

Newsletter of The Bean Residents Association

Our 53rd Year of Publication

**June
2/18**

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.

Bean Residents Association meetings pages 2-7
The Next meeting will be held in the
Bean Community Hall on the 2nd June at 8:15 pm

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To contact the editor; e-mail: thebeanstalk02@gmail.com
Telephone 01474 703 129 Lesleigh Cottage, High St DA2 8AS.

THE COPY DATE FOR THE September 2018
BEAN'S TALK is the 1st August 2018

Common abbreviations used in the newsletter

KCC Kent County Council

Cllr. Councillor

DCLG Dept. for Communities and Local Government.

DBC Dartford Borough Council

KHS Kent Highway services

HE Highways England

RA Residents Association

PCSO Police Community Support Officer

Items of interest from the BRA meeting's held on the 4th December & 5th February

December 2017

Police questions and answers:

Sgt. Dave Compton and PCSOs Alan Mitchell and Geena Bellows were welcomed to the meeting:

- Concerns over crime at underpass (Sandy Lane) - suggested that CCTV should be installed to help catch criminals - speak to David Headley (DBC).
- Reports that stones have been thrown at vehicles, vehicle/trailers dumped in lay-by (Watling Street) - police to speak to DBC.
- Police said that categories of crime are set by the Home Office.
- When contacting the Police about a break-in the caller should state their vulnerability (i.e., unable to secure property) to ensure a quick response.
- Anti-social and nuisance calls should also be reported.
- Residents should also share information with the local Community Warden.
- Fly-tipping in Bramble Avenue - Police to inform DBC.

All residents present thanked the police for coming. The visit ended at 8.10 pm.

Ebbsfleet Garden City:

Paul Boughen and Ian Piper from EDC where welcomed to the meeting.

- EDC talking with Health Organisations regarding health of residents - parks & open spaces without needing a hospital.
- Special housing to be built in EDC plus shared ownership and Housing Associations building homes.
- Ightham Cottages - will EDC or Highways England rebuild them?

- Public consultations to begin in February 2018. £45m to HE - some will be recouped.
- Continuing to work with stakeholders.
- Providing links across the area (FastTrack, cycle routes etc.).

We thanked Ian and Paul for giving their presentation. The visit ended at 8.55 pm.

Secretary's report:

Ashley Johnson (Assistant Secretary) reported that there had been 36 items of correspondence on 9 topics since the previous meeting:

- 4 x Police & Fire
- 7 x Highways England
- 5 x DBC
- 6 x BPC & Country Park
- 3 x Bean Triangle
- 7 x EDC
- 1 x CPRE
- 2 x Bluewater
- 1 x Meeting Notices

Updates:

Community Bus:

- Someone has come forward to help drive the bus.

Extra Road Markings and Signs Bean Interchange:

- Most are in place now, although some signs are still missing.
- Bluewater had paid for them.

Royal Oak:

- Passing place is not a parking space.
- 4 bed house for sale at £595k

Bluewater Forum:

- Various groups are providing food and shelter over the Xmas period for the homeless in Dartford area.

Consultations:

- EDC meeting on 14 November at Eastgate - waiting for copy of the minutes. Bid for £60k was rejected - bid to be resubmitted. BRA to press the matter.
- Next 2 meetings 9th January and 13 March - venues to be advised.
- **A2 Bean & Ebbsfleet Junctions** - 15 Nov 17, BPC & BRA met HE in Guildford. Formal Consultations delayed until February 2018 for a traffic update.

- **Eastern Quarry (West)** - Land Securities give way to objections to moving Market Centre next to Bluewater.
- **London Entertainment Resort** - Early 2018 Consultation?

Parish Council & Country Park:

- Parking problems in Bean were discussed. [Post Meeting Note: The Clerk arranged a meeting with Community Safety Unit Civil Enforcement Supervisor (Parking Services) on 16th January 2018. There are 7 parking officers working between 0800 and 1830].
- Country Park – Friends of Beacon Wood AGM the following week.

AOB:

- Damage to footways in Stonewood caused by Thames Water working- inform KCC.
- RA had raised a ‘non-case-specific’ question with MP about the Ombudsman process discriminating against private residents, but MP had asked for correspondence including decision of DBC. It was agreed to seek more information from DBC.
- Trailer of tyres & industrial rubbish skip left in Watling St. – Police to tell DBC.

February 2018

Cycling Forum & CPRE:

Those present welcomed Gary Outram and Mandy Garford from the Cycling Forum and Alex Hills from CPRE who is also Chair of Cycling Forum.

- Told it was early days for the Cycling Forum in the Dartford/Gravesend area. Other Cycling Forums already exist in Canterbury and Maidstone.
- Concerns over the proposed new Bean Junction - too dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists to cross.
- Would like to work with BRA and BPC regarding cycling safety.
- Have proposed more cycle routes to join up with existing routes.
- Some footways should be widened to allow for cyclists as well as pedestrians.
- The Forum will be meeting on Monday 19th February at 7 pm at the Cyclopark.

At the end of the talk all those present thanked them for coming.

Secretary's report:

Ashley Johnson (Assistant Secretary) reported that there had been 81 items of correspondence on 12 topics in the two months since the previous meeting:

- 3 x KCC
- 11 x HE
- 8 x Peninsula Management Group
- 10 x DBC
- 5 x BeansTalk & History
- 6 x BPC & Country Park
- 10 x EDC
- 1 x Consultations
- 5 x CPRE
- 1 x Meeting Notices
- 20 x BD/DW Application
- 1 x Royal Oak Pond

BeansTalk:

Keith Burgin (Editor) said that the March issue was a work in progress. Although the closing date had just passed he would accept more items. Need to check on advertisers who have not been Invoiced and payment due.

Updates:

- Road markings has been completed on all three roundabouts, except for the 'Keep Clear' marking at the top of exit slip road from the Medway Towns.
- Royal Oak pond - chase up email of 1 February.
- Beacon Drive/Ashwood Place - The planning condition is for 4 parking spaces - 2 for 2A Beacon Drive and 2 for 1 Ashwood Place. Some progress, but not yet compliant.
- Bluewater Forum – Highways England speaker very vague over proposals. EDC speaker said environmental improvements very important in Garden City. DBC Speaker - Plans for Town Centre improvements would be out for comment soon.

Consultations:

- EDC Bean Triangle Environmental Improvement Project - Met on 9 January at Eastgate. £60k grant approved, but Bean RA and BPC disappointed as it was not made clear what the money would be used for. The next meeting with EDC is on 13th March at Eastgate.

- BD/DW - 6 houses – On DBC Agenda for 6th February at 7pm - Ashley to speak.
- Ebbsfleet Green - Redrow don't want to allocate van parking spaces. Bean RA asked to comment and carried out survey of number of vans in Bean on a Sunday. Bean RA have sent in a report to EDC regarding van numbers.
- A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions - Formal Consultation starts on 21st February. Letters seeking ownership details sent to residents of Hope Cottages who thought they were outside the red boundary line. Ightham Cottages asked a 2nd time.
- London Entertainment Resort - Did not attend the Bluewater Forum. No date yet for public consultation.

Parish Council:

- Discussed with DBC delays with refuse collections. The service is contracted out. Trying to address the issue.
- Road at Ightham Cottages has recently been swept, after nearly 2 years wait.
- Community Bus - applying for a new bus. Would still like to have more drivers. Suggested we should include Southfleet which might get more drivers.

Crime figures for 2017 (Jan to Nov)

There were 167 crimes reported in 11 months in Bean - (46) Criminal damage & arson; (31) Anti-social behaviour; (29) Violence & sexual offences; (19) Vehicle crime; (16) Burglary; (14) Other theft; (7) Drugs; (4) Public order; (1) Other crime.

AOB:

- Lorry parking - Wrote to MP pointing out that Local Government Ombudsman can't deal with Housing land and Housing Ombudsman only deals with complaints from Council Tenants. MP asked for more details, but DBC Legal Dept would not let BRA meet Housing Officer. MP told information unavailable, so agreed to do without. Has passed to Dept of Housing & Local Govt and will revert.

- Highcross Junction - drainage blocked again - water running across junction – has caused skidding when it freezes - will report it to Kent Highways again.
- Abandoned trailer/skip/caravan in Watling Street and Sandy Lane. Will be reported again to DBC who pass to Kent Highways. KCC suggest Sandy Lane is un-adopted.

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When you park your vehicle on the road or pavement, what is the most important thing you think should be able to pass your vehicle later? Many people think it should be the Fish & Chip van!! Do you?

What are you going to do when you need one of the others? ***Please Think about how you park!***



University of the Third Age: - Meopham branch

“I was a little daunted about the retirement as I thought I would miss my work and my colleagues ...but since I joined the U3A I haven’t looked back” Sally

The University of the Third Age (U3A) is a national and international organisation for those no longer in full time employment. The Meopham branch opened in July 2015 and it has already attracted over 300 members from in and around the locale. You do not need to live in Meopham to join Meopham U3A!

Monthly meetings, usually with a speaker, are held in the St John the Baptist Church on the second Tuesday of the month from 2pm to 4pm and members also enjoy social activities such as coffee mornings, pub lunches, outings and theatre trips.

However, at the heart of every U3A branch are the opportunities offered to members to learn and to go on learning in a social context through the “groups”. Meopham U3A currently has 38 groups and their scope ranges from gardening to golf; music to money ; walking to wine appreciation ; and current affairs to computing; to name just a very few. The U3A philosophy is not about emulating Adult Ed by hiring a tutor, but rather works with the principal that that all members of a group are learning together and from each other. Once you become a member you can join as many groups as you like. New groups are starting all the time and you could even set one up if your particular passion is not yet covered.

Research suggests that being involved socially with others, making new friends and learning new skills really do support a happier, healthier and more fulfilling retirement. So what are you waiting for?

If you are interested in joining Meopham U3A please visit our website where you will find all you need including membership details, details of the groups, the social events and much, much more. The address is www.u3asites.org.uk/meopham

Visitors are very welcome to come along to one of our monthly members meetings or a coffee morning where you can find out more about the branch and meet with other members. Details of both the meeting and the coffee morning programme can be found on our website.

Membership forms can also be requested by email from:- memsecmeopu3a@gmail.com

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St Nicholas at Bean



The sun has at last decided to shine and hopefully the rain has gone to bed for a while. The sun is about to shine for the Parish of St. Nicholas Southfleet, which includes Bean. We thank God that a new Incumbent has been appointed. 'Josh Young' is to be Inducted on 25th May at 7.30pm in the Church at Southfleet. All are welcome to attend. His first service will be on the 27th May also at the church. We hope to see him at a Sunday service in the village during June

During the cold damp winter we are hoping that many of you will have had time to get to work with the knitting needles making various items for our Woollie Collection. Any such items can be brought to the hall on a Sunday morning between 9.30 and 11.30. Until 26th August.

BEAN VILLAGE HALL WOOLLIES EXHIBITION SAT. 1st SEPT. 12.00 – 2.30pm

Once again this year we will be collecting Shoe Boxes for Mustard Seed these can also be left at the hall on Sundays from the beginning of September until 6th October. These gifts are much appreciated by the children who receive them in the Third World.

We at St Nicholas at Bean cannot thank the Bean village community enough for all that they do as regards the charities we support. Those who pop in of a Sunday morning with wool, others with milk bottle tops, post cards, used stamps. It is wonderful and much appreciated.

Just a few more weeks now before the children break up from school and some of them will be saying goodbye to many school friends. The holiday season will then begin. We pray that whatever you have chosen to do the Lord will keep you safe. Take care, on all of your journeys both at home and abroad. Then come back and start all over again.

May God's blessing be upon you all.

Don White

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Down on the Allotment

After such a cold wet spring we are all hoping for a dryish warm summer. Planting is several weeks behind but many seedlings should be growing under cover and ready for planting now.



June is the time to plant out all the brassicas remembering that they like a firm non-acid soil. Crops such as cucumbers, marrows, courgettes and squashes can also be planted having been grown on from seed in the greenhouse. These prefer a well-drained soil, rich in humus. Runner beans, French beans and sweetcorn can also be planted out or started from seed. Beetroot and carrots can continue to be sown for a continuous crop through to October. Swedes should be sown by mid June to give a crop between November and February.

July can be quite a dry month, so regular watering will be needed to prevent crops from bolting. It is also the time to sow cabbages for next spring and to continue to sow salad crops.



August is the time to harvest most of the crops planted in the spring and early summer but you can still sow carrots, winter radishes and onion seeds (normally the Japanese variety) for overwintering.



Invitation to Join Neighbourhood Watch

Dear Neighbour,

I would like to inform you that I am currently looking to initiate a Neighbourhood Watch for Foxwood Road and Drudgeon Way in Bean area.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community activity in partnership with the police and associated agencies. It is a proven deterrent to reduce crime and the fear of crime, for example, a Neighbourhood Watch member is nearly four times less likely to be a victim of crime than a non-member.

It's your property, your community – help to make it more secure

At its most basic level, Neighbourhood Watch consists of a group of like-minded neighbours getting together to help reduce crime where they live and making their communities safer. It promotes community cohesion, improves awareness of crime prevention creating clear lines of communication to and from the police. It may also give you the opportunity to claim a discount on your household contents insurance premiums.

Consider the figures for Foxwood Road and Drudgeon Way between April 2017 and March 2018:

- Burglary – 6 (2no of these at a single property on Foxwood Road)
- Car Theft – 1
- Violence and sexual offence – 2

It's just a matter of watching out for each other and notifying suspicious behaviours from member(s) of the public to the neighbourhood Watch Coordinator who would later disseminate the information to the police, associated agencies and the property owner. For example, I recently warned my neighbour about a man who was looking over their rear fence while they were at work.

You can make a difference

If you are interested in being part of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation for Foxwood Road and Drudgeon Way, please send your request to beanneighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com

Considered an Advertisement?

Would you like to use the Beanstalk to advertise yourself or your service? We deliver to all properties in Bean four times a year. March, June, September and December.

Please contact the editor using the details listed on the front of this issue if you wish to place an advertisement

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HIGHWAYS ENGLAND CONSULTATION ENDED 4-APR-18 ON BEAN & EBBSFLEET JUNCTIONS IMPROVEMENTS

Many residents responded. Bean RA submitted 66 pages and said, “Traffic modelling has not yet been completed to support the Preferred Option”. Comments from KCC, DBC and EDC ‘agreed’: - “The documents published for consultation do not include updated traffic modelling or the Traffic Forecasting Report. Without this information, it is not known how the network would perform or whether the proposed designs for both junctions would satisfactorily accommodate the forecast traffic flows. Until such information is available for review, **KCC objects** to the current proposal on highway grounds”.

“**The Borough Council** is therefore disappointed to note that despite the lengthy discussions with Highways England regarding the improvements of these junctions and the Council’s comments at previous consultation stages there is still no further detailed assessment of the proposed schemes, particularly in terms of traffic modelling and capacity of the junctions, air quality impacts and noise impacts. Since these issues are fundamental to the Council’s consideration of the proposals, the Council **feels that it is unable to appropriately respond to the current statutory consultation**”.

“As evident from the submitted information and following a presentation by HE to the **EDC Board** on 21st March 2018, **the scheme is not yet underpinned by the results of updated traffic modelling**, particularly reflecting the impact of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. An assessment of the results of this traffic modelling will be required to inform comments on the details of the design and configuration of the junction and whether it would achieve the principal scheme objectives and build in sufficient long- term capacity and resilience”.

K9 Friends.

I have been asked by a number of our community, to remind people about a few things to do with our best friends. The first is; that while it is great to walk your dog off the lead, we need to be aware that we must be in control of them at all times. If everyone walked their dog's off the lead; especially the younger or less well trained, we could see ourselves with more of our best friends being hurt. Please be responsible and keep dogs on leads and where appropriate muzzled. It is also important to clear up after they have been for their constitutional, especially when on the pavements and paths. Free poo bags are available to anyone who asked while accompanied by a dog at the village hall on either the first or second Monday of the month, from 7:30 pm and 6:30 pm respectively

Although this is a bit late, we should also be respectful of other wildlife and live stock, especially sheep at this time of year. It is easy for a dog to pick up on the scent of a Lamb and vice - versa, both can become excitable and for the dog it can be more of a hunting skill; depending on the breed. If on the lead; they could then pull you over or slip the lead and chase. This is also a problem for the sheep too, if they get worried or knocked over this can be fatal for them. Please be responsible not only for the excrement of your best friend but also their behaviour while out and about.

Lets Talk Bus Stop Shelters

Ok; so the parish council are being offered some money by Kent County Council towards a new bus stop shelter should we want one!

Who wants one? and Where do you want it?

Let us know; and we can feed that back to the parish council. We have been told that it might be useful to have one near to, or on; Beacon drive around the junction with Stonewood or School lane. What are your thoughts?

Please send comments and suggestions to the editor on thebeanstalk02@gmail.com Who will pass these on to the Bean Parish Council



Your Residents' Association needs you. We are currently looking for someone to take on the roles of Vice-Chairman. The Residents' Association do a lot of work on behalf of this community and need your support to continue. If your able to offer some time come and speak to us at the next meeting (first Monday of the month at 8:15 pm in the village hall) or contact the editor, full details on the front cover. Use and support us or you risk loosing having this great resource.

Residential 'Call for Sites' and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) - Ended 1-Jun-18

Dartford Borough Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan. The 'Call for Sites' was aimed at site owners and land agents who hold an interest in potential housing sites within the borough of Dartford which may come forward over the next 15 years and beyond. The sites will be assessed by the council against the Dartford SHLAA Methodology and national guidance. This will identify potential sites for development in Dartford Borough.

Bean Bus Trips Contact Keith on 01474 703129 to book a place

3 rd August	Hastings £10 p/p
24 th August	Margate £10 p/p
10 th September	Southend £10 p/p

O'Yeh, O'Yeh, O'Yeh.

New Bean Bus on the Horizon!

The village of Bean is about to take delivery of a new community bus at the end of this month. Kent County Council offered one bus and a pot of money for local councils to place bids for thorough writing a business case, one council would be awarded the bus and the rest would be able to ask for a share of the capital. Our parish council applied for both. After meeting all the criteria (of which there were many) we were selected to be put forward to the final selection committee. The committee scrutinised all the entered bids and chose ours as the lucky recipient of a 2013 Mercedes sprinter bus.

Well done to the Parish Council for writing a winning case!

Drivers are still required to help drive the community bus (especially now we have a newer bus). Volunteers need to be older than 25 years and as young as 70 Years, hold a full licences (no specific entitlement is required) with class 'B', and you currently hold no endorsements.

Remember if we have a larger pool of drivers the regularity for someone to drive will be reduced, even if you could only drive once every so often, do one or two trips over the summer its all a great help. There are members of this community who rely solely on this bus to help them do there weekly shop. Unfortunately this can only be on one day of the week due to lack of available drivers, and therefore only to Morrisons, imagine how exciting it could be to offer more days and greater options; such as Dartford market or Lidle for example.

Please contact the Editor for more information or to have you name placed on the list of drivers. Either phone 01474 703 129 or Email on thebeanstalk02@gmail.com

I really don't know how to say this in any other way; other than, we need all of that great community spirit we see regularly on facebook supporting our friends and neighbours, whilst sat in our lounges turned into some get up and do something. This extends to more than just driving the bus, but its a start.



RED STREET GARAGE

Established 1960



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Oasis Counselling Service

Oasis Counselling Service

As of January 2018, the service is based at Bizniz Point, Crown House, Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1DZ, telephone number 01322 424509 / 07749 948407, website address www.oasiscounsellingservices.co.uk, email address info@oasiscounsellingservices.co.uk.

Oasis Counselling is a charity offering clients a professional, quality service. We cover general counselling issues, anger, depression, low self-esteem, self-harm, abuse, bereavement, and relationship issues and more. We also work with couples and families.

We don't have set fees but we do ask for a donation for each session. We value one-hour sessions at £45 each and £55 for couples. We appreciate people's honesty about what they feel able to donate, such that they value the service

VILLAGE ACTIVITIES and USEFUL NUMBERS.

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

POLICE

Emergency calls 999 /112	Non emergency calls	101
Neighbourhood Police Officer	PC Tony Quilter	07811 984126
PCSO	Linda Down	07772 226125

Dartford Borough Council and Kent Community Wardens

Crime Support Unit DBC	Mark Sailsbury	01322 343434
Community Warden.	John Newton	07974183693
Community Warden	Control Centre	01732 885712
Crime Stoppers		800 555 111
Power Cut		105

Bean Village Hall Bookings

	Bean Parish Council	01474 832 999
Tuesday 4:00 - 7:00pm. Dance fever	Jo Regan	07927 196307
Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30pm Zumba	Laura	07731 303925
Wednesday 1:30 - 4:00pm. Young at Heart	Contact the committee	
Wednesday 5:00 - 6:15pm. Cubs	Amanda King	07715 169250
Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00pm. Scouts	Neil Warburton	01474 707382
Thursday 5:00- 6:30pm. Brownies Sabrina	1stbeanbrownies@mail.com	07789647970
Thursday 7:30 - 8:30pm Fitsteps	Kay	07751 497716
Sunday 10:00 - 11.00am. St. Nicholas Church,	Don White	01474 705430
Mon - Fri 9:15 - 12:00 noon. Tues, Thurs & Fri 12:30 - 3 pm Jumping Beans Pre-School		
Karen Hastings	07981520446	

Doctors

Swanscombe and Bean Partnership	Bean Surgery, High St. Bean	01474 707236
Dr. Bora	Beacon Drive, Bean	01474 708672

Church

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

The Rector post is currently vacant 01474 833252

Sunday Service is held in the Bean Village Hall at 10am

Bean Residents Association

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

Bean Parish Council.

E-mail Beanparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Web Page <https://www.hugofox.com/community/bean-parish-council-13254/bean-parish-council/>

Bean Parish Council meet on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. in the Bean Village Hall. All Bean residents are welcome to attend. 01474 832999

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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