

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting on 1st March was held on a bitterly cold snowy night, and yet it was well attended by villagers. Action was approved by the Council to deal with varied complaints regarding our village's natural environment. In particular there are strong complaints about the use of Heather Hills by mountain bikes, one group of whom is using saws and shovels to create runs and even destroying efforts by the Warden to block and prevent damage! These mountain bikers are causing criminal damage, health and safety issues for other users and breaking by-laws which preserve the habitat by excluding bikes. Also there are many complaints about the sudden fencing this year of a regularly used footpath from Common Lane to Pheasant House Farm and the erection of unlocked gates and privacy notices on paths in an area including ancient woods walked freely for 40 years! Walkers' signatures are being obtained and the Council will investigate land ownership. Anyone having any concerns about access to regularly used footpaths should contact the Council.

In the development section objections included wanting to reduce the size of proposed hard standing for a planned goose farm on land on North Hill opposite The Willows to sufficient size for 1 car. The Council fully supports the City's finalised Local Plan but wants to be asked to speak to the Inspector to try to prevent any possible late inclusion of any development at Hammonds Farm due to external pressures. In particular our Council will state the need to make the A12 Chelmsford's development boundary to prevent urban sprawl.

A new dishwasher was approved for the Village Memorial Hall and money for planting the barrels at the village signs. Elm Green School have offered to help Village in Bloom and will be asked to plant bulbs around the barrel planters on the village green and at Runsell Lane. A rockery is to be made at the sign near Mill House to prevent parking & also under two planters at Paper Mill lock's sign. North Hill will be closed on 15th March for up to 5 days for gas/electrical work. Dr Dollery has agreed to speak on local medical provision at the Parish Assembly on Wednesday 18th April and to take questions. *Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH*