BURPHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Annual Report   May 2019

Introduction

As ever, this has been a busy year for the BCA. There have been major changes to the committee with the departure of Hazel and Tony Teal last year. The BCA is very grateful for all they have done and many members contributed towards a thank you gift of G Live and garden centre vouchers, presented at a Christmas social evening last December.

Local Plan

The Draft Local Plan (DLP) has been exercising the BCA for several years to date. We responded to the first consultation in 2016. GBC made some changes and we duly responded to the second consultation in 2017, explaining why we felt the changes made did not address our concerns.
Last year the Examination in Public (EiP) was heard by a Planning Inspector. We are very grateful to Jim Allen who attended every day of the hearing on behalf of the Burpham Neighbourhood Forum (BNF) and the BCA. The Inspector raised some issues to which we again responded. He held a further two days EiP in February this year before eventually finding the DLP sound.
On April 25th, this very contentious DLP was put to the full Council for formal adoption. 28 councillors voted to adopt the Plan, 12 voted against and four abstained, including Burpham Ward Councillor Christian Holliday. The Plan has serious implications for Burpham, with the proposal to build on Gosden Hill. The BCA will produce a detailed review of the likely impact of this over the next few months.

GBC Elections

The elections were held on May 2nd 2019. Our Ward is now represented by Councillors George Potter and Ted Mayne. We look forward to working with them over the next four years.
The Committee would like to thank our previous Councillors Christian Holliday and Mike Piper for all their hard work and support.

Planning and Infrastructure

The BCA continues to monitor all planning applications in the Ward. Please note that we do not normally comment on individual applications for single properties.
The BCA objected to two applications; the proposal to demolish Marlyn's Cottage and replace it with a three storey block of appartments and the application for change of use of Burchatt's Farm Barn.

Marlyn's Cottage
There were 54 objections, many concerned with the loss of one of the few remaining older buildings in Burpham. No decision has yet been made but we are very pleased that, with effect from 7th March 2019, both Marlyns and Marlyn's Cottage have been formally included on the Local List of Heritage Assets. It does not mean that they have the legal protection of Grade I or II listed buildings but, to quote GBC -
" the list helps us to remain in control of any changes to these buildings and to make sure that we don't lose the special interest of these properties."
The BCA would like to thank all the people who were involved in this, especially Moira MacQuaide Hall, whose research for her History of Burpham provided the essential historical background information on both properties.

Burchatt's Farm
The proposal to change the use from assembly and leisure to non-residential institution went before the Planning Committee on 27th March. Councillors were concerned that a community asset that served everyone would become something that would only be used by a small part of the community. They also expressed concern that, although the proposed partitions were not permanent, they could harm the heritage asset of this Grade II listed building. A motion to refuse the application was passed.

Infrastructure is a matter of great concern, especially given the proposal to build on Gosden Hill.
Sewage disposal remains problematic after the blockage back in August 2017. Despite receiving a detailed report compiled jointly by the BCA and the BNF, no action has yet been taken by the authorities to prevent a recurrence.
There has been no response to the joint BCA/BNF/Merrow Resident's Association (MRA) attempts to get the gates that link Gosden Hill Farm to Merrow Lane removed. There is documentary evidence which indicates

the gates are illegal but it is still being considered by the authorities.

Flood Forum

Burpham was identified as a flooding hotspot in a Surface Water Management survey commissioned by GBC in 2012. The BCA set up a Flood Action Group after the floods of 2013/2014 and this led to the creation of the Flood Forum, which is chaired by Anne Milton MP. It meets at least annually and consists of representatives from SCC, GBC, Thames Water, the Environment Agency and the National Trust. A very detailed Action Plan has been drawn up which highlights and prioritises areas of concern. A Flood Forum meeting was held on May 10th this year. All major issues were discussed and we await action from the various agencies. Riparian rights and responsibilities were highlighted and a further meeting to focus on this issue will be held in the autumn.

Burpham Road Action Group

The Burpham Road Action Group (BRAG) was instituted last year to try and do something about the many traffic problems residents have to endure.- congested roads, air pollution, noise, potholes and parking issues which will get far worse when Gosden Hill and other nearby developments begin. BRAG aims to work with residents, local authorities and various agencies to eliminate or at least mitigate some of the issues. We have made a start by working with Professor Kumar, Director of the Global Centre for Clean air Research (GCARE) at the University of Surrey to monitor air pollution and come up with some positive solutions to improve air quality. The next step is to look for sites in Burpham where some kind of mitigation might be possible, such as space to plant hedges. A further meeting with members of Professor Kumar's team took place on May 9th which agreed the outlines and principles of a study of pollution levels to be carried out during autumn 2019. This will cover the main hotspots such as the Clay Lane and Aldi roundabouts, the schools and the A3. GCARE will provide the equipment and we shall be asking for volunteers in suitable sites to look after the equipment using jointly agreed procedures.

Aldi

The traffic problems generated by Aldi continue to cause concern. We are aware that there have been meetings between Aldi representatives, Councillor Graham Ellwood (SCC) and Burpham Ward Councillor Mike Piper but the outcome is still confidential.

Public Meetings

These are usually held every two months. The speaker at last year's AGM was Councillor Christian Holliday who considered how many issues raised in the Draft Local Plan would affect Burpham. He also explained what would happen during the Examination in Public. There was no meeting in July. In September, Rachel Brennan from Action for Carers gave a presentation on mental health. An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in October to consider the future direction of the BCA. November's meeting was a talk about the Guildford Time Bank and in December the BCA held a Christmas social evening.
January's meeting took the form of a Pollution Workshop run by Professor Kumar and his team and in March we held a hustings prior to the Council elections in May.
The BCA was pleased to support the efforts of two residents, Sue Hackman and Andrew Plumridge, who organised a series of winter talks on a variety of subjects. These were very successful and the organisers are preparing more talks for next winter.

General

The BCA continues to work with the Burpham Neighbourhood Forum and also to liaise closely with Merrow Residents' Association. We maintain links with other neighbouring Ras and Parish Councils, Jacobs Well, Sutton Green, Worplesdon and Clandon. We are a member of the Guildford Residents' Association and subscribe to the Campaign to protect Rural England and the Open Spaces Society, which campaigns to protect common land and green spaces.
Members are now able to support the BCA by buying tickets in the Guildford Lottery. For every £1 ticket sold, we receive 50 pence and over the coming year we hope to raise around £900.