

Bayford Parish Council.

A meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday the 14th January at 8pm, at Bayford School. The main topic of discussion was GRAVEL. The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of meetings with representatives of the three other parishes effected by the Local Minerals Plan Review (ie Essendon, Little Berkhamstead and Hertingfordbury) . At one meeting, Sue Davidson, a member of HCC attended to explain the details of the scheme which they have devised to meet the governments requirements for strategic gravel reserves. It was decided that the four parishes should reply both individually and jointly to HCC. It was decided that the theme of our representations to the HCC should be that 'we have had enough' and that 'the very basis of the scheme is ridiculous and inhumane', and that we will oppose the inclusion of any site within these parishes. The draft plan will be published at the end of May, at which time this Council will organise a public meeting, (assuming the Bayford sites are included), with a view to provoking a substantial response from the parishioners.

It was noted that the lamppost at the top of the road from the station, which is one of two owned by the parish, had been demolished during the Christmas period. No one had owned up. The other parish lamppost had also been vandalised. It was decided to replace both with more tasteful matching designs. A quotation of about £400 each had been received and it was hoped that the majority could be recouped from the insurance company.

It was noted that the issue of the pathway to Hook's Grove from Broad Green Wood and roadway had again been raised. The Chairman agreed to speak to HCC. The subject of speeding through the villages was raised. It was decided to again approach the village engineer, Val Weaver, with a view to getting speed bumps installed. These must however be in keeping with the village. The Chairman reported that WAGN's representative, Ms Unwin had again stated that the Tannoy system at the station which had been promised for at least six months, was no nearer. The matter of removing vegetation between the car park and the road was raised and it was agreed to seek WAGN's approval. The dates for the next year's meetings were provisionally agreed.

Michael Wainwright