

Barden Residents Association Meeting - Wednesday 22nd January 2020

In Attendance

Angela Clark (Chair), Matt Stabeler (Vice-Chair), Lucy Athey (Secretary), Alison Cackett (Treasurer), Mark Hood, Glynn Rees, Fran Long, George Hines, Jo Young, Megan LeGoubin, Claire Johnson, Claire O'Shea, Emma Cole, Matthew Rudd, Maureen Coulstock, Martin Coulstock Frankie Brady, Felix Wenzel, Keith Wood

Approval of Minutes & Apologies

Matt Stabeler (Vice-Chair) called the meeting to order and the previously circulated minutes from the meeting on 26th November were agreed. Apologies from Averil Langridge, Gill Sargent and Matt Sargent.

Finance Update

Treasurer AC reported that we currently have £175.77 in the bank, £157 of which came from the raffle and subs at our Christmas social. We have recently paid £30 to the 1st Tonbridge Scouts for the hut hire for the next three meetings, and also £25 on prizes for the Christmas window competition. If anyone needs to pay their £2 subs for 2020 they can print a form off from our Facebook group, or collect one from Barden Stores. Subs can also be paid at any of our meetings.

Christmas Feedback

The **Christmas Social** in The Nelson was very well attended; the raffle raised £141 and had many prizes donated by residents and also from local businesses The Old Fire Station and Tonbridge River Trips. Angela Clark thanked Matt & Emma from The Nelson Arms who kindly donated her a meal for two as a prize for the "Best Christmas Jumper" competition. **Christmas Window competition:** Our team of judges walked the streets of Barden and selected two houses in Barden Road and Ives Road as winner and runner up; both owners were delighted with their prizes. It was suggested that next year we extend it to "Christmas Window or Garden" to make sure as many houses are included as possible.

New Noticeboard

We would like to install a fourth **community noticeboard** beyond the railway bridge to benefit and include more of our residents; it was agreed that the best place would be at the start of Audley Avenue by our wildlife garden. This would be more expensive to purchase than the others in Barden as without a public wall to attach it to we would need a freestanding model. MH offered to help dig and cement this, with any other volunteers. We will need to raise more funds to help pay for this over the year, and can also look at sponsorship to help subsidise the cost. If any local businesses would like to donate then please let us know, in exchange they would have a permanent "Sponsored by ****" advert displayed in the board.

20mph follow up

MH has been in touch with KCC who informed him that they have installed all the signage they intend to. Currently they are not required to paint signage on the road as the only entrance to Barden, Avebury Avenue, branches off an existing 20mph zone (the High Street) - they only use this additional signage when cars are driving from a higher speed zone. It was agreed that as our area hasn't previously been 20mph it should be an additional and necessary deterrant to have this painted on the roads. Other road signage in the area is faded and in need of refreshing so perhaps they could do this at the same time?



Community Gardening

In 2019 we discussed replanting the flower beds behind the Sea Scouts hut to remove the many weeds and nettles and plant with a hardy but attractive wildflower like a periwinkle (MH will have access to some of these in March). Previously it had been planted with shrubs (when the flood wall was built and the flower bed created) but they had been stolen.

A discussion was had about the increase in graffiti in the area, MH said that the PCSO and TMBC are aware of this.

River Lawn Update

The KCC Regulation Committee Member Panel are meeting 2pm on Tuesday 28th January at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone and will (hopefully) decide whether River Lawn can be classed as Village Green and therefore protected. This is an open meeting so if anyone would like to show their support, they are welcome to attend.

Public Litter Bins

At the community litter pick on the weekend it was clear that there is a an urgent need for more litter bins. In his role as Councillor MH has asked for new litter bins including Clare Ave, Chestnut Walk and Northcote Road.



AOB

- A discussion was had about the new cycle hub at the rear of the station, which will have secure locked storage, E-bike charge points, workshop stations to make bike repairs and a café. Cycle racks will also remain on the platforms. The motorbikes have been moved across the road to the station car park. You can read more about the hub at this link <https://turvec.com/turvec-news/southeastern-cycle-hubs-secured/>
- Flooding in the sportsground – they are expecting it to evaporate or drain away, we aren't aware of plans to pump the remaining water (*NB: the day after the meeting, pumping of the remaining water did take place*). A discussion was had about the existing flood pumps on River Lawn with all agreeing that the pumps are a good idea. MH has asked if it is possible to have a ramp that goes over the pipes so that people can access the pathways, but it isn't possible for these to be fitted in the most inconvenient areas.
- The new online parking system from TMBC is causing much confusion. Residents will now have to renew their residents permits online and will also have to purchase and book visitor permits online by typing in their visitor's car registration details. Those without access to a computer to do this would need to travel to Kings



Hill as it is no longer possible to purchase paper tickets from the Tonbridge Castle offices.

MH informed us about the new **parking consultation** about the price of the residents' parking permits, which includes a tiered pricing for multiple vehicles - £45 for one car, £95 for two and £135 for three – the three-week consultation will open on March 13th. LA to post link to consultation on the website and Facebook group. There was an additional discussion about where extra parking bays could be situated. We have previously suggested these and other spaces to KCC but unfortunately this has not resulted in any extra bays.

- **Jumble Trail 2020** – LA proposed a date of Saturday June 20th (as this does not clash with the Tonbridge Carnival or the school fetes in Slade or Sussex Road).
- A resident organised an impromptu and well attended **litter pick** last weekend in the area between the two bridges and picked a large amount of litter and fly-tipping. Unfortunately, there is still a lot more to collect so if the weather is fine there are plans to return on Sunday 26th January at 2pm, all are welcome to join in. If this is going ahead it will be posted on the residents Facebook group.
- One of the many problems with the new refuse collection was that there was a much larger than expected amount of food waste. Each year, over 10 million tonnes of food is thrown away in the UK, the waste is estimated to be worth £17 billion a year - that's £700 per family per year spent on food that ultimately just ends up in the bin. It was suggested that some residents may be interested in the following apps and schemes to help reduce their own waste;
Individuals may like to download the [Olio](#) app, which enables neighbours to share food they have and are not going to eat.
Businesses and charities; Local businesses may be interested in [Foodcloud](#) – they work with stores and gives food they cannot sell to charities.
Individuals and Businesses; [Karma](#) works with restaurants (typically in London) and [toogoodtogo](#) with both registered stores and restaurants whose excess food can be purchased by consumers at a cheaper price.

Next Meetings

Meetings usually alternate on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8pm to enable as many people as possible to attend and are held at the Scout Hut in Lambert's Yard (unless advertised being elsewhere).

The next meetings are;

Tuesday March 24th, 2020

Wednesday May 20th, 2020