

# COMPTON BASSETT MATTERS

## SUMMER 2018



*Dear Neighbours*

*Welcome to the second issue of Compton Bassett Matters, the printed newsletter from Compton Bassett Parish Council. It is just over twelve months since you elected us to represent your interests and during this time we have been busy. You may recall you kindly gave us your feedback on key matters of concern with a survey undertaken in 2017. We have taken on board your feedback and since then much has happened to respond positively to those areas of interest.*

### **Update:**

**Communication:** There is now a concise and accessible email summary of key issues discussed at each Parish Council meeting circulated electronically after each meeting. Council minutes are also published on the Compton Bassett website which reports on matters affecting the village but is totally independent of the PC. The 'Parish Matters' newsletter in printed format is being produced taking an overview approach to areas of interest that cannot be covered in so much depth in the regular email. This is distributed free of charge to all householders. The Villages magazine, a monthly publication which is not under the remit of the Parish Council, also contains helpful updates and news on the village.

**Broadband:** Over the last twelve months new SuperFast Broadband (SFBB) has been installed in the section of the village serviced by Calne exchange. The infrastructure and network has been provided by Wiltshire Council and BT Openreach at no cost to the village and the PC has worked hard to develop a positive rapport between the funders and the village. This has given a new lease of life to many who have suffered with little or no connectivity in the past and is a huge improvement for those that have it.

However, the section of the village serviced by Hilmarton exchange is still without SFBB connectivity and the PC is working with Wiltshire Council to ensure they have an equivalent service as soon as possible. This month it has been confirmed that Gigaclear will be undertaking surveys this summer to map out the engineering programme with works designated to begin around November 2018 with complete service up and running by March 2019. We have also investigated a fall-back solution should Gigaclear not fulfil their undertaking and are in discussion with Wiltshire Council regarding this option.

**Road Management:** This was a key concern of interest in the survey and the PC has worked hard with stakeholders including Wiltshire Council and the CATG (Calne Area Transport Group) to try and improve both road quality and the management of vehicles travelling through the village. There have been two major achievements so far: getting new 40 mph signs installed and ensuring that the initiative was majority funded externally rather than using our own funds which due to diligent research, we discovered, were not required. Initial reports that cars have reduced their speed is encouraging. Additional signage will be installed on the A3102 to direct rogue lorries away from the village. This is planned for the end of July and will also be externally funded by Hills Waste Management. New white lines have been applied on Goodenough Corner following our request and as part of the traffic management by Wiltshire Council.

Pot holes are still a cause of disquiet and working with the Parish Steward there is a regular ongoing attempt to patch up the road. However, a key objective now is to gain complete road resurfacing throughout the village but as you can imagine there is a long list of towns and villages in Wiltshire who require the same funding to meet a similar objective. We are working hard to resolve this matter with Wiltshire Council and it is a priority issue!

### **Survey results from the Annual Village Meeting**

This year's annual meeting gained a strong attendance and we conducted a survey to establish views on various topics from those present, which was a representative group of around 30% of the registered electorate in the village. Comments are shown with action points for the PC where appropriate.

#### **Road through the village**

Too many potholes: - *PC to contact Wiltshire Council re ongoing programme of road maintenance via the Parish Steward with eventual re-surfacing of the whole road requested.*

New 40 miles an hour signs. Those surveyed were very supportive of the new signage. Some respondents questioned whether it will be extended in future. —*PC to keep under advisement and review effectiveness of new signage.*

There was support for imminent new signage on A3012 to stop HGVs from using Compton Bassett as a short cut - *Date for implementation – planned for late July.*

Some concern about disappearing verges. Respondents asked if the width of the road could be reduced near the pub or village-hall to help slow down traffic - *PC has investigated sleeping policeman options or the installation of chicanes and the cost would need to be borne by the community although implemented by the highways department. The costs are prohibitively expensive.*

#### **Phone box**

Several responses mentioned this being moved to a safer and more useable location by the bus shelter for instance. - *PC has reviewed option of removal and repositioning. The cost is prohibitive at this time.*

Suggestion was made by respondents to use it for advertising or as a planter for flowers. *PC is reviewing with special attention to ongoing maintenance and upkeep.*

#### **Village Pond**

Several of those surveyed asked for the village pond to be renovated and tidied. - *PC has noted and will establish ownership and explore options and costing for ongoing maintenance if appropriate.*

## **Annual Village Meeting**

Unanimous support shown in survey for the new format Annual Village Meeting. Attendees were very impressed with the representative speaker from the North Wiltshire AONB and his presentation. - *PC will repeat the successful format and source a new speaker for next year as well as to look at enhanced refreshment requests.*

## **Miscellaneous suggestions for improvements outside of the remit of the Parish Council:**

### **Village Hall roof replacement**

The survey indicated a mixed reaction to the proposed replacement of the village hall roof. Out of those surveyed, nine respondents said they thought it worthwhile to replace the roof and three people saying they did not support its replacement. The majority did not express a view. Several respondents said they would like to see a more varied programme of activity taking place in the Hall to raise funds and most respondents expressed the view that they wished an alternative to quizzes. - *PC has fed back comments via PC representatives on the village hall committee.*

More village events: Those expressing a view made the following suggestions; Craft Fair, Interesting talks, scare-crow competition with money raised to go to our local church. Pub events.

Christmas Lights: Virtually everyone surveyed expressed the view that they enjoyed and supported the installation of the new fairy lights last Christmas and some people would like to see this decorative activity extended to new parts of the village next year. Other respondents content with current approach.

## **Compton Bassett before, during and just after the Great War.**

Several people in the village have come together to organise three special events to help celebrate and commemorate The Great War and life in and around the village during the early part of the last Century.

Village Fete: Saturday 8th of September 2pm at the Hall

This will include an exhibition of life in our village during these turbulent times with updated information on our local people who fought during the Great War and some locals who for one reason or another were unable to.

Various stalls will be dedicated to the era including a produce show where we are hoping people will enter their prized vegetables, flowers, jams, cakes and anything else made by you or your family. More information will be arriving through your letter box very soon!

There will also be games of the era, tea, cake, beer & skittles plus music! It is being sponsored by the PC and we hope it will be memorable event.

Details of the other events will follow separately but for now here are some dates for your diary.

8<sup>th</sup> of September – Village Fete.

4th of November – Commemoration in the Church – with members from CHADS

10th of November – Planting of trees in remembrance of Compton Bassett's fallen.

11th of November – Remembrance Sunday – Lighting the Beacon and event at our Pub.

# COMPTON BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

## Current roles and contact details

Chair	Pete Szczesiak
Vice Chair	Jane Marshall
Calne Area Parish Forum	Pete Szczesiak, Emelien Waite
Hills Liaison Committee	Pete Szczesiak, Peter Barnett
Legal Duties	Chair
CATG & Calne Area Board	Jane Marshall, Julian Barlow
Heritage	Charles Reis
Road Safety	Jane Marshall, Julian Barlow
Parish Steward Link	Peter Barnett, Jane Marshall
Neighbourhood and Farm Watch	Pete Szczesiak, Charles Reis
Statutory Governance	Chair and Clerk (RFO)
Statutory Communications	Chair and Clerk (RFO)
Communications, including broadband	Julian Barlow, Emelien Waite
Village Hall Rep	Jane Marshall, Peter Barnett
Health and Well Being	Emelien Waite, Jane Marshall

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