

UPDATE on the Solar Community Fund & What's happening in the Parish?



The second edition of The Beckham Bulletin is to let you know the progress and background work since we reported back in December 2015. There have been regular meetings (slightly interrupted by Christmas and festivities) by the Fund Committee and all of the minutes of these are now reported on the East and West Beckham Parish Council website.

Outside of the monthly meetings there have been others; investigating, fact finding and identifying the necessary people to speak with, to enable the Parish Council to get things done - it takes much longer than anyone expects, especially when three quotes are needed for any spending.

As time goes on and more detail is given to the ideas raised at the Questionnaire stage, the workload is noticeably increasing!

The Allotments

There has been plenty of work going on here and we would like to report back the progress taken so far.

The East Beckham allotments have been measured and staked out. The allotment size is 30 foot (frontage) by 80 foot (depth). Each allotment holder is currently charged £10 annually and has a contract raised by the Parish Council beginning 31st March 2016. There are currently 14 allotments on the west side, of which 2 are vacant, and a further 12 allotments on the east side. One of the eastern allotment plots has been designated a car parking area and will be levelled with a suitable surface. Importantly, the entrance to the allotments will be improved by scraping level and the initial slope resurfaced.



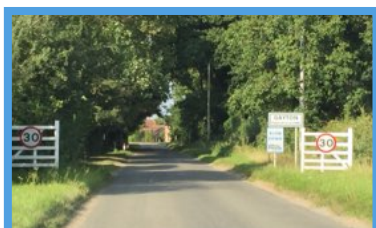
A mains water supply was requested but what is the viability of supply? It was felt by some allotment holders that mains water was unnecessary as it was possible to harvest rainwater, and plants will send down roots to find water within the soil if left to their own devices! Let's see what happens next.

< East.....West > ROAD entrance to be resurfaced	
28. occupied	1. occupied
27. car park	2. occupied
26. vacant	3. occupied
25. vacant	4. occupied
24. vacant	5. vacant
23. vacant	6. vacant
22. vacant	7. occupied
21. vacant	8. occupied
20. vacant	9. occupied
19. vacant	10. occupied
18. vacant	11. occupied
17. vacant	12. occupied
16. vacant	13. occupied
15. vacant	14. occupied

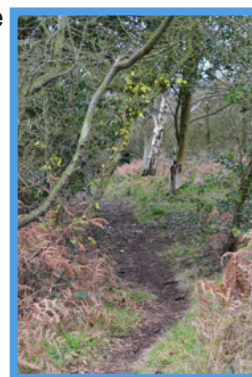
The decision was taken to vacate the West Beckham allotment site and the Parish Council invited the existing holders to move to the East Beckham site and they have chosen their new pitches! The future use of the vacant West Beckham allotment land (the Parish Poorlands) will be reviewed more closely over the coming months. The weeds in particular will need to be controlled and some daffodils lifted before it is rejuvenated. Various good ideas were put forward in the questionnaire and these will be considered carefully for both Village's use.

Projects underway or completed

Highways agreed one site in East Beckham for a new yellow Grit Bin at the junction of Sheringham Road and Abbey Farm. Highways have yet to fill it with grit! Safety mirror sites (and a second grit bin site) have unfortunately not been approved by Highways despite the Solar Fund's willingness to purchase.



A source for the Village 'name gates' at the entrances to both villages have been found. Where best to site them to best affect will now be discussed in detail. You may have seen those at Edgefield on the B1149.



Trees overhanging paths on the West Beckham Village Green, East Beckham Common and the Cemetery have been inspected (or soon will be), so any improvements can be considered with regard to safety and whether future attention is required.

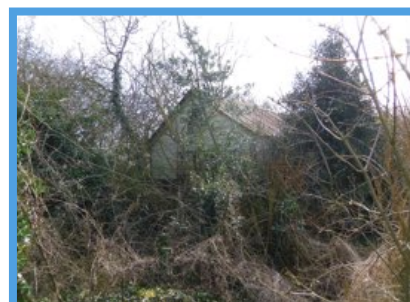
Paving in front of West Beckham post boxes will be installed shortly.

We hoped you liked the helpful Information Household Sheet we produced pre Christmas (sorry about the incorrect Bin Collection days - it's currently Fridays for both East and West Beckham!)

The Wheatsheaf Pub are considering being the site for a village shop/deli which village volunteers could assist in running. This is at an embryonic stage but if you are keen to see it work, your support would be much appreciated by Daniella & Steve Moorby at the Wheatsheaf (and many of us in the two villages!). If you think you might like to volunteer, or for more information, please Contact Chris Wheeler on christineawheeler@tiscali.co.uk or 01263 478361

The local Oil Buying Group in Gresham achieved a very keen price in early February of 24.7p per litre incl. VAT. Unfortunately no one volunteered as our Beckham Villages co-ordinator/liasion as requested in the last Bulletin. Another purchasing group, Anglian Farmers achieved 29.5p incl VAT in early March. Contact enquiries@af-affinity.co.uk or call 01603 881888.

The derelict 'Reading Room' demolition enabling a pleasant place for memorial seats, Village notice board, and a site for a defibrillator is currently on hold. A Trust Deed was signed in 1996 by the Diocese, the then Church Council and Rector for the 'East Beckham Mission Hall' so unfortunately at the moment we are waiting on the decision and authority to go ahead with any further plans.



BECKHAM SOCIALITES

We are a group of villagers who meet once a month just to get to know each other. Anyone from West and East Beckham is welcome. 40 attended our first gathering and 23 at the second. From the feedback everyone had a good time and thought it should continue.

Our plan is to meet at the Wheatsheaf on the 1st Thursday every month 12.00 for 12.30pm. Lunch is provided by Daniella and Steve who make us very welcome.

The main course on April 7th will be fish pie for £5.00 with an optional desert for £2.50. Please let us know if you are coming by Monday before the lunch so that numbers can be given for catering purposes. There will be no lunch at the Wheatsheaf in July and August.



We are however planning a celebration sometime in June or July for the Queen's 90th birthday. John and Judy Wilson have very kindly offered their garden at Chestnut Farm as a venue. We are thinking of a strawberry / afternoon tea, on a weekend. Please let us know your thoughts. Further details will be circulated later.

If you want to know more then call us, Ann and Martyn Waring on 01263 820148

Lodge Hill Junction Update

As you may have seen, the verges have been lowered, and reflective strips put out to stop them becoming parking places for visitors to Sheringham Park! The final part of the scheme involves the installation of a VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) on the main road which is jointly financed by the Parish Councils of East and West Beckham and Upper Sheringham together with a contribution from the National Trust. The sign will be activated to flash 'Slow Down' with a crossroads sign above when a vehicle on the A148 approaches at speeds of 55mph or over. Triggers on Sheringham Road and Lodge Hill will mean the sign will only flash when a vehicle is on those roads and waiting to pull out.



The Parish Council are still actively seeking a speed reduction on this stretch of road with North Norfolk District Council.

STOP PRESS: Highways are arranging a meeting between the Parish Council and Charles Saunders in the next few weeks to explore the possibility of reinstating the bus service through West Beckham!

THE WEST BECKHAM WALKERS

We are an informal group of walkers that started in 2001 and meet on the fourth Sunday in every month. In all that time we have only had to abandon one walking day for bad weather! Our group has grown to include a walker from Holt (who originally lived in West Beckham), walkers from Bodham, Sheringham and Plumstead and on our last walk, starting from the Cley Visitor Centre, we had fourteen who walked to Salthouse village then up to the Heath and back the Visitor Centre via the Hangs, a distance of just about 4 miles. There is just as much talking as walking and we are normally out for about 2 hours.

If you would be interested in joining the group please contact Julia or Norman Dovey on 01263 825457 for more details of our next walk. We meet at the village sign in West Beckham at 11.30am and then share cars to the starting point when we can if the walk is not very local.

Communication

With the Beckham Bulletin up and running, plus the household information sheet issued, we are now looking at our Village Website development. Currently the Parish site beckhamewpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk is to ensure the Parish Council complies legally with freedom of information. It has all the minutes of the Parish Council plus finances etc. We have also added the meeting Minutes of the Solar Community Fund Committee to the Parish site for your perusal. In future we hope the new website will act more as a 'community hub'.

For the new website, (co-ordinated by Kathryn Lord and David McNeight at 2 Hall Farm Cottages, Church Road, West Beckham) we would like to find old photos and maybe record 'interesting memories' from anyone who has a connection with East or West Beckham. 'Old' is a relative term - so don't discount photos from the 1940's 50's 60's 70's 80's etc. Check out your photo albums (remember those?) If you think you have photo records to contribute Kathryn and David can digitally scan them and return the originals to you.

The West Beckham bus shelter was felt to be a good central spot for an Information Centre with Parish Map (as well as a place to wait for the occasional bus!) so we are pursuing this. A plan to tidy up the area and paint inside to make it brighter will be a first step.



The next door 'phone box' will be the designated site for a defibrillator which we hope will be instigated via a Charity who specialise in doing just this. BT will be paying for the electricity to run the machine as well! We need to find out timescales and ultimately volunteers who would be trained how to use the machine.



Quotes are currently being sought for replacement of The War Memorial at St Helens and All Saints Church. We are working on getting a dedication service on Remembrance Day 2016. An additional name - Private 8496 2nd Battalion Norfolk Regiment, Charles Henry Shepherd, who came from West Beckham - will be added to make it complete.

A young West Beckham resident has recently written to the Parish Council to ask for focus to be put towards the Children's play ground area (as well as the village shop). Improvements would be welcomed and so the good news is we will be looking at new surfaces, play equipment and how to make it a better place to play!

Contacts

- ❖ Julia or Norman Dovey 01263 825457 jld@postmaster.co.uk
- ❖ Bob Lewis 01263 821223 r177lewis@btinternet.com
- ❖ Chris Wheeler 01263 478361 christineawheeler@tiscali.co.uk
- ❖ Kathryn & David 07711070417 kathryn.lord@virgin.net
- ❖ Ann and Martyn Waring on 01263 820148
- ❖ Anglian Farmers 01603 881888 enquiries@af-affinity.co.uk