

Bayford Parish Council. 18 March 2002, Bayford School 7:45

The following is a précis of the proceeding of The Parish Assembly. The Council noted that only three members of the public, plus the school caretaker, attended the meeting. The event was advertised in the Parish Magazine, as well as on the usual notice boards, In view of the work that went into preparing for the meeting this was very disappointing.

The following aspects of the years business were reported:

Planning. The Council continues to pursue the policy it has held for many years; objections are only raised to applications where they would substantially change the character of the site. Thus minor domestic extensions and conservatories are returned as 'No Objection' whereas applications which would result in additional residential or commercial developments are regarded very closely. Recently, two applications have been received which seek additional accommodation on a site where a residence has already been allowed. These applications were strongly opposed. The recent refusal by HCC of the gravel extraction scheme at Farm Fields was welcomed by the Council. We hope this marks the adoption of a fairer stance by HCC where greater note is taken of the wishes of the residents than has been evident in the past. The Council continues to pursue the line that any further expansion at Water Hall, Bedwell Park or Granville Steel is unacceptable and unreasonable, and that in the medium term these activities should cease.

Bayford Station. No progress has been made at the station. WAGN promised several months ago that they would be fitting a Tannoy system, but as yet no sign of this work is visible. The 'Hertford loop' representative is now on maternity leave and no one has taken over her job. At the time of writing about twelve cars have been broken into both on the roadside and in the car park, and more worryingly, two have been set alight. The roof was recently torn off the Hertford side shelter. The train service although slightly better during March, compared with January and February, is still appalling and for some inexplicable reason, well below the pre-Hatfield levels. Season ticket holder report months of delay in receiving compensation for cancelled trains, and many don't even bother applying.

Other matters: The lamppost which was demolished before Christmas should be replaced shortly. Unfortunately, the Council has found that the insurance did not cover the cost of replacement. The matter will be discussed further. Speeding through the village continues to cause concern. The question of addition traffic calming has been reviewed but no progress has been made. The Council would welcome the views of the villagers on this matter.

The Chairman thanked Mr Turner for his continued excellent service in grass cutting, Christopher Mudd for litter picking, Rodney and Beryl Calaby for maintaining the rose triangle, the members of the Council for their work during the year, and the Clerk for continuing to cope with the ever increasing amounts of correspondence received by the Council. Finally, the members of the public were thanked for attending the meeting, and the Parishioners for maintaining the rare and precious place that is Bayford.

Michael Wainwright