

DRAFT

BAUGHURST PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 12 January 2023
Heath End hall, Baughurst
7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllrs M G Stalford (Chair), R Clark, M Charlton, J Hewitt, R Cockle, G Porter
Also present: Borough Councillor K Morrow, Borough Councillor K Rhatigan and 5 members of the public
In attendance: Mrs P J Waterfield, Clerk to the Council

256. **Minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2022** (copy herewith)
The Minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2022, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read, and approved.

A letter of resignation from Cllr P R S Postance had been received, and accepted.

257. **Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence received from Cllrs C Cooper and Borough Cllr S Frost.

258. **Declarations of interest**
Councillors were reminded that for those with any interest to be disclosed in relation to an item included in the agenda for this meeting, it was their duty to do so at the appropriate agenda item (as required to be disclosed by Section 96(1) of the LGA 1972, and in accordance with the Parish Councils Order 2001. Parish Council Register of Interest forms had been sent to all councillors for completion and return.

259. **Matters arising from the Minutes of 24 November 2022**

- Deeds– HCC advised that the two initial applications were on the point of completion.
- Autospeedwatch– see agenda item
- Tree survey – see Open Spaces
- Wolverton field works – see Open Spaces
- Pavilion and Calleva – see Open Spaces
- The Withies- BDBC had asked for photos of the holly and oak trees to be felled
- War Memorial - BDBC had asked for information; they need to investigate further
- Best Practice – to be brought to next full meeting. Cllr Cooper suggested as liaison representative.
- Colour printer- purchased at £50 and installed
- BDBC training on planning- slides from the meeting had been circulated to councillors
- Leaf sweeping – Borough Councillor Morrow and Clerk had both requested additional leaf sweeping on a regular basis from BDBC.

260. **County, Borough, BDAPTC and Police reports**
Reports noted in the appendix.

261. **Open forum**
Several members of the public put forward their views, asking to install a petanque pitch at the Pineapple playing field, and requesting drainage of the gullies in the car park.

262. **Planning**
a) to receive and consider the latest planning applications

22/01493/OUT	Land adjacent to Copse Close, Baughurst Road	Outline application for erection of 6 dwellings to include new access to highway	Objection
22/03265/PIP	Land at Wolverton Plants, Wolverton Common	Permission in principle for residential development of a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 2 dwellings	Objection
22/03186/HSE	The Cottage, Browning Hill	Part single/part two storey extension to front and rear	No objection

22/03244/FUL	The Farriers, Baughurst Road	Erection of 1 dwelling and new associated access at land adjacent to The Farriers	Objection
22/03182/FUL	Tesco Express, Baughurst Road	Proposal to install new external canopy and 2.4m high timber fence with access gate	No objection
22/03215/HSE	Lavender Cottage, Wolverton Road	Demolition of existing rear extension and construction of single and two storey rear extension	Objection
22/03217/HSE	56 Long Grove	Two storey side and single storey front porch extension with landscape and driveway alterations	No objection
23/00087/AGPD	Woodside, Wolverton Common	Wooden shelter for purpose of forestry and drying of timber	Noted

b) Decisions by BDBC

21/01706/AGRM	Land at Holly Field, Ewhurst Park	Construction of glasshouse	No further action
21/03171/LDPU	Moyglare Farm, Stoney Heath	Certificate of lawfulness for proposed change of use from agricultural to residential	Withdrawn
22/02876/FUL	The Beeches, Baughurst Road	Detached bungalow to rear and associated works	Approved
T/00325/22/TPO	Wilderness Lodge, 5 Heathrow Copse	T1 oak prune, T2 oak prune, T3 oak prune, T4 leylandii prune, T5 oak prune	Approved
22/01726/FUL	The Farriers, Baughurst Road	1 dwelling and associated access at land adjacent to The Farriers	Withdrawn

c) Information regarding the publicity of the new planning policy documents, BDBC (SHLAA), was received and noted.

d) Neighbourhood Plan – agreed that consideration should be given to the formation of a community-led Neighbourhood, and further background information required. Cllr M Charlton agreed to lead the project.

263. Finance

- Financial statement -the latest statement was received and noted
- Approval given to annual rental of Heath End hall storage facility, £300.00
- Approval given to annual renewal of SLCC membership, £187.00
- Approval given to annual renewal of Parish Online membership £94.00 + £18
- Approval given to payment for hedgecutting, Wolverton field, £185.00

264. Committees and representation

To confirm appointment of representatives

HCC Footpaths	Cllr R Clark
Public Transport Liaison	Cllr R Clark/Cllr C Cooper
AWE Local Liaison	Cllr P Markwick
Heath End Hall	Cllr J Hewitt
BDAPTC	Cllr M G Slatford/Cllr R Cockle
CAB	Cllr J Hewitt
Age Concern	Cllr G Porter
Cheque Signatories	Cllrs J Hewitt, R Cockle, M G Slatford, S E Terrett, Clerk

265. To confirm appointment of committees

Footpaths	R Clark, R Cockle, C Cooper, J Hewitt, M Slatford, (5)
General Purposes	M Charlton, R Cockle, R Clark, J M Hewitt, M Slatford, S E Terrett, (6)
Playing Fields and Open Spaces	R Clark, R Cockle, P Markwick, G Porter, M Slatford, S E Terrett, (6)

265. **Playing fields and Open Spaces**

- Deeds

Cllr Charlton to liaise with Clerk on outstanding legalities surrounding the recent application of two areas of owned land for registration via HCC's services, and also the five outstanding areas where ownership is not currently that of this Council. HCC are on the cusp of submitting the first two applications to the Land Registry.

- War Memorial

BDBC had asked for copies of all relevant documentation, and were investigating.

- **Pineapple field**

- Electrical works update – Lowest quotation accepted at £ had been received for movement of electrical socket to left of newly installed Belfast sink, and re-siting of electrical cable reaching across doorway of utility room, and reinstating overhead cabling in main changing room.

- Gully cleansing

Lowest quotation of £248.10 accepted. Plans for the field to be obtained from storage in Winchester.

- Replacement gate

Lowest quotation for replacement gate had been accepted at full Council, and is now installed.

- Petanque court installation

Calleva FC had agreed to its use. Agreed that this concept is accepted in principle, but reviewed once fine tuning details are received. A formal letter of application is to be received; agreement that U3A should pay for installation and removal as necessary; spoil to be deposited on site.

- **Wolverton field**

- Agreed that, where applicable, quotation requests for items relating to this committee should be covered by specifications raised by members of the committee.
- Agreed that revised quotations (following provision of a specification) should be received for bark chippings for Wolverton field.
- Agreed that approval is given to quotation received for minor repairs, Wolverton field.
- The lowest quotation had been accepted at full Council for provision of welding repairs to the gates, and new closers. Road planings had been spread under the pedestrian gate, at cost of £85.00, but more are needed to build up the gatepost. Meeting with contractor to be arranged.
- Quarterly inspection report – all outstanding medium or high risk areas now covered, with the exception of safety surfacing renewal.
- Hedgecutting had been carried out satisfactorily.

- **Long Grove**

- Agreed that approval is given to quotation received for minor repairs, Long Grove. Quotations to be received for repair of safety surfacing and matting.
- Quarterly inspection report – all outstanding medium or high risk areas now covered.

- **Tree survey**

Agreed that:

- The outstanding amount owing from the arboriculturist should be written off
- Quotations to be received for felling of those trees marked as 'moderate' on the tree survey once specification agreed
- The remainder of outstanding works will be encompassed in the next round of the rolling programme planned for tree surveys. Thought to be given to frequency of surveys for those trees nearest to public thoroughfares and rights of way.
- Maintenance contractor to be asked to remove ivy from all trees on land owned by this Council, on an ongoing basis, to be recorded. These works to be carried out prior to the next survey.

- **Community Infrastructure Levy and S106**

Clerk had obtained a grant from BDBC Cllr S Frost for the Memorial bench, which will now be placed on order. Agreed to pay an additional amount for the fixings. There are currently no unallocated S106 contributions held by BDBC for developments in Baughurst.

- **The Wirthies**

Agreed that approval is first sought from BDBC regarding the proposal to fell 1 x oak tree, and 1 x holly tree which may lie on their land. Once in receipt of this, quotations to be requested for the remainder of the proposed landscaping to be carried out. BDBC has asked for photos of the oak and holly.

- **Leaf clearance**

BDBC had been asked for more frequent coverage for leaf clearance in Baughurst.

- **Land at junction of Brimpton Road/Woodlands Road**

The area has been cut back to allow more open space, and better visibility for sight lines for adjacent properties. BDBC officer had advised that, although BDBC are not in a position to actively help with the further beautification of the area, she is prepared to talk to Council; Clerk to arrange a suitable date.

- **Cutting back of overgrown vegetation on paths**

Clerk had asked the relevant authority who govern work for young offenders whether this would fit within their programme, and had met them on site with Cllr Terrett. They have been asked to trim back underfoot and overhead vegetation on Brimpton Road, and to clear back grass edges on paths which have recently been restored with tarmac.

- **Siting of benches on Council land**

Approval was given to the concept of permitting members of the public to erect memorial benches and trees on land owned by this Council. The policy is deferred to Open Spaces Committee for consideration.

- **Provision of 'Hi-Viz' tabards for maintenance contractor and councillors**

Approval given to the purchase of 12 tabards at £2.91 each, plus £3.58 delivery. A ceiling of £100 is agreed for the provision of these, and litter collection equipment.

- **Meeting with BDBC officers, litter collection and bins**

Notes from the meeting deferred to Open Spaces Committee.

- **Bus shelter repair, Brimpton Road**

Repairs had finally been carried out, and approval given to payment. A reminder to be sent regarding the cleaning of all shelters.

266. **Open Forum**

Further information to be received regarding a youth initiative.

267. **Highways and Rights of Way**

Clerk had reported to HCC:

- Missing reflector posts northern carriageway, north of Wolverton play area
- Missing reflector post northern carriageway, Causeway Farm
- Numerous potholes, Brimpton Road
- Missing posts northern carriageway, north of junction of Baughurst Road with Snakey Lane
- Damage to gate, Ham Lane – to be reported

268. **General Purposes Committee**

a) **Letterheads**

Approved in principle at full Council 24 November 2022. Possible change of logo deferred, and to be considered at next General Purposes committee, or full Council.

b) **Policies**

The following were approved:

- Complaints procedure
- Financial regulations
- Standing orders

Formatting was approved for the following:

- Code of Conduct
- Health and Safety at work
- Data Protection
- Safeguarding

c) **Charles Arnold-Baker**

Agreed that the 13th edition is approved for purchase at £131.00 + carriage. The current edition to be available for loan to councillors.

d) **Climate change**

- Sustainability and Greening

Following a presentation at the last full Council meeting, agreed that a working party should be set up to look at options and suitability, and to report back. Agreed that a discussion group is set up to look at the possibility of a relationship with the community, and to running a project which would support it, in conjunction with adjacent Councils. Cllr Clark agreed to head this community-led venture.

- Newsletter

Agreed that a working party will be set up in February to organise content for the next edition. Other areas to be explored by the working party are an integrated marking and branding strategy, possibly meshing the newsletter and website, etc together.

- Microsoft Office

The current contract (MS 365 E3 Enterprise) expires on 28 February 2023. Agreed that this is changed to Microsoft Office 365 Business Standard at £9.40 + VAT.

- Cost of Living – community project

Agreed that this Council should link the website to other organisations who are promoting the project.

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106

- S106 - BDBC had advised that there no unallocated monies available for Baughurst within the S106 account – all have been allocated to adjacent projects, and no additional monies are currently available.
- CIL – A further £5240.25 had been received in this financial year.

Financial year 2021 – 2022 (paid November 2021)

Income: 15,938.69 to be spent by 10 December 2026

Expenditure: 0

Financial year 2022 – 23 (paid November 2022)

Income: 5,240.25 to be spent by 21 October 2027

Expenditure: 5,000.00 grant to Heath End hall

Left to spend: £16,178.94

Statements are produced biannually by BDBC, showing which planning applications have attracted CIL payments. Clerk has asked for each planning application to show whether it is eligible for CIL or not.

- Autospeedwatch/SLR

The original machine had been replaced by the manufacturer because of technical problems. The replacement's efficiency has been hampered by recent weather conditions, obscuring visibility. High speeds on restricted roads had been measured, and it is hoped that this information can be displayed in some format on the website. Agreed that the use of the machine should be continued.

- Councillor vacancy

Notification had been received of the cessation of the term of office for Cllrs A Sciarretta, and a letter of resignation received from Cllr P Postance. BDBC had been advised, and the due process will be followed. Should no candidates arise once BDBC have advertised the vacancy, the role may be filled by co-option. Agreed that this Council should seek diversity in its choice of candidates.

- Annual Parish Meeting

Speakers on sustainability and greening issues to be asked to attend.

269. Accounts for payment

Profit and Loss Statement 12 January 2023

Accounts for payment

Income			Expenditure	
£			£	
Precept	50,000.00		Administration	24,154.00
Grant – grass cutting	5,433.80		Grants (CIL)	5,000.00
Interest	44.69		Free 2p	850.00
Pineapple field	1,054.07		Chairman's allowance	40.00
			Pineapple field	4,077.67
Grant – Remembrance Day	360.00		Grass cutting	4,291.24
Jubilee income	2,415.40		Fencing	3,276.00
CIL	5,240.25		Trees	8,478.00
VAT refund	8,050.00		Defibrillator	1,260.00
	£72,598.21		General	15,193.09
			Jubilee	2,415.40
				53,842.3

Profit/loss on 3 month	£3,562.81			£69,035.40
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Balance Sheet as at 12 January 2023

	£		£
Balance b/fwd	126,449.00	Current Account	1,483.59
		Less: unrepresented	4,492.59
Profit/Loss on 3 month	3,562.81	Premier Account	68,063.47
		Petty Cash	160.40
		Reserve Account	64,796.94
	£130,011.81		£130,011.81

To pay:

Balance per bank statements as at 12 January 2023

Regency	Payroll January	17.00 + 3.40
HCC	Pension January	343.58
Clerk	Salary and allowance January	1263.27
	Mobile contract December	7.50
Microsoft	Office 365 January	17.60 + 3.52
Inland Revenue	Tax and NI January	487.97
Hugofox	Silver January	16.66 + 3.33
Business Stream	Pavilion January	8.00
Heath End Hall	Hirings September-December	84.00
Vitaplay	Quarterly inspection	84.00 + 16.80
Tesco	Mobile January	7.50
Slamproof	Closers, gates	194.00 + 38.80
HAPTC	Councillor training x 3	294.00 + 58.80
SLCC	Annual premium	187.00
Clerk	Internet provision 3 mos to 31.12 22	52.00
	Postage 3 mos to 31.12 22	39.73
Nash Trees	Land opposite Hurst Centre	1650.00 + 330.00
J E Cripps	Replace Pineapple field gate	244.00
Parish Online	Online mapping	90.00 + 18.00

270. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be held on **Thursday 23 February 2023, 7.30 pm**, Heath End Hall.

271. County, Borough, Police and BDAPTC reports

a) County Councillor D Mellor reported on:

Census: In the past ten years from 2011 to 2021, population in the Hampshire Area grew by 6.3% although this was below the UK average; it also showed that Basingstoke and Deane population grew by 10%. This confirmed that B & D had increased its housing above the norm to cater for the increase in population, borne out of jobs, rail commuting and other factors. On that growth/success the government had given B & D an unattainable increase in its 5 year land supply. As such, B & D has had to fight to get the allocation reduced or there to be no fixed allocation and development be focused on brownfield. For Basingstoke, economic growth is essential and we need a population expansion that matches that. HCC infrastructure planning is effectively on hold, be it school construction, highways development until we know just what is going ahead. The census tells us that in the past

decade there are in Hampshire more people aged over 50 than between 20 and 44- of real concern for future Health and Social Security matters.

In terms of Diversity, the Census shows that ethnic population in Hampshire forms 6.7% of the total. However in the New Forest it is less than 3% and in the northern tip of B & D, the roll call for the schools reflects ethnic students as c.< 3%. COVID recovery presents more challenges as eg. the amount HMG spent on furlough and other individual payments at £41.6 Billion was very high. It has left all stretched, the County, residents and the challenge is ongoing with many schemes in place to soften the impact some over and above HMG's offers. In Hampshire many would be able to access such scheme recognise that some sections of the community are more affected than others and is continuing with the provision of several grants and facilities to those in need. The HCC website features a Connect4Communities Directory which gives more detail of the following and methods of applying:

a/ Household Support Fund is initially targeted at OAPs with help on bills; additionally some 4950 households now being supported with benefits ranging from food vouchers for Foodbanks to air fryers. This on top of the Government scheme of help with energy bills. Additionally, HCC created the Pantry facility; now up to 5000 families already registered; the Tadley Pantry has now opened at the Tadley Community Association's Link – pay, say, £5 and get 6 times the value in produce. The appeal seems to be that there is a stigma in attending foodbanks. Tadley CA is also being funded to give more support to their clientele. Key information from the housing Benefit data and indeed foster carers also used to determine recipients.

b/ In December HCC has continued with the provision of Free School Meals during the 7 weeks of school holidays under its Holiday Activity Fund banner and other grants initiated through the HCC Connect4Communities, which in turn provides assistance to the more local activities undertaken by e.g the schools, Tadley CA and the BVA. The HAF is built up through liaison with childcare providers, the FSM list (30000 in Hampshire) and other data such that 11000 families are benefitting from this. It was estimated that some 24000 families in the County could avail themselves with such additional benefits/grants. I do urge that due to the different grants available, you should call the Connect Communities on 0300 555 1384 re any requests.

c/ Additionally the creation of the Warm Hubs to provide a facility for those enduring potential energy poverty was well received, with requests for the banners etc and also enquiries as to suitable locations-libraries etc. Early days for results on this campaign; HCC grants of up to £5k were available to TC/PC with innovative ideas. Little feedback on these.

Home to School Transport: a major issue at present. In 2019/20 HCC spent some £25M pa on this facility. In 2020 (notwithstanding COVID etc where we still had to provide contracted services no matter how few were attending school), the bill went up to £32M. For 2023, the forecast is £43M which is frankly beyond reach. SEN accounts for more than half the bill with individual cars to school and during COVID some additional 3000 children becoming entitled for SEN facilities. Sadly, a 1944/5 School Transport Act is still the basis for this and is now requiring some major action. Notwithstanding this, the issue of 16 to 18 years old having to travel from my division to Basingstoke, even Winchester is a matter that we must review and highlighted by a local Town Councillor.

Children's Services: HCC is still the only County seemingly classified as Outstanding in all areas of Children's Services - a matter to be proud of. Probably one reason why so many refugee children now being accommodated (at 1 day's notice) by the county. Now that Ofsted is again active, it is interesting to note that The Hurst is one of 7 schools in the county scheduled for a major redevelopment work next year as it restores their school establishment. Ashford Hill School, effective 1 November became an Academy after Ofsted intervention last year. HCC still managed to satisfy 98% of parent's choice of school- well over 90% were first choice. Of course the school performances are a little confusing exam wise when compared to the teacher assessments in 2021 but generally there was an air of satisfaction at the Schools' Review held in November. Bishopswood thrives based on its excellent federation with 3 other schools. Others are still 'Good'.

In respect of Children's Services, apart from that mentioned above, we do now have a real concern at the growth in children in care; probably mentioning the cost of c £2-3k per week per child and its impact on other areas explains why we continue to invest in social workers with our own recruiting campaign- jointly with Kent CC in an effort to reduce the agency fees -and the ongoing foster carer work.

Highways: Hampshire is rated as the third best performing county in the UK in respect of Highways Maintenance. This has been borne out by a further examination in a survey reflecting some 48% of

residents are very satisfied with the roads- an improvement on the last year's survey. When one considers too that some of the residents consider road maintenance as a priority over speed enforcement then it would suggest the current efforts to focus on Operation Resilience resurfacing activity aimed at long term rather than the quick fix of occasional potholes is the right strategy. Claims are well down, but occasionally normal pothole repair is delayed pending some more in the area. We do have problems with water and drainage issues that are the responsibility of the Water authorities. Having said that, seemingly- and under emergency situations- the utility authorities do have the right to close our highways with ad hoc closure hard though Highways try to coordinate such work.

The monthly Highways Newsletter was dispatched to you highlighting work on gullies and for a very short time 'gritters.' Next report will no doubt reflect the very heavy rain of the last few days. Hopefully, be it by Climate Change or other, the higher temperatures may help as in winter it has been very difficult to hot roll surface dressings on to cold surface.-(Local Highways Engineer's statement) We endeavour to maintain the improvement but can never catch up fully without a massive increase in budget/manpower.

The HWRC at Wade Road continues to work well with its booking slots ensuring no queuing and a good service.

Effective 1 April, HCC will take over the parking matters in B & D, be it enforcement, parking bays etc so no change expected here at this time.

The Bus scheme for 2023/4 has been finalized after close scrutiny. In 2020/1 the Bus Back Better scheme was launched along with many improvements such as electric buses, better frequency where justified all in an effort to reduce car usage. This year's schedules have not gone forward very far because of the need for subsidies on some routes- albeit none in the Basingstoke and Deane area, although there is some subsidy to operate late evening buses within Basingstoke; very high cost increases due to drivers' salaries and still only operating a c85% of the loads experienced pre COVID .

Business Matters: the debate re the County Deal with its support to HCC from nearly all Boroughs and Districts as well as the unitaries plus nearby Bournemouth, Poole etc continues. Sadly, still behind the Red Wall in pecking order ,and indeed the more deprived counties such as Cornwall as we strive to be part of Wave 3. We expect to see progress in 2023 on this. The fact that Hampshire is now confirmed as a Freeport; its prominence in cruising terminals- Portsmouth has just completed a £100M terminal etc – the road infrastructure etc warrants investment.

HCC has restructured eff 1 January 2023 with effectively 3 divisions...Health and Adult Social Care; Children's Services and Universal Services. The main Committee work will continue for the time being to focus on these three agenda; I will continue to Chair the Transport and Environment Select Committee. The likes of Climate Change will come under the Leader under a Hampshire 2050 banner and I am pleased to say that this is balanced by Economic Development coming to the fore.

There have been rumours put out inadvertently by one Left leaning newspaper that HCC was 'heading for bankruptcy' . What in fact happened was our Leader said that if the Government was not going to increase its contribution to Counties such as Hampshire (and Kent) then we would have serious financial difficulties in meeting all our service levels by 2025/26. In fact, we have some £900M in reserves – although some of this would be assigned already- a substantial Capital programme ongoing to boost the infrastructure; a fully funded schools programme; a public transport schedule now finalised with subsidies and yes, we are approximately short by £80M on the next year's budget. (County Councils cannot submit budgets operating at a loss). We are indeed still one of the wealthiest and strongest counties and if we were going bust due to reduced Government support then it is fair to say that there would be very few Local Authorities left. Compare that with a local authority in Hampshire with debts of c.£800M or indeed some Districts ..Slough; Northampton etc already under Section 114. Comparatively, we are in good shape.

And finally on a happier note, The local Tadley Firefighters have again not only performed well what with heath fires, first responder activities but also under their Safe and Well banner, performed admirably hosting 103 OAPs for lunch at the Ambrose Allen. Unable to attend, I was delighted to pay for this event through my Devolved Councillor's budget. I am also pleased to support a local bridleway project in Baughurst along with our Countryside Access team and a good local volunteer. Details of my grants are available on the HCC website

Borough Councillor K Morrow reported on:

➤ **Full BDBC Council 15th December 2022**

- Maria Miller MP presented a petition asking BDBC to reconsider their housing targets to a more

sustainable level in the upcoming Local Plan Update. The number of houses in the LPU is set via the Standard Method which is determined by the Government.

- There was a reshuffle of committee positions, as former Mayor Cllr Cubitt was removed from the Conservative Party by the leader of the Council Simon Bound. Her fellow ward members followed her by resigning and are now independent councillors.

- Labour also had a member resign from their group.

- The Council is now made up of 26 Conservatives, 9 Labour, 8 B&D Independents, 7 Lib Dems and 4 Independent members.

Motions Passed:

- To revisit the Basingstoke Leisure Park Draft Plan as it lacked the necessary scope, ambition and vision that could make it a regional attraction.
- Protection of the Borough's rivers and waterways.
- Building Affordable Homes.

Please visit the B&D website for the minutes and a full account of the meeting.

➤ **Cost of Living**

- Cllr Morrow had visited Basingstoke Voluntary Action, Neighbour Care and Citizens Advice Tadley, and spent a lot of Wednesdays in the Council office chasing officers. In 2023 he has been informed that CA Tadley will have recruited two new cost-of-living advisors. He is seeking opportunities to take their Energy Advice days on the road to other parts of the ward.

- On 7th December the Cost of Living Community Fund (CLCF) went live and is now accessible I by visiting:

<https://thegoodexchange.com/nh-cost-of-living/>

- The total budget allocated to the community grant scheme for 2022/23 is £85,000. This is made of £65,000 from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and £20,000 from the Greenham Trust. Not for profit and charitable organisations can apply for a grant of up to £5,000.

- Any application submitted to the Cost of Living Community Fund will need to demonstrate that it will increase capacity of the organisation to deliver services and activities that will directly support residents of the borough of Basingstoke and Deane affected by the rising cost of living.

Examples of services and activities:

- Providing advice and assistance with financial and debt management.
- Providing emergency food supplies or essential household items.
- Providing mental health support to those residents facing crisis due to the rising cost of living. Supporting residents with better energy use and energy efficiency.
- Supporting residents with reducing food waste.

The Deadline for application is Tuesday 17 January 2023, so please spread the word and get those applications in.

➤ **Cost Of Living Assistance Fund Update**

We have received an update on the progress of the COLAF scheme. Since July 2022 around 50% of the £1m fund has been spent:

- £55k between CA Basingstoke and CA Tadley.
- £439,350 to residents.

There have been 2148 applications, of which 783 have been paid and 336 are in process. Some 1,029 applications have been declined.

Enquiry was also made about the lack of leaf clearance in the rural North parts of B&D, and cabinet member Rebecca Bean is looking into this. He has also emailed Cllr Bean on the same issue raised in Baughurst, and a response is awaited.

➤ **Voter ID**

Following attendance at a voter ID briefing, Voter ID laws are now in force. The act sets out that electors will be required to show photographic ID before casting their votes in a polling station.