

Beeston Regis News

A Periodical Newsletter Published by Beeston Regis Parish Council

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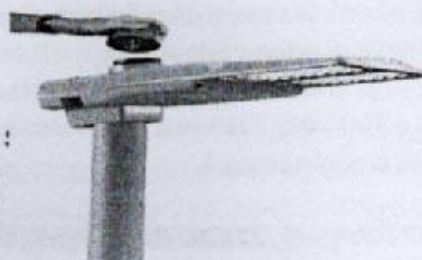
Welcome to another edition of Beeston Parish News.

May we firstly extend our very Best Wishes for a Happy New Year to all our Residents.

We also take the opportunity here to inform you of some recent and current matters relating to the Parish, which we hope you will find of interest.

We have to begin with a necessary cost increase, but hopefully it gets better!

Michael Knowles, Chairman.



Street Lighting.

Beeston Regis Parish Council

Meetings are normally held monthly at the Scout HQ by the railway bridge as you approach West Runton. Please see back page for full contact details.

Parish Council Website

Just type beestonregis.org into your address bar and you should go straight to it.

All the relevant Council information is there – minutes, agendas, and lots of links to local organisations and loads of useful information...and some nice photos too!

We have 58 street lamps in the Parish – a lot for a small Parish - and we need to keep them working. In 2013 the Parish Council completed the change to power saving and environmentally friendly LED lamps. This was partly financed by the Parish Council with some help from the Scira Windfarm Community Fund, an initiative that at the time resulted in a 60% reduction in our ongoing electricity costs. These lamps came with a 10-year warranty which expired at the end of 2023. Whilst we do not anticipate multiple failures for a number of years yet, we feel it prudent to make provision for replacements as and when they will be needed. The full cost of this will fall on the Parish Council as grants for the replacement of the lamps are unlikely to be available.

I am sure you will agree that as it is uncertain as to when failures may occur, it is sensible for the Council to address this and build up some reserves for the future. Accordingly, your council have decided to increase* the annual precept in this respect by up to £1500 (an amount that will currently fund only six lights). Several other costs borne by the Parish have also risen sharply in recent years and for the first time since 2017 our precept will increase from its current level of £12,500. This increase may appear on your Council Tax bill as an increase of around 12%, but that equates to a cost of approximately 8p per week for a Band D Council tax payer – less than £5 a year – a small price to pay to keep the lights on in the Parish. (*A final decision on the precept amount will have been decided at our January meeting.)

The Beeston Regis Charities of Edmund Hooke and Unknown Donor.

The Charities were founded 300 years ago by Edmund Hooke, a wealthy wool merchant, to help those in need living in Beeston Regis or within the ancient parish of Beeston Regis (which stretched to Beeston Road in the west). So if you, or your family living with you, are in need of financial assistance the Charities may be able to help. Grants may be made for a variety of needs such as provision or repair of necessary equipment, unexpected expenses associated with illness or bereavement and the like, including costs of visiting loved ones in hospital. Unless due to sudden and unforeseen problems the Trustees are unable to make grants to clear existing general debts such as Council Tax etc. However, in these uncertain times where we are all facing different financial issues we may be able to help so please do not hesitate to ask.

All enquiries will be treated in the strictest of confidence. In the first instance contact the Parish Clerk - Peter Bullimore, 24 Beech Avenue, Sheringham. NR26 8NS 01263 822864 or e mail beestonpc@btinternet.com

Norfolk County Council MOBILE LIBRARY

Sadly, despite representations from your Parish Council, we were unable to keep the Mobile Library stops in the main settlements of Regis Avenue, Caxton Park, Abbey Park and Priory Close. However, the Council has managed to retain the stop in Church Close, just over the bridge on the way to Cromer – the Library pulls in every 4 weeks on a Thursday between 15.50 and 16.05 (10 minutes to 4pm and 5 minutes past 4pm in old money). There is room to park.

The dates for 2024 are **Thursdays - 25 January, 22 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 5 September, 3 October, 31 October, and 28 November.**

This information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent or temporary basis. For all enquiries about this route **CEN 412 please call 01603 222303**

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS AT NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Do you want to find out about local community groups and services?

Do you need financial or emotional assistance?

Would you like some more information about food hubs and warm spaces?

Are you new to the area and would like to meet people or maybe volunteer?

Do you run a group and would like help with promotion and support with funding?

If so, please get in touch with your local community connector.

For further information please see the leaflet enclosed with this newsletter

New Public Right of Way.

Beeston Regis has recently acquired a new Public Footpath! Passing southwards from our Footpath No. 10 to the A148, it connects our network with "Benington's Lane" (BR No.15) on the south side of the A148.

Walkers familiar with the area will be aware that there has long been a footpath there but it has only recently been officially designated a Public Right of Way. Many thanks to Norfolk Gravel for their work on this!

On Thursday 6th June 2024 the Nation, along with our allies, will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings on the Normandy beaches. At 9.15pm, throughout every corner of the UK, there will be a Beacon Lighting Ceremony and Beeston Regis will be taking part. Our beacon will be lit in the churchyard of All Saints with spectators able to watch in safety from the adjacent Church Field.



As part of the commemoration the Parish Council will be planning a concert in the church prior to the lighting of the Beacon, which will feature songs and music of the period by local musicians and we hope the audience will join in- 'We'll meet Again,' 'White Cliffs of Dover' etc. – a touch of the "Vera Lynn's" perhaps!

Sadly, there are now only a very small number of veterans alive who took part in the landings but many of you may have a relative or friend who took part and we would like to remember them at our concert, whether they gave their lives or survived.

Please get in touch with our Vice Chairman Roy Beckley – 01263 837619 or gwroybeckley@gmail.com with some details.

RESPONSE TO THE BIODIVERSITY DUTY

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance requires all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024. They must agree their policies and objectives as soon as possible after this and must reconsider the selected actions within five years of completing their previous consideration, or more frequently if they choose.

To comply with the guidance, town and parish councils should note what action they are already taking to conserve and enhance biodiversity and agree what further steps they should take to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

We will be addressing our responsibilities to this matter over the coming months, which will include reviewing what biodiversity or nature recovery plans are already in place from other local authorities, e.g. potential for jointly-supported wildlife corridors, and drafting an action plan that covers matters that the council could take upon itself as well as supporting the actions of other bodies.

Whatever action is agreed, as a minimum we should ensure that we address biodiversity concerns when commenting on planning applications.

Any input from residents will be most welcome - we are especially interested in any ideas for Daisy Green that may help comply with the objectives.

BEESTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL

as at December 2023

Councillors:

Mike Knowles (Chair)	3, Caxton Close, Beeston Regis, NR26 8SU	01263 825995
Roy Beckley (V-Chair)	Nightingales, Church Close, West Runton, NR27 9QY	01263 837619
Maisie Wright	Heathside, Britons Lane, Beeston Regis, NR26 8TP	
Chris Goodwin	14, Hillside Road, Beeston Regis, NR26 8TT	
Ralph Smith	13, Britons Lane, Beeston Regis, NR26 8SJ	
Nick Wright	Heathside, Britons Lane, Beeston Regis, NR26 8TP	
Stephanie Kent	12, Caxton Close, Beeston Regis, NR26 8SU	
Ian Hudson	The Cottage, Church Close, West Runton, NR27 9QY	
Neal Wyld	15, Robyns Road, Beeston Regis, NR26 8YJ	
Michael Butt	24, Abbey Park, Beeston Regis, NR26 8SR	
Peter Thorogate	34, Abbey Park, Beeston Regis, NR26 8SR	

Clerk:

Peter Bullimore	24, Beech Avenue, Sheringham, NR26 8NS	01263 822864
e-mail: beestonpc@btinternet.com	website: www.beestonregis.org	

Norfolk Gravel – Britons Lane Quarry.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with the operator regarding the regeneration of the worked-out areas of the quarry. You will probably be aware that an extension to the East is now in full swing – this is technically in Aylmerton – but the old areas are part of a significant regeneration scheme. There is already a plethora of wildlife taking up residence, the highlight so far being swans nesting on a small island in one of the lagoons that has been created. Five cygnets were produced: sadly, only one survived. The overall plan spans a number of years and is not due for final completion until into the 2030s, but it is progressing well and is already very impressive. As it is still a working quarry public access is not yet available, but we will continue to watch developments with interest.

Recycling Centre.

As yet, no final decision has been forthcoming regarding the proposals for the new and relocated centre. There has lately been significant opposition from a number of our local District Councillors, and we must await the final outcome from Norfolk County Council. Beeston Regis Parish Council, whilst accepting the need for an improved facility, has expressed concerns regarding the fact that the new site is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the impact on the adjacent Hilltop Centre and our main issue being the proposed new traffic layout, which we feel will direct even more traffic into Britons Lane. It is ultimately a matter for the County Council and we must await a final decision

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