

OTHER NEWS...

The Parish Council Event's Committee are busy planning a village celebration for Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. The event will take place on Saturday 4th June at various locations - Brookley Road, Brockenhurst Village Hall and Brockenhurst Football Club. There will be live music, displays, refreshments, community group stalls and various activities. Sounds like it will be a great event!



 Brockenhurst Celebrates



New Forest for Ukraine is a group of like-minded volunteers who are united by their passion to do something to help. They have been receiving donations from a network of collection sites across the forest, including Setley Ridge Farm Shop and Industrial Heaters in Brockenhurst. They transfer

these donations to a sorting hub and pack them ready for distribution to Poland and Ukraine. They have already sent 17 vans of donations and have various fundraising initiatives running. But they need more. Please visit their website to see how you can help.

www.newforestforukraine.co.uk



After a two-year absence the New Forest Show is back and promises to be better than ever. It will feature many of its usual attractions, along with a few additional highlights introduced specially for its comeback. There is also a focus on interactive educational activities during which the whole family can get involved and have a fantastic day. Dates for the show are 26th, 27th and 28th July 2022. Tickets are on sale now via the website:

www.newforestshow.co.uk



SPRING MEETING

Tuesday 24th May 2022

Exhibition Room, Village Hall, Brockenhurst

Drinks & Nibbles from 7.00pm
Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Guest Speaker Jonathan Gerrelli

“The Work & Role of the Verderers and Agisters
in the New Forest”

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

A recent study calculated that the New Forest, recently voted the best national park in Europe, attracted over 15 million visitor days each year. To use official speak - This means there are more visitor days per square mile of protected conservation area than any other English national park. In ordinary language this means that there are more boots trampling over supposedly protected ground with risks to fauna and flora.

(I know, I know - surveys show that visitors tend not to stray too far from car parks but never let the facts ruin.....!)

The figures are probably conservative as we all know that visitor numbers have increased dramatically due to “stay-cation”. Looking ahead, when the additional 130,000 new dwellings are built within 25 km of the New Forest, then visitor numbers may well be “off the chart”.

Unfortunately, increased visitor numbers have seen a serious increase in illegal and damaging behaviour that harms the national park. Indeed, this type of behaviour affects all national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Local media have reported on this in recent times and FoB has added its voice on occasion.

A recent survey by our friends at New Forest Association showed a myriad of offences. They highlighted a lack of understanding of New Forest byelaws and, indeed, a lack of enforcement.

The offences included litter, dog mess, parking on verges, cycling away from the designated tracks, BBQ's, fly-tipping and many others. All of these breaches are harmful to the flora, fauna and tranquil nature of our national park.

However, it is easy to moan.



On the positive side, the New Forest Litter Pickers group are doing a sterling job. Of course, it is a pity that the group has to exist at all but exist they do and Brockenhurst is certainly looking all the better for it.

Increased use of signage has decreased many contentious breaches such as BBQ's and parking on verges. Although we don't like the idea of more signage we have to accept that needs must when the devil drives.

Of course extra footfall is beneficial to our local businesses - as long as visitors don't come with flasks, sarnies and sleeping bags! Sometimes we forget that visitors are so beneficial to our businesses and help to keep small shops etc flourishing in our village. So, despite the flog 'em and hang 'em views of your writer, from a business point of view - the more the merrier.

FoB does not pretend to have all the answers (leaving aside flogging and the rack!) but would like to hear your views.



SPRING

NEWSLETTER

2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR,

It is with great pleasure we welcome you to our Spring Newsletter. This is the first Newsletter where we have had the opportunity to send you a message since we both took office.

Although COVID is still with us, thankfully many of the restrictions have been removed, enabling everyday life to resume to some form of normality. However, your committee has been continuing to get involved in work on various aspects of our Village, so that it maintains its character and charm whilst adapting, where necessary, to the modern world.

We continue to support local organisations with donations and recently we have been able to help Brockenhurst Gateway Club, Brockenhurst Primary School Forest School project and Windmill Boldre Riding for the Disabled.

We are holding our Spring Meeting, with a guest speaker, in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 24th May at 7pm and we look forward to welcoming you at this event.

We cannot continue our work without the support of our members, to whom we are very grateful. If you are not a member, do please join. Membership details can be found in this Newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

Rachel Smith
President

David Eley
Chair

email: info@friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk

www.friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk



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PLANNING & TRANSPORT

Planning. The period under review has been largely uneventful. The exception has been the ongoing saga of the old Redmayne site in Station Approach.

The original application was to re-develop the existing site into an area of nine houses, four retail units and five office units. These numbers meant no affordable houses needed to be offered and a similar number of jobs would exist as previously. It attracted a significant number of objections including the Parish Council and ourselves. Despite this, permission was given.

A further application was then submitted to abandon the offices and shops and build more dwellings. The applicant claimed there was no market for offices and retail outlets although the statistics used to justify this were largely available at the time of the original application.

Had the original application been for all housing then the Local Plan recommendation of 50% affordable (75% of those for rent) would have been applicable. Developers would have far more difficulty in getting round this by offering cash donations in lieu.

The planned houses will be “expensive” - after all, Brockenhurst is the most expensive village for housing in the New Forest, and, indeed, Hampshire, with average house prices around the £900 thousand mark. People that can afford such properties tend to have two cars. The provision for parking at the site is contrary to policy and the advice of Hampshire County Council. Thus, more cars to be dumped on our Village at a time when the Village is taking a serious look at the parking problem.

As the FoB representative said at the National Park meeting “The Village feels cheated over this matter. From a 100% employment site we have got no jobs, no social affordable housing and a parking problem. We are disappointed with the Authority if this is the best that they can negotiate.” After a very lengthy debate at the National Park’s planning committee passed this application by six votes to four. Gordon Bennett!!

Transport. The period has been dominated by Railway Bridges. Bridges along the disused Ringwood line used by cyclists remain missing or closed. This is a Forestry England responsibility but FoB have been unable to obtain any information on when they might be restored.

The substantial concrete footbridge at the end of North Road in closed due to some movement in the footings. While the movement is not disputed, it is difficult to believe the weight of a couple of pedestrians will cause it to collapse and, if it’s that fragile, why trains are allowed to continue to pass under it.

The weight restrictions on the railway bridge in Sway Road has been changed to allow HGVs to cross it to Latchmoor and the old 7 tonne limit has been changed to 7.5 tonnes. **This is tantamount to creating a Heavy Good Vehicle route through the centre of the village**, along Grigg Lane, with its college students, across the Brookley Road junction and along Sway Road with its school and frequently killed stock. FoB have joined others in trying to reverse the situation and your help would be appreciated.



There is still time to object to this traffic order and anyone wishing to do so should contact info@friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk for details.

OUR VILLAGE – THE FUTURE

In our Autumn Newsletter we discussed the future of our village particularly Brookley Road.

This was a popular subject for villagers as was witnessed by the high turnout at our AGM in November when four speakers gave their own views on this subject.

We also mentioned that FoB was instrumental in joining with other village societies to attempt to come up with a long-term plan for Brockenhurst. The committee, now known as Village Concept, consists of representatives from FoB, Brockenhurst Business Association, the Parish Council, Greener Brockenhurst, Brockenhurst College and a lay member.

Hampshire County Council was asked to provide a representative. However, no one was forthcoming but we are keeping them informed with progress.

This committee is unofficial but if/ when a plan can be decided it will be passed to the Parish Council and, hopefully, Hampshire CC.



Following the result of their feedback survey, Hampshire CC came up with their own “temporary” plan to “improve” the cycle racks in Brookley Road particularly outside Tesco. Temporary means not more than five years.

We believe the effect will be to make the area outside Tesco’s somewhat like a village square. This, in the view of FoB, is not unattractive although we continue to feel that the cycle racks are in the wrong place.

The committee mentioned above has met a few times although it is too early to report any concrete ideas. The approach has been to investigate all areas carefully and come to a consensus. With the eclectic mix of the committee it would be thought possible to find conflicting views. However, the experience has been very positive and collaborative.

The committee is agreed that the main shopping area of Brookley Road is looking rather sad and in need of rejuvenation. Our attention is currently on how to improve the look and ambience of this area. As said before, it is too early to report concrete ideas.

Watch this space!



COMMITTEE

President: Rachel Smith | Chair: David Eley
Hon Secretary: Ross Mitchell | Treasurer: Tim Angel
Planning Secretary: Graham Baker

Additional Committee Members:
Gerald Parker, Philip Butt, Bronya Szatkowska,
Sarah England, Michelle Kirwan
Contact number: 01590 623197

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The Society exists to protect, improve and develop the character and amenities of Brockenhurst and the surrounding forest area for the benefit of the residents of the village and of the wider community.

It shall concentrate especially, but not exclusively, on matters relating to planning, environment and the welfare of the community and will seek to influence local and other government bodies to advance its objectives.

In particular, it shall carry out regular and detailed reviews of all regional, structure and local plans, together with significant local planning applications, making representations as appropriate.

The Society also aims to invite speakers on matters of interest to its AGM and Spring meetings.



email: info@friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk
www.friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk

BECOME A MEMBER...

Membership of the Friends of Brockenhurst is open to all residents of Brockenhurst and the surrounding forest area. Our annual subscription is currently a minimum of just;

£7.50 per single person OR £10.00 per family

Subscriptions in excess of the minimum are always very welcome, and we thank those that continue to do so.

Membership forms and Standing Order forms are available to download from our website and can be returned to us or taken to Pot Pourri Gift Shop in Brookley Road:

www.friendsofbrockenhurst.org.uk/membership