase equipment etc. However there is by no means any certainty that money will be made available.

Amanda, Landlady at the Red House has linked with some of this age group, and asked them to tell her what they would like to see in the village. We now have a list ranging from Youth Club, disco's and sport activity particularly linked to football and bikes. What we are going to try and do is turn this into reality, ***which can only be done with your help.***

Would you be prepared to help set up and run some yet to be defined activities? The Parish Council will hold a very informal open village meeting at Stanningfield village hall on Thursday 15th December starting at 7pm to understand the next steps. Everyone is invited the more young people who attend, the better the understanding will be.

If anyone has ideas or concerns prior to the meeting please feel free to contact a member of the Parish Council to discuss. (See back page).

Please support this initiative; it can bring so many benefits to community.

Stanningfield Allotments

Firstly, thanks to Graham Clampin who has agreed to represent the allotment holders and liaise with the Parish Council on all matters concerning future development of this very important village resource.

Graham has nurtured his allotment since 1973 and has the confidence of the other allotment holders to make sure any future decisions are in the best interest of all concerned.

Sean & Karen Wallis who moved to Stanningfield last year and live on Bury road will take a Parish sponsored allotment with the aim of involving the younger members of the community to participate in growing and developing an allotment. They are also very happy for this patch to become a total community project.

The current allotment holders are also keen that people from outside the Parish be allowed to rent and work allotments.

Anyone wishing to become an allotment holder should contact Graham on 828453 or visit him at his allotment (he is there most days). Failing this, members of the Parish Council are always available.

Dog Mess

The single biggest complaint made to members of the Parish Council is regarding “Dog Mess” and what we are doing about it. Over the last few weeks council members have been out and about taking a look at this much talked about issue. On one day in November we collected twenty six bags of dog mess which admittedly had been bagged up but then thrown by the side of various footpaths and

bridleways or tossed into ditches around the village. In addition to this there were many examples where the offending mess had just been left for others to step in.

To those of you who ask what we are doing about it, there are now posters around the village reminding people to be considerate to others. We have been out and cleared up (this is a one-off). Of course the real answer is everyone bags it and takes it to a bin.

Community Spirit Recognition

There are any number of people who give of themselves with time and effort to make our villages better places to live. In each edition of "Village Matters" we will name someone who has made a difference. ***It's up to you to make Parish Council members aware of the people you want recognised.***

Recognition can be for someone who has consistently given to the villages or an individual selfless act, it's up to you, just let us have your nominations.

The first recognition goes to **Alan Andrews**. Alan took it upon himself to spend some time on a very damp day, weeding and cleaning the war memorial ready for Remembrance Sunday. He then approached the Parish Council to buy the material to top up the stone surround, which we were happy to do and indeed helped Alan complete the work.

Open Gardens

The Parish is going to revive the Open Gardens award, the prize is a Rose Bowl which was donated to the Parish by Stanley Sharpe. This

event will take place on the second Saturday in July next year and will be open to everyone and all types of gardens large, small, vegetable and flower. Any monies raised will go towards community activities. There will be an independent judge from outside the Parish who will make the final decision on who wins and holds the bowl for the following twelve months.

Neighbourhood watch

There have been a couple of reported crimes in Stanningfield over the last couple of months together with some damage to village property, which requires us to be ever more vigilant and watch out for each other. There is a new reporting service to the police by dialling 101 this is for non emergency calls, please be prepared to report anything out of the ordinary.

Village sign

BRADFIELD COMBUST will enhance its identity with a new Village sign. The sign itself has been donated by the Highpoint Prison Community (see the plaque). If anybody wants to know about the history depicted in the sign, please contact Cllr. David Crawford on davidc@dscrybe.com

Parking

There has been much talk around the villages on the issue of parking. In **Bradfield, it is the new turning area and bus pick up point** which has been used recently as a sleep stop by drivers of very large commercial vehicles. We want to discourage lorry drivers on the

grounds that the area will not take heavy weights due to underground water courses. Please help, if you feel able, by mentioning this to any lorry driver you see parked there. Certainly your Councillors will be doing so.

In **Stanningfield - it's the vehicles parked along Bury road** opposite the Red House. The main concern is the potential for an accident. Let me stress there is no criticism of the individuals for parking, it's the lack of facilities provided causing the issue. The Parish Council have been in contact with Havebury to try and understand how this could be resolved. We suspect this will linger on for quite some time.

Speeding

Speeding through Bradfield village is a constant worry, and the Parish wants to find ways of restricting excessive speed. If this is a concern to you please help by signing a petition that is in the phone box.

There is concern in Stanningfield that people approaching the village from both directions are doing so at too higher speed and also that the village is used as a "Rat Run" in the mornings.

Both these issues are under review but as they involve various government bodies and costs, are not likely to find a quick resolution.

Village Matters

It is intended to publish Village Matters as and when required to keep the Parish up to date with events. As stated a number of times it's only with your help and support that a difference can be made.

List of Parish Councillors

Graham Berrill	Chairman	01284 827323
Tony Langan	Vice Chairman	01284 386125
David Crawford	Councillor	01284 388944
Mark Duchesne	Councillor	01284 828566
Ray McKenna	Councillor	01284 828691
Clive Mears	Councillor	01284 827462
David Staff	Councillor	01284 828578
Colin Walters	Councillor	01284
Vacancy		
Victoria Waples	Clerk	01284 787178

List of 2012 Parish Meeting dates

Monday January 23 rd	Monday August 20 th
Monday March 5 th	Monday October 1 st
Monday April 16 th	Monday November 12 th
Monday May 21 st	Monday December 17 th
Monday July 9 th	Monday February 4 th 2013

Invitation to an Open Meeting

You are invited to an informal open parish meeting at Stanningfield Village Hall on Thursday 15th December.

The purpose is to understand how we can improve village facilities and events for everyone, all ideas and contributions will be welcomed.

Please give this your support.

On behalf of the Parish Council have a happy, peaceful Christmas and New Year.