

Diptford Parish Council
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The December Parish Council Meeting was held too late to make the January Magazine, so brief details of the meeting will be included this month. Of greatest significance was the discussion on the Budget and Precept for the next financial year. Last year, the precept (Parish Council element of your Council Tax) was not increased at all, and this year, it has been decided to increase the precept by £170 to a total of £5470 in order to fund the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. As SHDC estimates the number of Band D equivalent properties in the Parish will increase in 2012/3, the average household will be playing 35p less next financial year.

Planning Applications At the December meeting, no objections were raised to the new roof window at Murtwell Farm Cottage; nor the turbine at Wagland Farm, Halwell. SHDC Senior Planning Officer Dean Kinsella came along to the meeting to explain developments at Beenleigh Meadows Farm and, following concerns raised by Parish Councillors, SHDC's agricultural consultant has recently visited the site and a report is awaited.

At the January meeting, no objections were raised to the two storey extension and reinstatement of barn to provide garaging and store at Frogwell Farmhouse; nor the solar panels to the roof at Bearscombe Cottage, Halwell. Councillors were unable to comment on the proposed demolition of 3 bedroom bungalow and erection of 4 bedroom house at Daisy Hills, Diptford as insufficient details had been provided. This property lies outside the parish boundary but, as it affects the parish, SHDC should consult us – although they appear reluctant to do so.

Housing development proposals in Diptford were discussed at the start of the January meeting. The proposal is to develop the site already allocated for housing in the SHDC Local Development Framework, for a mix of open market and affordable housing. The affordable housing would be shared ownership or rented, administered through a Housing Association. The affordable housing will be allocated to local people – and if you are interested, you should contact Debbie Holloway, SHDC Affordable Housing Team, as soon as possible. Phone the switchboard on 01803 861234 or email customer.services@southhams.gov.uk.

Public consultation is a key component of this development proposal, and the parish will be consulted when further details are available.

Jayne Wootton, the Active Villages Coordinator explained how the parish can benefit from the scheme. Funding of £3000 is available within the parish for projects to kick start an activity, such as coaching costs, facility hire, equipment, advertising and training needs. The school is likely to benefit from the scheme and your group could benefit, too – call Jayne on 07740 177296.

South Brent & District Caring is a registered charity based at the Old School Community Centre in South Brent. Chairman Richard Oram came to the Parish Council meeting to explain its aims, promote its services and recruit volunteers. Support will be provided to isolated, vulnerable and older residents in South Brent, Diptford and North Huish, and will include: befriending; transport to local activities or health appointments; prescription collection; carer's support; light gardening; shopping; and form filling. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or if you need help, please contact Sue Burgess on 01364 73324 or email burgess@rbelectrical.entadsl.com.

The Police Report detailed one crime during December, burglary from a shed. PCSO Shaun Barker has joined PC Jacqui Hopper in the South Brent Neighbourhood Team, and they can be contacted at southbrentofficers@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or on the new 101 non emergency phone number (the 999 number should still be used for emergencies, when a crime is in progress, when there is danger to life or when violence is used or threatened). The next monthly Police Street Surgeries will be held outside the Old Rising Sun on Mondays 6th & 20th February from 8.30-9.30am.

A Community Safety Forum Event is to be held at Rattery Village Hall on Wednesday 22nd February from 1-4pm. Contact Chantel Holey on 01626 215894 or email chantel.holey@teignbridge.gov.uk if you are interested in attending. By the way, what has happened to our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – is it still operating?

Diptford Playing Field Group held its AGM at the beginning of January, and attendance was very low – if you are interested in helping to run this fantastic community facility, please contact Mike Cox, John Foster or the Clerk. The Playing Field Group plans to hold the Parish Walk in September and will be replacing the tennis nets and supports.

A consultation regarding school admissions and transport will be available for review and comment to 1 March at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionarrangements (please mark your response "ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2013"). By the time you receive this magazine a consultation on the new library for Totnes will just have expired - but you can look at the proposals on www.devon.gov.uk/newtotnes.

The next Meeting is on Tuesday the 21st February, starting at 7pm with the Diptford Amenity Trust Meeting. Parish Council minutes and agenda are displayed on the Parish noticeboard and website, diptford.org.uk.