

## **Belbroughton and Fairfield Parish Council**

**New Councillor** - At a very busy July Council meeting Mr Gerald Ingram was co-opted to the Parish Council and will again represent the Fairfield Ward. The Council now has its full quota of members for each ward.

**Maintenance Grants** - The Church Warden at Holy Trinity Church Belbroughton gave a presentation on the financial position of The Parochial Church Council as detailed in its December 2017 accounts and, its likely future income and expenditure. The Parish Council approved increasing the Maintenance Grant to the P.C.C. for 2018 by £1000 to £3,200. These additional funds to be used for the Holy Trinity Church churchyard maintenance.

**Local Minerals Plan** - Council listened to a presentation from a representative of Wildmoor Quarry Products Ltd regarding the company's desire for an expansion of minerals extraction in Wildmoor which meant the 'nominating' areas of land, including land owned by the Parish Council, for consideration by the County Council following its call for sites for inclusion in the Local Minerals Plan. Questions were taken from both councillors and members of the public on what was an initial information gathering exercise only.

The Parish Council requested that the company writes to it giving clarity on the precise areas involved, its application process to the County Council and, how the company not being the landowner would seek to extract the mineral deposits.

**'Smartwater'** - The Council approved the recommendation from Fairfield councillors that a roll out of 'Smartwater' kits could logistically be undertaken in the Fairfield ward. With the assistance of the Fairfield Community Association and individual volunteers this is planned to commence in September.

### **The Green, Belbroughton**

The Agreement\* with the Developer of the adjacent land, (the former jewellery factory) has been completed and in accordance with the Agreement and his planning permission held from the District Council the Developer has authority to take down trees on the boundary. Fresh tree planting within 12 months is part of the planning permission.

Having previously demolished the factory buildings the Developer is now expected to progress the building of the 12 new houses.

The Parish Council has a 'Working Group' of councillors who will now hold fresh consultations with residents on improvements to The Green, which could involve seeking to enhance the present re-planting plans. As The Green is in the Conservation Area these would need to be acceptable to both the District Council's Tree and Conservation Officers who will also be asked for their input to the process.

\*Full details of the completed Agreement, the Developer's Planning Permission and Tree Decision Notice are on the website.

The Developer has paid over all funds required under The Agreement and has covered all of the Parish Council's legal costs.

### **Village Tidy Up**

The Council approved funding for the re-painting the railings in High St. Belbroughton, although these are 'owned' by the County Council who will need to consent to the work.

### **Footpath Wardens**

The Council is seeking 'Assistant Wardens' to help our current set up in Belbroughton. If you have an interest in such a role please contact the clerk.

**Council Meeting date**

The next full Council meeting is on 3<sup>rd</sup> September taking place in The Jubilee Room at Belbroughton Recreation Centre.

All residents are welcome to attend, the meeting starts at 7.30 pm. There is no meeting in August.

**Community Engagement**

The Council holds an 'Open Surgery' session of up to 15 minutes at the beginning of full Council meetings to give residents the opportunity to meet and discuss any issues directly with their councillors.