

## **BISHOPSTOKE PARISH COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE – JUNE 2017**

### **Countryside Gaps Review**

Bishopstoke Parish Council agreed that it would write to the Borough Council expressing its disappointment that the Countryside Gaps Review did not include a consultation.

### **Parish Council Grants**

Bishopstoke Parish Council was pleased to be able to grant £500 to the Street Pastors for help with their running costs, £1,000 to the Bishopstoke Community Association for help with their insurance costs and £500 to the AWCA for help with the costs of the Mela.

### **Running Consultation**

Bishopstoke Parish Council agreed that their response to the running consultation should be as follows:

“Bishopstoke Parish Council recognises that many Bishopstoke residents take part in parkrun and junior parkrun events in Eastleigh, Winchester and Southampton and that this movement has been a phenomenal success in promoting regular, free exercise for both adults and children, which has major health benefits. Making use of publicly owned land for this type of activity is of significant benefit to the community. It is important that parkrun remains free to ensure barriers are not raised to participate.

Many councils charge for car parking at parkrun events and this is reasonable. Local cafes often benefit as runners socialise afterwards. Parkrun does not require exclusive use of facilities, and most of the activity takes place within just one hour, 8:45am until 9:45am every Saturday. The volunteers who organise parkrun events work with local authorities to agree where events should take place and on the routes to be used.

Where a parkrun event is so successful that a local authority considers the numbers to be an issue, rather than looking to restrict participation, neighbouring facilities should be encouraged to start a new event. Most runners taking part will use their local event most of the time – so having many events will help to alleviate pressure. In our area, Eastleigh was the first event to be set up, but there are now many parkrun events locally so although still very popular, the numbers for Eastleigh remain manageable.

A free, regular exercise event is a valuable resource for communities – and should be valued by the local authorities representing communities. “

### **Glebe Meadow Sensory Garden**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would invite quotes from companies or groups interested in redesigning the Sensory Garden in Glebe Meadow.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 7.30pm in the Parish Council Office, Riverside, Bishopstoke.**

**The next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee is on Tuesday 11 July, again at 7:30pm in the Parish Office.**

**The Planning Committee has meetings coming up on Tuesday 11 July, 25 July and 8 August. Planning meetings start at 7:00pm in the Parish Office, but the doors are open from 6:45pm for anyone that wishes to view the applications being discussed.**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council, Finance & General Purposes Committee or Planning Committee.**

*For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk: David Hillier-Wheal on 02380 643428; email: [bishopstoke.pc@btconnect.com](mailto:bishopstoke.pc@btconnect.com) or visit the Parish website at: [www.bishopstokepc.uk](http://www.bishopstokepc.uk)*