



Bishopstoke Parish Council Newsletter

Summer 2017

The Newsletter from Bishopstoke Parish Council for Bishopstoke residents with news of the Parish Council, local voluntary organisations and residents

EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S EMERGING

LOCAL PLAN – DOES IT MATTER?

The Local Plan is Eastleigh Borough Council's strategy to show how it plans to develop the Borough through to 2036. New homes are needed and space for businesses to grow. The Local Plan also needs to address the need for community facilities such as schools, healthcare, leisure venues, open space and recreation.

WHAT'S IT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

There are three areas that Eastleigh Borough Council are considering which would affect Bishopstoke residents:

THE AREA NORTH OF BISHOPSTOKE (STOKE PARK FARM) BETWEEN BISHOPSTOKE AND COLDEN

COMMON

(This area is known as '**Option B**' in the emerging Local Plan) Here Eastleigh Borough Council say there is an opportunity to build up to **3,700 houses**. A **major road** is also being considered starting from the 'Fox & Hounds' pub on Winchester Road in Fair Oak, running between Crowdhill Copse and Upper Barn Copse, through countryside to Highbridge Road near Colden Common

EXPANSION OF FAIR OAK TO THE EAST AND NORTH

(This area is known at '**Option C**' in the emerging Local Plan) The Council estimate there is the possibility to deliver 2,500 houses.

EXPANSION OF BISHOPSTOKE TO THE SOUTH AND HORTON HEATH TO THE WEST

(This area is known as '**Option D**' in the emerging Local Plan) The Council estimate there is the possibility of **2,300** houses.

WHAT STAGE HAS THE LOCAL PLAN REACHED?

At present Eastleigh Borough Council are considering the consultation responses, evidence gathering and testing options and will then recommend their preferred options (areas) for strategic growth.

At Eastleigh Borough Council's Full Council meeting held on the 15th December Borough Councillors endorsed continued investigations into the feasibility and deliverability of strategic growth options and, in particular, agreed to continue work on development proposals in Allbrook, **North Bishopstoke** and Fair Oak.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE – HAVE YOUR SAY!

There was a large response from local residents and local and national organisations during the initial consultation period back in December 2015.

The Council will discuss its preferred options on **20 July 2017**. There will then be a further round of consultation focusing on the 'soundness' of the plan looking at whether it is deliverable, justified and sustainable.

This will be your opportunity to make further comments. However, it is important to note that if you commented during the initial consultation period your previous comments **will not** be considered so if you feel your concerns have not been addressed you will need to submit further comments to Eastleigh Borough Council and they may ultimately have to be considered by the Government Inspector at the public hearing.

We urge everyone to keep engaged in this process in forging the future development of our Borough. Remember it will ultimately be an Independent Government Inspector who will decide if Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan is adopted.

For further information please visit Eastleigh Borough Council's website and we as a Parish Council will keep you informed of any developments in this Local Plan process through our newsletters and noticeboards.

Bishopstoke Parish Council

Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on 7 March 2017 at the Methodist Church Hall on Sedgwick Road. The Assembly is an opportunity for local residents to hear about the work that the Parish Council has been doing over the previous year. This year, in addition to the Chair's speech and the usual report on the Parish finances, there were also a number of presentations from some of the groups that had received grants from the Parish Council. We heard how the money donated by the Parish Council had helped with repairs at the Bishopstoke Memorial Hall, and how a grant from the Carnival Street Collection had helped to pay for the Christmas Dinner event held by Help The Aged. We also heard about the Storyteller's Throne that had been bought by Stoke Park Infants' Association as part of their new play area (pictured here).



Parish Budget (2017-18)

This year, the Parish Council decided to increase the Parish portion of the Council Tax from £43.60 per year (for a Band D house) to £47.96 per year. This increase allows the Parish Council to continue to provide play areas, allotments, the Cemetery and all the various other services. It also means the Council can plan to begin replacing old play areas and noticeboards, as well as performing essential improvement, maintenance and tree work around the Parish. Preparations are also being made for the Cemetery extension, two new sets of allotments and a new play area, which are being provided as a result of agreements made with developers at the Cemetery and by Breach Lane.

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH MEETINGS

Planning: July 11th, July 25th, August 8th, September 12th, September 26th. Meetings start at 7:00pm, but the office doors are open at 6:45pm to allow viewing of the planning applications.

Finance & General Purposes: July 11th, September 12th. Meetings starts at 7:30pm.

Full Council: July 25th, September 26th. Meetings start at 7:30pm.

Unless advertised differently, all meetings take place in the Parish Office.

(NB All meetings are open to the public who can raise matters at the beginning of the meeting)

BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

You can call us on 023 80643428 or find us on www.bishopstokepc.uk. We're also on Facebook. The Parish Office is next to the Memorial Hall, Riverside and is normally open

Mon 09.00-12.30 & 13.30-16.00 and Thur 08:30-12:00 & 12.30-14.30

PARISH CLERK: David Hillier-Wheal bishopstoke.pc@btconnect.com

ASSISTANT CLERK: Cheryl Taylor 07521 735539 (allotments & cemetery) acbishopstoke.pc@btinternet.com

Travel Tokens

Bishopstoke Parish Council runs a travel token scheme which has so far only been available to pensioners living in the area. The Council is proud to announce that the scheme is now expanding to include people of any age.

In order to qualify for travel tokens you must not have access to a car, and it must be difficult for you to use a bus. If you are in this situation then you can apply to the Parish Council for tokens. These can be used to help pay for taxi journeys, and they can be for any reason – to go to the shops; to visit a friend or relative; or even to get to the airport if you are going on a trip. At the moment, each successful applicant gets up to £72 (depending on how much of the year is left), although if someone else is needed to help when you travel then an extra £12 is available.

What's New This Year?

This year, the scheme has been extended across all age groups. This means that anyone who does not have access to a car and finds it difficult to use a bus can qualify for tokens. This also includes any children with disabilities for whom using a bus is difficult. The parents can apply on behalf of their child and tokens can be awarded.

How Does It Work?

In order to apply for Travel Tokens all you need is a form that can be downloaded from the Parish Council website (go to www.bishopstokepc.uk and click on "Travel Tokens") or picked up from the Parish Office. Once that form has been filled in, send it back to the Clerk at the Parish Office. The Council will then arrange for two members of the Travel Token Working Group to visit you before they pass over your tokens.

The tokens can be used with some taxi companies and also the Bishopstoke and Fair Oak Good Neighbours' Scheme. Simply make your booking, and let the operator know you will be using tokens to pay (or part pay) for your journey.

This year the Parish Council is also trialling having an opportunity to apply for extra tokens if yours run out. All users will be written to in October to see whether there is any need for further tokens.

Other Schemes

Hampshire Travel Vouchers: available for disabled people who are unable to use a bus. Further information on www.hants.gov.uk.

Stoke Common 42 Taxishare: Operating from Drake Road to St Mary's Church, this is a booking only taxishare operating on Wednesdays and Fridays. Register on 01962 846786.

Medical Transport Service: Providing transport to medical appointments, register to use the service on 02380 270088.

Bishopstoke Neighbourhood Plan

Residents of Bishopstoke, with the support of the Parish Council, have joined together to start the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Plan, when complete and adopted, will form part of the body of evidence that Eastleigh Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, and so it gives the residents of Bishopstoke some say in where building should go, what type of development it should be, and also other things that might be considered beneficial to the local community, such as cycle paths or extra footpaths.

The small group that has been steering this so far is a mix of local residents and Parish Councillors. They are now at the stage of preparing to send out a questionnaire to find out the opinions of local residents on a whole range of issues. There will be drop off points for completed questionnaires around the Parish, and the more returns that are received then the better the plan will represent the views of the people who live here.

In addition to filling out questionnaires, the steering group is also looking for extra volunteers to help with things like delivering the questionnaire, helping to analyse the data obtained from it, or putting together the complete Neighbourhood plan reflecting the views of local residents.

If you are interested in helping out, in any way, then please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office who will then pass on your details to the steering group.

Contacts Directory & What's Happening

The Contacts Directory, and the list of what's happening in Bishopstoke and surrounding areas are being updated. If you would like the details of the group you run advertised on the Parish website or included in future newsletters then please get in touch with the Clerk.

Also, if there are any events coming up for the second half of the year, or even early notice of next year's events, please let the Clerk know and the event will be included too.

For any other Parish information, the Clerk can be contacted on 02380 643428, or by emailing Bishopstoke.pc@btconnect.com.