

Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 52nd Year of Publication

**March
1/ 17**

BEAN'S TALK

Issued free to every
Household in Bean.

Web site: www.beanvillage.org.uk

E-mail beanra@waitrose.com

We welcome all new residents to the village and to the Residents Association's Quarterly Newsletter.
Please feel free to contribute your thoughts, ideas and comments.

**The Next Residents Association meeting will Be held in the
Community Centre on Monday
March the 6th**

Message from the Fire and Rescue Service Page 19

Important Information regarding reporting crime. Page 6

Church news see pages 12.

Bean Community Bus Page 15

Highways England, Option 5.

Bean Interchange Pages 26 & 27

To contact the editor; e-mail: thebeanstalk02@gmail.com
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**THE COPY DATE FOR THE June 2017
BEAN'S TALK is the 1st May 2017**

Common abbreviations used in the newsletter

KCC Kent County Council

KHS Kent Highway services

Cllr. Councillor

NPM Neighbourhood Panel Meeting

DCLG Dept. for Communities and Local Government. **RA** Residents Association

DBC Dartford Borough Council

PCSO Police Community Support Officer

Some items of interest from the BRA meeting held in November and December

November

Secretary's report:

Ashley Johnson (Assistant Secretary) reported that there had been 38 items of correspondence on 11 topics since the previous meeting:

6 x KCC

2 x Highways England

3 x Paramount

2 x Northfleet Objectors

7 x DBC

1 x Beanstalk & History

3 x BPC & Country Park

9 x EDC

1 x Bluewater

1 x Meeting Notices

3 x Royal Oak

Bluewater expansion Outline Application:

20% expansion is planned, mostly in the West Village. Have passed on concerns raised at October presentation. Will consider further when detailed plans submitted.

Bluewater - road markings etc.:

Extra lane marking & signs suggested in Bluewater funded Study. Chase for Works date.

Parish Council:

- Country Park Steering Group - will meet soon to discuss next step
- Hope Cottages roundabout – lighting Faults. Now Super-Complaint; Paul Carter (Leader of KCC) is now asking why it has taken so long to repair lighting (1 year).
- Lorry parking in Stonewood - Letters between residents and DBC sent to the Local Government Ombudsman - awaiting a reply.

AOB:

- January 2017 RA Meeting - no meeting unless HE arranges a presentation.

- Crime figures - 18 Reported Crimes listed in Bean for August 2016.
- Email from PC Quilter confirms changes re police staffing levels - 1 Sgt, 2 PC's, and 4 PCSO's to cover Swanscombe, Greenhithe, Stone, Castle, Bean, Darenth, Longfield & Southfleet. PCSO Ruth Webb has moved to a new area. Number for Tony Quilter in BeansTalk. Awaiting contact numbers for the rest of team.
- Acrid smell coming from behind long building in Shellbank - bonfire?
- Fly-tipping - tyres by Community Car Park, Also, caravan and fridge-freezer in lay-by opposite Merry Chest Café.
- Brambles on footpath have been cut.
- Litter along path by recreation ground. Also, garden rubbish dumped by footpath between Drudgeon Way and High Street.
- Grass verge not cut beside footpath between Beacon Drive and Stonewood. Duncan Wood to raise the matter at next PC meeting.

December

Matters arising:

Road markings for the 3 roundabouts now re-scheduled for March 2017. Too busy now, due to Christmas.

Secretary's report:

Ashley Johnson (Assistant Secretary) reported that there had been 31 items of correspondence on 9 topics since the previous meeting:

2 x Police

4 x KCC

2 x Highways England

6 x DBC

1 x BPC & Country Park

11 x EDC

2 x Consultations

2 x Bluewater

1 x Meetings Notices

Updates:

- Beacon Dr /Drudgeon Way - 6 homes - not on Development Control Board Agenda.
- Royal Oak - Pond management - no details put in. Developer may also be in breach of other details - tree protection, soakaway proximity to sewer.
- Garden City - Board Meeting questions answered. 480 houses built so far. Redrow said that they had no plans for parking bays for vans at Ebbsfleet Green (former National Grid). Officers to refer back to Redrow about this matter.

- Bluewater West Village – Community Infrastructure Levy to ‘host’ Parish (i.e Stone Parish not BPC). See page 20 for more details.
- KCC programme for new signs and markings on roundabouts - to be completed by March 2017. Keep Clear at top of A2 exit at Hope Cottages missed off.
- Car Wash – 3-years extension of temporary permission. Garden City want more information on past service station use and regarding the drainage.

Consultations:

- Lower Thames Crossing – decision on location/ junction Options still not made.

Parish Council:

- Beacon Wood Country Park Steering Group - meeting to be arranged.
- KCC lighting faults Hope Cottages roundabout - temporary cable between lights. Unable to dig up road until after Christmas.

AOB:

- Refuse collections - mostly on time but some problems for Ightham Cottages. DBC say this was due to breakdowns of vehicles.
- Beacon Drive - power loss affected some even numbers. Hole in road. Still problems with water leaks - Thames Water are aware.
- Van parking Sunday survey - carried out in Bean. Found 42 vans/lorries in Bean. Sent figures to EDC in support of adopting DBC Parking Standard.
- Bean Community Bus – still going up to April 2017. Grant from council must be repaid if bus stops running. The Fair on the 3rd December, to raise money for the bus, was poorly attended despite notices being posted around the village.
- Crime figures for September not issued yet. People sending strong views re crime. CCTV has been suggested as ‘non-existent’ policing in Bean. When calling 101 hanging on for 20mins or more before a reply. A break-in at the Stonewood flats was reported via 999, but police did not attend. The PC has mentioned matter to Crime Support Unit at DBC.
- A letter has been sent to Kent Police Crime Commissioner regarding the above.
- A large motorbike was reported driving dangerously around Bean.
- Community Warden attends most Parish Council meetings
- Problems in Watling Street with drivers using both lanes to get onto the A2. It is 2- way from the Quarry entrance to the A2. Those living in Sandy Lane are having problems entering/exiting because of this. Concerned that a fatality is waiting to happen. Police are unable to help. RA will raise with KCC, EDC and DBC.

18 Reported Crimes in Bean August 2016

Location: On or near Category Outcome status

A296 Anti-social behaviour
B255 Criminal damage and arson Under investigation
B255 Vehicle crime Investigation complete; no suspect identified
B255 Violence and sexual offences Under investigation
Bramble Avenue Anti-social behaviour
Bramble Avenue Anti-social behaviour
Bramble Avenue Anti-social behaviour
Claywood Lane Violence and sexual offences Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Fallowfield Anti-social behaviour
Highcross Road Burglary Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Page Close Anti-social behaviour
Page Close Burglary Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Pedestrian Subway Criminal damage and arson Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Pedestrian Subway Vehicle crime Under investigation
Sandy Lane Anti-social behaviour
School Lane Violence and sexual offences Investigation complete; no suspect identified
The Thrift Anti-social behaviour
Turner Road Public order Under investigation

September 2016

B255 Vehicle crime Investigation complete; no suspect identified
B255 Violence and sexual offences Unable to prosecute suspect
B255 Violence and sexual offences Suspect charged
Bramble Avenue Anti-social behaviour
Bramble Avenue Anti-social behaviour
Bramble Avenue Criminal damage and arson Unable to prosecute suspect
Drudgeon Way Anti-social behaviour
Drudgeon Way Criminal damage and arson Unable to prosecute suspect
Page Close Criminal damage and arson Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Pedestrian Subway Vehicle crime Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Pedestrian Subway Violence and sexual offences Unable to prosecute suspect
Pedestrian Subway Violence and sexual offences Under investigation

Sandy Lane	Violence and sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect
Sports/recreation Area	Burglary	Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Stonewood	Vehicle crime	Investigation complete; no suspect identified
Turner Road	Violence and sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect
Turner Road	Violence and sexual offences	Unable to prosecute suspect
Turner Road	Violence and sexual offences	Suspect charged.

Policing the Village

PC Tony Quilter attended the Bean Residents Association meeting on Monday the 6th of February. He started by giving an explanation of what had been changing within the structure of the police within Kent. PC Quilter explained that different policing models had been implemented and evaluated, and changed again. He is now responsible for the area know as “Dartford rural area” which covers a wide area geographically, including Bean, Longfield, Sutton at Hone, Darenth, and some more as listed in the Decembers minutes overleaf. PC Quilter went on to explain the crimes that had occurred in Bean since the 1st of January 2017 to the current date of the meeting, he discussed 13 crimes and explained them, where possible what was happening with these. A number of questions were put to PC Quilter which he dealt with. There is a high level of what would be termed as Low level crime, antisocial behaviour, driving inappropriately (as raised at the meeting), the use of nitrous oxide and general misbehaving that happens and how that will be tackled with only reactive policing; which we seem to see today. Clearly we would all like to see regular police on the beat within Bean, but that isn’t going to happen with the current financial climate. PC Quilter did make it very clear however that we should continue to call 101 for all non emergencies, even if it takes some time to get an answer, as this will ensure an audit trail and be logged as a report. Remember if you didn’t tell them then it never happened! PC Quilter also encourages us to report things to Dartford Borough Council’s Crime support unit on 01322 343434.

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EBBSFLEET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Bean Residents Association; have asked a number of questions of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation at their monthly Board meetings. Following is a sample of the most pertinent questions and answers for the months of October, November and December 2016 Board Meetings.

Question:

In September 2015 it was estimated that reconfiguration of Northfleet landfill sites and their remediation for development purposes could be approximately £500 m. How much of the £310 m, 5-year, budget, will be spent on removal of contamination from the landfill area now proposed to become Ebbsfleet Garden City's "Central Park"?

Answer:

It is currently anticipated that none of the £310 million will be used on the removal of contamination in that area. Some EDC capital funding will be used to create parks within the Garden City.

Question:

The September Board Minutes record that, "KCC, Highways England and Land Securities had agreed to combine resources to undertake a major one off tidy up of the verges and highways ... in late September/early October". When and where was this done?

Answer:

Various works took place over a two-week period by both Land Securities and Kent County Council during the period from late September to early October. Land Securities work included the tidying up of the verges and roundabouts as you travel towards Eastern Quarry. Also, KCC covered a wider area of the road network within Ebbsfleet Garden City area during this same time period.

Question:

The 16th November 2016 Board Report said that the "programme spend for 16/17 is a forecast outturn of £15.1m" compared to the £39.1m Project Budget. What is the explanation for the anticipated £24m underspend?

Answer:

Developers are now moving forward at pace with their own schemes in Ebbsfleet Garden City and we are pleased to say that stalled sites identified for 16/17 investment by the EDC, now have interest in them from the private sector. We fully expect to see house builders develop those sites in the not too distant future. Because of this private sector involvement, less EDC capital investment is required in 16/17.

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St Nicholas at Bean



Here we are already well into 2017 and the first Sunday in March your church will have been in existence here in the village for 27 years. Our weekly Sunday service, from 10.00am is open to all, and is usually over by 10.45am. Coffee and tea is served afterwards and time for a chat. Children are always welcome. Come and celebrate with us.

It was very nice to see so many at the Carol Service last year. The Toys that were donated exceeded all expectations. We have received a letter of thanks from the 'Eleanor Children's Hospice Care' for your generous donation. Some of the gifts were wrapped up and handed out by Father Christmas at their annual Children's Christmas Party and others taken out to patients who were unable to attend the party.

We are expecting to continue the collection of woollies again this year. The closing date, sometime in July, will be posted in the next edition of the Bean's talk. If you enjoy knitting and would like to join contribute some of your handy work you would be most welcome. From time to time we are given a quantity of wool which is available to those who make the garments.

Once again 'Shoe boxes' are an important part of our giving to those in need. They can be brought to the Community Centre on a Sunday morning from 20th August until Harvest Sunday 8th October. If you are unable to complete a whole box then any suitable items will help us to make up more boxes.

Our contribution to the Milk bottle top collection for Prostate Cancer in December was of the order of ¼ Ton.

There is a weekly Prayer list at the back of the church each week which is for those known who are 'Sick and Bereaved' in the village. It is open to all to contribute the names of those known to them. These names are read out during our weekly services. If you know of any who would like their name to be included please get in touch and it can be added. Prayer is a very important part of the healing process.

SUNDAY SERVICE 10.00am Coffee 10.50am – 11.30am come for a chat, you would be very welcome

Don White

Spend your pounds!

It's time to raid your piggy banks and sofa cushions.

The current pound coin has only 6 months left before it becomes worthless.

The old coins will cease to be legal tender on 15th October.

The new coin is being introduced next month from the 28th March. It is a 12 sided coin and apparently is the hardest to counterfeit.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury has said "the public need to be aware of the October deadline because it is estimated £1.3 billion in loose change is sitting around in jars in homes across the country and around £400 million of that is thought to be £1 coins." Also don't forget the paper £5 notes are also going out of circulation this summer.



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Quick Quiz

1. All 'A' roads between the A2 and A3 start with the number 2 (A256) for example, between A3 & A4 start with a 3 and so on. Can you name an exception?
2. How many 'Roads' are there in Hartley
3. When did Bean first get electricity and mains water?

Send your Answers to the editor on the email on the front page, winners announced next edition

Archer Cottages

No. 12 Archers Cottages

Another house where the family stayed for the 1901/1911 period. Frederick Gardiner and his wife Alice Maud Gradwick were married 'at Northfleet Church on the 23 October 1892. He had come from Southfleet and she from Stone. Frederick the son of James and Maria Gardener was baptised at Southfleet 28 Feb 1869 and he lived in and around Southfleet and Northfleet up until his marriage. Alice daughter of William and Elizabeth Gradwick of Stone was baptised at that church on the 8 Dec 1872. She seems to have adopted the name Maud later in life. Phyllis Barnden was lodging with them in 1901 and she had previously been living in the EC Cottages until the death of her husband.

By 1911 Frederick was a carman in the Gunpowder Company and Alice was a farm worker. They had had no children, but adopted a son Leslie Ribbens. Leslie was still living at No 12 in 1933 when he married Frances Ludlow at Darenth. (Leslie born June 1903 in the Medway area) Leslie was buried at Stone Cemetery on the 1 June 1959 aged 56. He died at Joyce Green Hospital.

Frederick George Gardener a labourer aged 63 was buried on the 31 August 1932 at Stone Cemetery, to be followed by his widow Alice Maud Gardener aged 68 who was buried there on the 30 November 1940. Both were still living at No. 12.

Do You Know What The Community Bus Does?

Are you aged between 25 and 70 with a clean car licence? Can you spare a small amount of time a month? The Community bus is used on Thursdays to take people who would find it difficult otherwise; to the supermarket to do their weekly shop, it also runs day trips to places all over including the coast, and has a contract with a local disabled adult support group. It is a great community asset, but we are in danger of losing it if we have no drivers. Please think about what you could offer even if just once a month. The more people doing just a bit, is less driving to do, than if there are fewer drivers. Please contact Colin for further information or myself at thebeanstalk02@gmail.com

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Bea(co)n's Beacon

Since time out of mind people have wanted to pass on their news or gossip faster than and more accurately than they can by whispering it to the guy next door. There's the famous WW1 wireless message that set out from the front as: 'Send reinforcements, we're going to advance.' And was eventually received at HQ as: 'Send three and fourpence, we're going to a dance.' Well that may not be true but it does point up the need to get the message through accurately.

Since the Romans arrived on these shores – and probably long before – there has been some form of organised method of getting news from the coast to whoever was running the country's defences in unsettled times. Harold knew when Bill the Conk had landed at Pevensey in 1066 and for sure didn't have to wait for some wet and bedraggled messenger to arrive in York on a worn out nag, panting like there was no tomorrow. Now, I don't know how he got the message that brought him and his army force marching south to Hastings, but I wouldn't mind betting it was via a beacon – after all, there are Beacon Hills all over Britain, last lit up for the present Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Our very own Beacon Hill was one of the many that were recognised at the time of the Conqueror. Was there an official in the hamlet of Bea(co)n – yes, the good old Kentish glottal stop was in evidence even back in the days of the Domesday book – whose job it was to keep an eye on all the Beacon Hills he could see from the top of his drafty eyrie and to stick his always lighted torch into the bonfire that he always had to keep ready to light when he saw another beacon fire spring into life in any direction? Was he paid? If so, who paid him? Would he have been a royal official even? It was, after all, in time of war at least, a very important job. Did he have a tied cottage perhaps and a small army of spotters who worked for him? Or (more likely) was he part of an army squad camped there when invasion was expected? Perhaps that's how The Black Horse got its name?

Even from the top of Beacon Drive you can see well into the City of London and halfway back to Dover. You can be sure that the view from our Beacon Hill on a clear day would have been much better than that. The 'replica' that has been erected in Beacon Country Park is quite a long way from the actual site, which would have been on top of the long-since excavated spot height across the road from Bean School – some seventy or eighty feet in the air now above the birch trees on the floor of what became a clay quarry. Perhaps one day the authorities could be persuaded to re-build our hill with a bit of judicious land fill – now there's a project for someone!

JWT Bean, 8 Feb 2017



Stephen P. Gay

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Firefighter plea: "Make sure we can get through"

Tunbridge Wells firefighters have raised concerns about access issues, following several calls where poor parking in residential streets caused delays in getting their fire engine to incidents. Only last week, crews struggled getting to an emergency call in Brookfield Court and were forced to reverse out on to the main road, causing a delay in reaching the property. On the same day, double-parked cars and vehicles parked too close to junction in Springfield Road, Southborough brought the fire engine to a standstill while responding on blue lights to an incident in Springfield Road in Southborough.

Fortunately, both of these calls turned out to be false alarms, however crews are worried that it is only a matter of time before lives are put at risk because they can't

get through. Tunbridge Wells crew manager Keith Ward said: "The main problems we are finding are in the narrower residential side streets where we are encountering vehicles that are parked on junctions, making it impossible for our fire appliance to turn, as well as vehicles that are double parked making the road too narrow for a fire engine to pass. "We understand that parking can be tight and that people like to park as close as possible to their homes, but blocked roads are causing serious issues and it is worrying because as we know that every second counts when we attend emergency calls. He added: "We are pleading with residents to have more consideration and to think more carefully when they are parking about whether a fire engine, or any other emergency vehicle could get through. Remember, we could be on our way to a life-threatening incident -we might even be trying to reach you - and any delay caused by poor parking could have devastating consequences."



◀ 3.1m or 10ft gap to get through. ▶



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BLUEWATER WEST VILLAGE EXPANSION COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

A meeting of the DBC Cabinet on 27 October 2016 RESOLVED:
That 43% (to a maximum of £1.283m index linked) of the net CIL
receipts arising from development at Bluewater
(DA16/01207/OUT) be directed to the Kent Thameside Strategic
Transport Programme to fund highway improvements required to
support development in the Borough of Dartford.
This is likely to go towards funding improvements to the A2/Bean
and St Clements/London Road junctions.

Under CIL Regulations there is a 'local neighbourhood proportion'
(15% at present) of CIL. These monies arising from Bluewater approval
will be transferred to **Stone Parish Council** as it is in their area. The
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Debbie Crumpton
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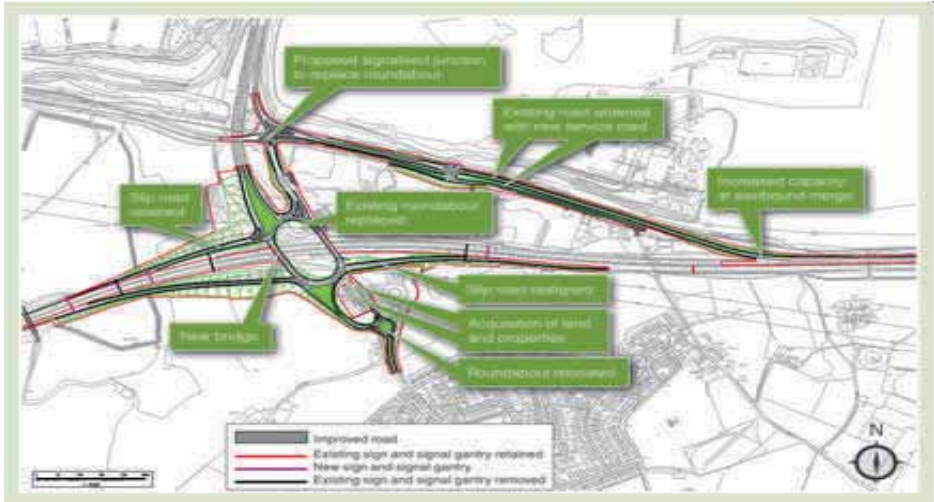
Joanne Danston, Dartford Borough Council Allocations Team on
01322 343378 or email **Joanne.Danston@dartford.gov.uk**

The homes are available to LA residents, over 55, on DBC housing register and have a care need. They could be another housing association tenant or in private renting. Home owners may be eligible if they are accepted onto DBC housing register.

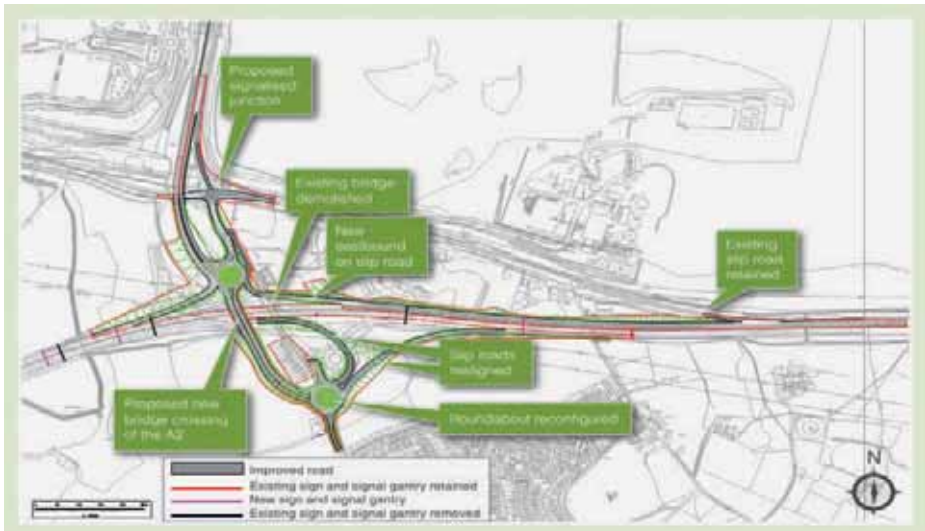
HIGHWAYS ENGLAND IMPROVEMENTS BEAN JUNCTIONS OPTIONS.

HE revealed their Short List on 18th Jan 2017. Consultation, ending 1st March, is only on **Option 5**.

Option 3: Rejected. Demolishes part of Hope Cottages



Option 4b: Rejected. Doesn't need demolition



Option 5: HE wants your views by 11:45 pm 1st March.
Their preferred option demolishes 1-11 Ightham Cottages



Details & questionnaire www.highways.gov.uk/a2be

WHY CALL 105?



Many people don't know they should contact their local electricity network operator if they have a power cut. They often mistakenly call the electri

That's why the electricity network operators have introduced 105 – to give you an easy-to-remember number to call that will put you through to the local people who can help.

You can call 105 no matter who you choose to buy electricity from.



VILLAGE ACTIVITIES and USEFUL NUMBERS.

The Bean Village Web site and e-mail addresses are on the front cover.

Phone Numbers 01474 unless shown otherwise.

POLICE

Emergency calls 999 /112	Non emergency calls	101
Neighbourhood Police Officer	Tony Quitter	07811 984126
PCSO Steve Keers		TBC

Dartford Borough Council and Kent Community Wardens

Crime Support Unit DBC	Mark Sailsbury	01322 343434
Community Warden.	Paul Hassell	07813 713285
Community Warden	Control Centre	01732 885712
Crime Stoppers		800 555 111

BYCC Hall Bookings

	Bean Parish Council	01474 832 999
Tuesday 4.00 - 7.00pm. Dance fever	Jo Regan	07927 196307
Wednesday 1.30 - 4.00pm. Young at Heart		Contact the committee
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.30pm. Cubs	Neil Warburton	707382
Wednesday 7.45 - 9.30pm. Scouts	Neil Warburton	707382
Thursday 5.00- 6.30pm. Brownies	Janette Williams	07908274153
Friday 4.30 - 5.30pm. McDowall Dance (Ballet)	Sarah McDowall	07940 205295
Sunday 10 - 11.00am. St. Nicholas Church,	Don White	705430
Mon - Fri 9.15 - 12.00 noon. Jumping Beans Pre-School	Allison Barrass	07771864937

Doctors

Swanscombe and Bean Partnership	Bean Surgery, High St. Bean.	707236
Dr. Langley	Beacon Drive, Bean	708672

Church

St. Nicholas Southfleet Serving Bean, Betsham, New Barn and Southfleet.

The Rector is The Rev David Houston 833252

Sunday Service is held in the Community Centre at 10am

Bean Residents Association

Bean Residents Association meets on the first Monday of the month at 8:15pm. in the Bean Community Centre. All Bean residents are welcome to attend.

Bean Parish Council.

E-mail Beanparishcouncil@btintenet.com

Bean Parish Council meet on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. in the Bean Community Centre. All Bean residents are welcome to attend. 832999

Oasis Counselling Centre

01322 294430

Free counselling for bereavement and help for those affected by suicide, pregnancy, crisis and post abortion, support for ex-offenders, advice and support for job-seekers, those affected by domestic violence, those in distress, befriending scheme, and parenting classes.

BEAN'S TALK is published by the BEAN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Correspondence to The Secretary, Linda Collins, 26 Turner Road, Bean, DA2 8BA.

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