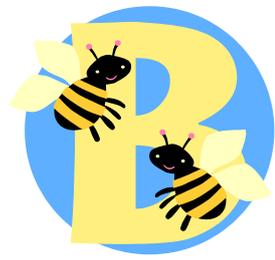




February 2018

The Bersted Buzz



Welcome to the February edition of the Bersted Parish Council newsletter

February Meetings

Planning Committee:

Tuesday 6 February at 7pm

Full Council Meeting:

Tuesday 13 February at 7pm

Check Out Our New Website!

<http://www.bersted-pc.gov.uk/>

Following ADC's decision to stop hosting parish council websites we have been able to develop our own that, we hope, not only shows the dusty statutory documents of local government but promotes the parish and supports its residents. If you are a local business looking for staff or volunteers send the details to our Clerk for inclusion on our 'Local Vacancies' page where job seekers will find useful links. The 'Local Directory' page gives important information about the area and the 'Wellbeing' page encourages the exploration of healthier lifestyles. If you have non-working street lights, pot-holes or abandoned vehicles in your area go to our 'Report It' page for quick links to the right agency. Are you are planning a public event? Don't forget to send us details for inclusion on our 'What's On' page.

Editorial



A very Happy New Year to all! At this point it's customary to make a few predictions for the year ahead. I would like to forecast that Arun District Council will be abducted by aliens but alas this seems unlikely. Far more likely however, is the arrival of planning application(s) in respect of the monstrous Chalcraft Lane housing development aka 'West Bersted'. This will be unwelcome news for the 'BADDEAL' protest movement but with the Chancellor promising to deliver 300,000 new homes annually across the country, and with the West Bersted site occupying top listing within ADC's strategic housing allocations in their Local Plan I for one would not bet against it. Sadly, this will not only see a concomitant loss of open countryside but - as I've highlighted many times before in this column - the existing infrastructure & essential services will be overwhelmed and the major A roads will become gridlocked during the rush hour periods. All of this is easily predictable but it seems that we will have to demonstrably reach that stage before either County or District will act. As this edition goes to print it seems that the rainy season has well & truly arrived and the various water courses between Bersted and Shripney are filling up fast. Which means it's time to mention the F word (flooding of course, what did you think I meant?!) so let's hope that the ditches are up to the task and that those who predict that the new housing development will make things worse are proven wrong (but just in case they're right my inflatable dinghy is ready to launch!) To end on a lighter note, the first visitors to our new website included the US (CIA?) and China! They were probably lured by the .gov domain but I wonder if they were looking for Lord Lucan!?