

TITCHFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

MARCH NEWSLETTER

The Neighbourhood Plan

Government Initiative - We were due to ask you, the residents of Titchfield boundary plan area, for your views on the Plan. We are required by the Government to provide 6 weeks of public consultation. We had everything booked to begin in April. Unfortunately, the present Government published some new guidelines on 8th March effectively stating that they require councils to recommend many additional houses. We met with FBC last week. They are going to read all the information thoroughly and then we will meet them again mid-April.

Although it may not be ideal as far as FBC local plan is concerned, we hope we will still be able to get our plan checked by the examiner and voted on in the referendum before the end of the year when the guidelines are due to change. Watch this space!

The Plan - We recently sent our Neighbourhood Plan to the government assessors for a health check. Although there were quite a few comments, these were really minor, and overall we were extremely pleased with the outcome. We are currently working through the suggested changes and hope to let FBC have it by the beginning of April when they will have a pre-examination/consultation look for us.

Church Fete - if all goes well, we will start our public consultation on the Plan on 12th May at the Fete. What we will want to know is 'Does the policies in the Plan benefit the community'.

Ten reasons to support a Neighbourhood Plan

- ✓ It gives the community a real say in its future
- ✓ It is an official document that sits alongside the Council's Local Plan
- ✓ It sets future housing policy for the neighbourhood
- ✓ It preserves village life and amenities
- ✓ It ensures Titchfield remains a vibrant and sustainable community
- ✓ It respects the history and heritage of the area
- ✓ It helps address traffic and parking issues
- ✓ It ensures any approved development should be sustainable, with a commitment to renewable energy
- ✓ It ensures any funds arising from future development are used to the benefit of the community
- ✓ **Without a Neighbourhood Plan the area would be under threat of significant development as is the case with Portchester and Warsash.**

(Both these two areas plus Stubbington have been in touch with us for advice as they are looking into the possibility of producing their own plan in the future.)

The Forum

In the early days of the Forum we split into groups - Housing, Traffic & Parking, Historic Titchfield and Presentation and Promotion of the village (P & P). All groups worked independently but met up from time to time to report on progress. Two areas that have developed from the P & P group are:

Village in Bloom

Village in Bloom formed a committee of seven enthusiastic members. Our one aim is to involve as many of the residents of Titchfield in the project to brighten and improve the presentation of this wonderful place. Last year we started from scratch and planted pots and containers, involved schools, businesses and groups. The result staggered us as the residents in huge numbers put out displays and flags and supported in so many ways.

Our own village awards ceremony was a lovely evening and celebrated winners and supporters. This year we are working very hard to sustain what we have achieved and to aim for the highest award in S.E England but most of all to make the area a delight for everyone. With your help we can do it!!

This Saturday 27th March we are having an Easter fun morning in the Parish Rooms from 10 til 12. Come in and see what we are aiming for this year and give us your ideas while having a cup of tea and a hot cross bun.

Emblem

The group, led by Sean Searight, has worked hard to produce an emblem which represents the image of the village. This emblem is well on its way to being the finished article but here is the story so far:

A group of 3 locals met in Autumn 2017 for many informal meetings in the Queen's Head pub! The mission, other than enjoying a good drink, was to try to develop a **"Symbolic Identity for the Ancient History of Titchfield"**. Initially a coat of arms was suggested, but the College of Arms in London stated a large licensing fee would be incurred. It was decided that an emblem was the best way ahead and sketches started on beer mats with the aid of Chris Cook, a local sign maker and artist, and then transferred onto a hi-tech computer with numerous amendments from our tireless web designer Stephen Smith. Sean Searight has since quoted: "the pub is the house of learning and where all business is best done!" To cut a long story short, a draft village emblem has now been designed wrapping all the ancient history as best as possible without overpowering the emblem. Many thanks go to our fourth musketeer and well-respected historian Ken Groves who sagely advised on the ancient historic past. We are now awaiting details regarding copyright before it can be released in the public domain, but village members will soon be able to have sight of this representation of our wonderful village.

The village members will be asked to vote on the emblem which we hope will be available at the Church Fete, our next Open Day and on the website - watch this space. Once approved, there is potential for exciting marketing prospects to generate income for the village as well as attractive entry signs with the village emblem incorporated into a raised curved crest on the sign.

The Bonfire Boys tell us there will be no carnival again this year due to legal and insurance difficulties. They are, however, organising many events throughout the year. The first one is an Easter Fun Day on 1st April in the Parish Rooms between 12pm and 4pm. **You can find them on Facebook: Titchfield Bonfire Boys.**