

Solar Community Fund

Where we are so far, & What's Next?



In this issue we (the Solar Community Fund Committee) have put together a summary of things achieved in East and West Beckham since the money from the Solar Array by East Beckham Hall has contributed to the Village coffers. We also want to review what next.....?

We would very much appreciate your feed back. What should we be looking at in the future and 'getting sorted' around the Parish. So take a look at this and come back to us with any suggestions you may have. If you would like to get involved directly we would welcome the regular input. We meet monthly for about an hour and a half on a Thursday evening at Bodham and Beckham Village Hall. Why not join in? See back page for contact details.

Getting around - transport and road safety

- Improvements made to the Lodge Hill junction on the A148
- Village 'gates' ordered and due to be installed soon in 5 locations
- Parish Maps produced and installed in 3 locations



- Results of the recent bus survey have been analysed and the possibilities now being explored to run a special '**Saturday Market bus**' to Sheringham and back

- A new regular bus timetable, starting in September is available **inside the bus shelter for the Route 19 Bus service.**



What next?

- Further village gates or speed calming options such as formal illuminated speed signs or informal, such as 'Slow you down'?
- Mirrors for Allotment Lane and Long Lane?

Footpath network and cycleways

- New fingerposts where East Beckham footpaths leave the road
- New Yellow waymarkers supplied for the local paths so walkers can stay on track
- Licence obtained for the use of Ordnance Survey maps where needed for the parish
- Village walk 'A Stroll around the Beckhams' leaflet devised, and published. A GUIDED TOUR will take place on Sunday 24th September. Meet at the Village sign, West Beckham at 11.30am
- Working towards identifying any public rights of way which may need to be claimed by 2026



What next?

- Could we promote cycling with some routes published as the walk above?
- A 'trod' or path for school children and others walking along both Sheringham Road and Church Road?



Village infrastructure

- Roll of Honour of those who served in World War 1 has been renewed and installed
- A step installed to improve access to the post box outside Chestnut Farm
- The Bus Shelter has been refurbished with new noticeboards and a new seat to become a village Information Centre plus surrounding area 'tidied up'
- The village sign in West Beckham is in need of a few minor repairs and a re-paint. Quotes have been requested.
- The Cemetery Entrance is to be remodelled, the drive widened and resurfaced to accommodate modern vehicles. A quote has been accepted and work to begin in Autumn
- The Playground is now regularly mown. Two new pieces of equipment are on order and installation work should begin in September. All equipment is regularly inspected for safety by RoSPA
- The disused telephone box in West Beckham will be put to use to house a defibrillator
- Photos of the East and West Beckham village signs will be displayed in the Bodham and Beckham Village Hall to accompany the Bodham village signs already on the walls
- Contribution made to the Bodham and Beckham Village Hall (subject to certain conditions) to help with the refurbishment of the disabled toilet provision
- 4 Benches purchased (2 x East Beckham and 2 x West Beckham) & 2 picnic tables to be installed
- A shop was a facility we all wanted and the good news is we now have one at The Wheatsheaf (see below)

What next?

- Some of the old play equipment to be revitalised/refurbished and possible further equipment purchased - but what is wanted and would you like to help with the improvements?



THE WHEATSHEAF PUB HAS NOW OPENED A DELI SHOP AND TEA ROOM - THE FOODIE BOUQUET!

WE WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS AND PLEASE USE IT - YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY - "IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU LOSE IT"!

When the village shop and Post Office closed in Bodham it meant no quick access to essentials or shopping without travelling to Sheringham or elsewhere. Pub is The Hub's programme of funding for rural pubs has helped to bring Daniella and Stephen Moorby's vision of a community pub providing a whole range of services to fruition. With a grant of £4,000 from the Pub is The Hub's Community Services Fund the shop will sell locally sourced produce wherever possible, including fresh fruit and vegetables, homemade cakes, freshly baked bread, preserves, chutneys and homemade ready-to-cook meals. The shop will open from 9am to provide breakfasts through to 3pm. Once the shop closes at 3pm, customers can still access provisions from the shop through the pub.

Later in the year, the tearoom will be providing some digital training. The 'Beckham Socialites' lunch club are already gathering on the 1st Thursday of the month (recommencing September after the summer holidays) and they enjoy a lovely lunch whilst meeting up and chatting with others around the village. If you haven't been in recently, why not pay a visit?



We asked Daniella what was available in the Deli, so to help, here is a list!

Currently, we offer the following:

- Dairy and non-dairy products: butter, margarine, Milk (full cream and semi-skimmed), cheeses
- Selection of Soft drinks such as: Coca Cola, Coca Cola Vanilla, Fanta, Kazoo Milk shakes etc.
- Selection of Cereals, Gluten Free muesli etc.
- Selection of flours (self raising, plain) rice, spaghetti pasta, penne pasta, caster sugar, granulated sugar etc.
- Off license Lager and real ales (not to be consumed on premises).
- Off license wines (not to be consumed on premises) red, white, rose.
- Some Alcoholic specialities such as homemade Sloe Gin
- Fruits and Vegetables (varying depending on what we can source) but mainly new potatoes, Norfolk pinks, White and red onions, tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, apples etc.
- Breads: white and brown toast, hot dog rolls, burger buns, pain au lait and we can also Freshly Baked French baguette on pre-order 1 hour in advance.
- Canned products such as chopped tomatoes, baked beans, tomato puree.
- Condiments: mustard, mint sauce, horseradish sauce, homemade Vinegars, white wine vinegar, Balsamic reduction, homemade salad dressings, mushroom sauce, anchovy sauce, and much more.
- Selection of Granola bars, gluten free cookies
- Selection of homemade jams and marmalades with "Foodie Bouquet" labels such as strawberry jam, Apricot preserve, orange marmalade, lemon curd, lime curd etc.
- Selection of homemade chutneys with "Foodie Bouquet" labels such as spiced apricot chutney, tomato and caramelised onion chutney, piccalilli etc.
- Freshly baked cakes of the day, sausage rolls, fruit and cream puffs, tarts, quiches etc.
- Dishwashing liquid, Persil, toothbrushes, toothpaste etc.
- OTC medicines such as paracetamol, anti histamine, cold & flu tablets etc.



Afternoon tea is served between 12:00 noon and 4:30pm and needs to be pre-booked but the shop can be accessible as long as the pub is open. At the moment, we are open from 8:30am until 10:30pm 7 days a week, but we will start closing on Tuesdays in September and Sunday hours remain until 6pm all year round.

Daniella advised also coming soon:

- E-Top up machine: mobile top up, electricity top up and pretty much anything that can be topped up with a voucher.
- We'd like to include daily and Sunday newspaper in our services but we're trying to find out how many we would need and need to reach a certain volume, otherwise, the news suppliers won't be interested in supplying us.
- Computer assistance for retirees: if someone is not so technologically savvy and needs assistance setting up email or Skype to chat with their families abroad, we will offer some computer tuition
- We're hoping we could get some volunteers to assist with the tearoom in the afternoon when the afternoon teas start becoming a little more popular

If you have any constructive suggestions or can assist by endorsing the service, I'm sure this will be of a great use. Let Daniella or Stephen know directly or via the Parish Council.



East & West Village sign photos to join Bodham's in our shared village hall



Bus Shelter tidied and now has a newly created 'general public' noticeboard and comfortable bench. The old notice boards are refurbished, new benches and picnic tables installations slowly appearing, plus a post box step!



Village Green and East Beckham Common conservation work by TCV.

Sheringham Road, West Beckham Bus Shelter, and East Beckham Village sign locations all have new Parish Map and Walk information boards.

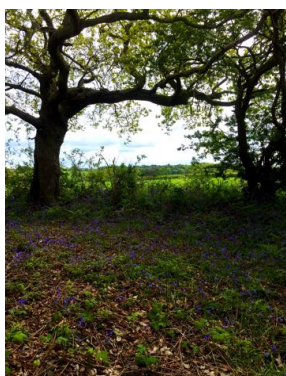


Bird/Bat box kits available free for use around our villages (please apply to Julia Dovey).

Sizes are as follows: 25mm Entrance Hole Bird Box (Blue Tit, Coal Tit, Tree Sparrow),

32mm Entrance Hole Bird Box (Great Tit, Nuthatch, House Sparrow),

Open Fronted Bird Box (Robins, Pied Wagtail, Flycatcher, Wrens)



The WW1 Memorial Stone in the Churchyard has been updated to be inclusive of all names in the Roll of Honour and is clearly readable.

The Cemetery Entrance to be remodelled; widening to allow better access for modern size vehicles, improve the look with new brick/flint pillars and refurbish the old gates.





New and coming soon - Basket Swing, suitable for several kids, or even an adult with a baby. A new Pole swinger to play on too. Future transformation of the old broken basket ball wall into a transverse climbing wall using new hand and foot holds.



We are ensuring there is regular grass cutting in the playing area. Pigeon 'off' spikes are now installed over the swing frame!



Lodge Hill Junction made safer with signage, and pathways. Village Gates coming soon to slow traffic in our villages (left, mock ups only)



A grit bin installed in East Beckham waiting for freezing weather!



Mission Hut sold to provide vital additional funds to maintain St Helens and All Saints Church.

Old photos found and archive etchings of the two ruined churches and the proposal document to show who raised the original building funds. RAF West Beckham old photos and Chain Home Radar early warning provide a great start to a local history group?



Allotment in West Beckham seeded with nectar mix and East Beckham now has a car park plus better attended allotments. Still plenty of room for more Allotmenters though.



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RAF West Beckham Images appear kind permission of Mr Mike Digby



Communication

- Household Information Sheet prepared and distributed - should we renew?
- Bulletin Newsletter now a regular part of village life – editor Kathryn Lord
- Parish noticeboards refurbished and newly created
- Bus survey, bird survey and Parish Walk distributed via The Bulletin
- The Parish Website is created www.eastandwestbeckham.org but a 'work in progress' as we need input from the community to make it useful
- 'Information Centre' located in the bus shelter, West Beckham for everyone's use
- Social interaction with monthly lunches taking place at the Wheatsheaf Pub
- Village walk 'A Stroll around the Beckhams' leaflet published with a planned guided tour on 24th Sept.

What next?

- A sub committee, or individual volunteers for regular input, help and direction regards the detailed content of the website?
- Establish a Facebook page - are you interested in setting up and maintaining?
- Ongoing progress of projects via Bulletin & website
- A 'Neighbourhood Plan' possibly via website?

www.eastandwestbeckham.org

Are there any of you out there who would be happy to contribute to the East and West Beckham Website? We need regular contributors. You can pass on your information to the Administrator (David McNeight at 2 Hall Farm Cottages, Church Road, West Beckham - by email, post or in person) for anything to be added, so don't worry on that score.

How about your photos of local events (current or historic), nature notes, handy tips, recipes, moans and groans or 'thank you's, birthday notices, things for sale or wanted - a classified page? The website should be useful to us all, so more the merrier.

Health and safety

- The purchase and installation of 2 defibrillators in East and West Beckham
- Food growing moved from the West Beckham allotments to East Beckham allotments because of possible contamination from buried waste tip - ('duty of care' obligation by the parish)
- Step installed to improve access to the post box outside Chestnut Farm
- Trees overhanging the paths in East Beckham Common and West Beckham Green inspected and remedial work carried out. Trees to be inspected every other year in future
- The large chestnut tree on the verge outside Chestnut Farm has been inspected by NCC Highways because of recent bough drop
- Parish noticeboard to be moved to bus shelter because of the high bank at it's current location

POLITE NOTICE: Please could dog walkers take their bagged dog waste home and not leave in residents' driveways or in their domestic bins. Thank you.

Allotments - both sites

East Beckham

- Initial work to improve driveway and create a car park completed
- Quotes now being obtained to improve the entrance and driveway as well as enlarging and improving the car parking area
- Hedge cutting on the roadside to be completed
- Weed cutting
- Provision of water for allotment holders still under consideration but many solutions investigated so far would involve a very substantial rise in the allotment fees. Input from current allotment holders welcome for possible low cost solutions



- Vacant allotments to be made available to people outside of the Parish

West Beckham

- Nectar mix now sown to attract bees and to improve the soil quality



What next?

- We are open to suggestions for future uses of the West Beckham site. Suggestions so far include a multi use, enclosed paddock fenced for grazing animals or for safe dog walking, building a tennis court for everyone's use, or a general village amenity 'event' field
- Suggestions for low cost water supply at East Beckham - capturing water when it is plentiful

Environment and bio-diversity

- The woodland areas belonging to the parish have been cleared of some of the invasive species such as bracken and bramble to allow a wider variety of wild flowers and plants to re-establish themselves. Also to provide breeding habitat for the White Admiral butterfly
- 60 Bird/Bat DIY boxes of various sizes are now available to our community for installation and free of charge
- Environmental surveys are underway in the churchyard and cemetery to establish a base for future management to enhance their ability to support wildlife in many forms



- Nectar mix has been sown – paths to walk through will be cut next year, once the mix is established



- We have had a request to join a pond survey – Norfolk has the largest number of ponds of any English county

- Work is underway to look at the inclusion of the Parish into the Glaven and Bure valley projects with Natural England and the

CPRE (the source of both these rivers are in the Parish!)

- We have a resource available – Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Parish Wildlife Survey Kit – to allow anyone who is interested to look at any aspect of wildlife in the villages

What next?

- Are you interested in forming a wildlife group?
- Will you **volunteer to build our bat and bird boxes** and install in our green spaces, and other areas like the Cemetery and **even in your garden**? Get in touch with Julia Dovey as they are simple to put together - all you need is a hammer and a screwdriver!
- Look at suitable sites for Owl Boxes in the Parish and then purchase
- Identify ponds in the Parish
- Plant young native trees and wildflowers in West and East Beckham

Allotments !

If you would like an allotment in East Beckham there are spaces available. The cost of an allotment for a year is only currently £10. If anyone wants to have a smaller allotment than the standard 80 feet x 30 feet this is possible. All enquiries to John Stibbons (Parish Clerk).

Housing

- The playground area is leased from the NNDC (we have obtained a copy of the lease and there are 11 years left to run). They will retain ownership and the right to build social or affordable housing on the site, after this lease expires.

What next?

- Do we need to think about housing with the rise in the number of second homes and holiday cottages?
- Rentable Social housing?
- Could we ask Highways/Victory housing to put in a decent lay-by in front of 1 - 8 Church Road like the one in front of 9 – 12 because of the dangers from the increasing size of farm vehicles and limited clearance for parked cars?



Local history

- Copies of archive material has been purchased from NCC for future use on the website and for local publication
- Information on RAF West Beckham from local historian Mike Digby



What next?

- Old rights of way to be investigated before 2026
- Form a local history group, memories and oral history, old photographs, interesting building details including Listed buildings
- Find suitable sites for information boards, get any permissions necessary then commission the boards – possibly RAF West Beckham, Cold War monitoring station, the current churchyard.
- Relevant *Norfolk Heritage Explorer* and other links for our website?

The **Solar Community Fund Committee** is open to all Parishioners in East and West Beckham. Join us, we would really like more volunteers to help get things done. Some of our previous members have moved away and are no longer able to sit on the committee so please come forward. We meet monthly in Bodham and Beckham Village Hall, on a Thursday, from 7PM for about an hour or so. Please contact Julia Dovey (chairperson) or Kathryn Lord (secretary). Future meeting dates are scheduled 21st Sept, 12th Oct, 23rd Nov

New Parish Councillors:

Since the last spring edition of the Bulletin we are happy to report there are two new Parish Councillors and both are from East Beckham. Welcome to Mrs Rosabelle Batt and Mr David Barrass.

Contacts

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