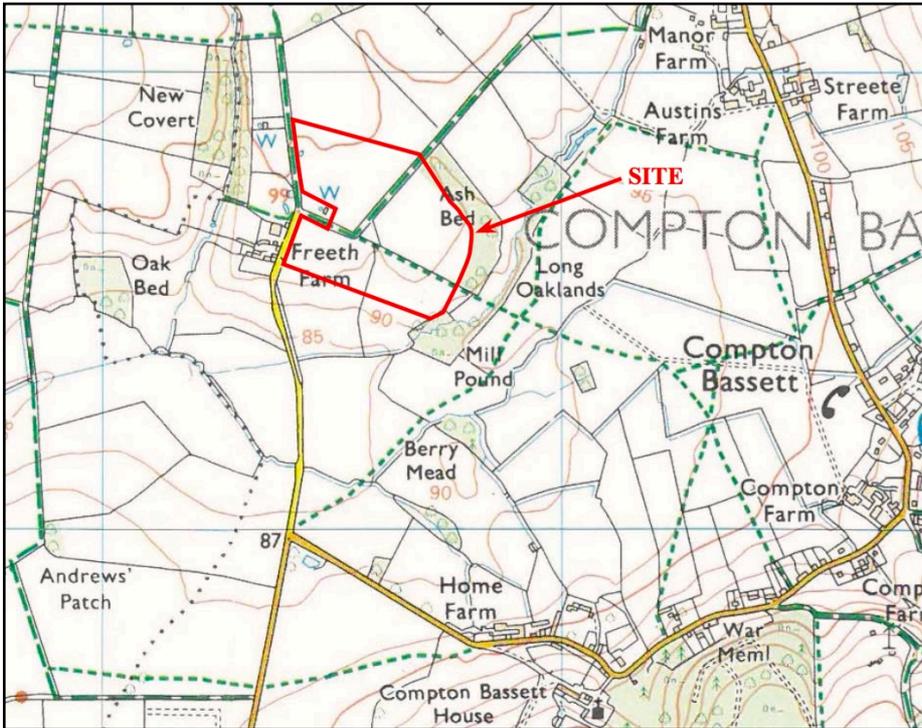


Compton Bassett Matters

A free publication produced by Compton Bassett Parish Council on behalf of its residents



Decision day looms over sand quarry - your voice counts!

Wiltshire Council are set to decide whether to allow Hills Waste Solutions permission to quarry 330,000 tons of sand over a six year period, from an 11 hectare area of farm land that is only 35 metres away from four dwellings at Freeth Farm and 700 metres from houses in Compton Bassett village. Concerns have been raised over noise levels and the adverse affects of wind blown sand from a raised conveyor system.

Compton Bassett Parish Council has objected and some 600 other letters of objection have been sent to Wiltshire Council so far. More comments are invited up to 8th July 2019, via the Planning and Building Control section of Wiltshire Council's website, where more information can be found about the application.

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GreenSquare building work starts

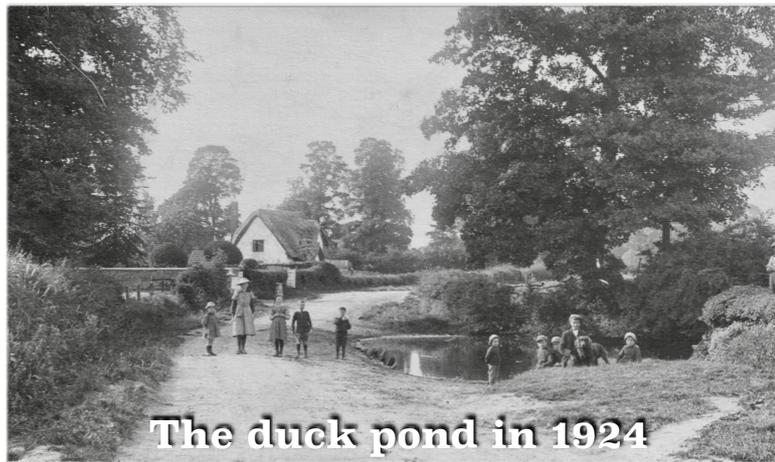
You will have noticed by now that construction of the 13 new dwellings at Briar Leaze has already commenced, following demolition of six houses. GreenSquare has a new project manager, Peter Crouch, who will be attending Parish Council meetings until completion of works; if you have any questions for him, please do let us know.



Easement with the Village Hall has now been resolved, which involved terms of access across their land. GreenSquare tell us that they will circulate a newsletter to all residents very soon.

We have reminded GreenSquare that large vehicles must enter and exit the site via the Hilmarton end of the village. Please inform us if this is not happening. They have erected signage to help with this.

Village pond receives a tidy up

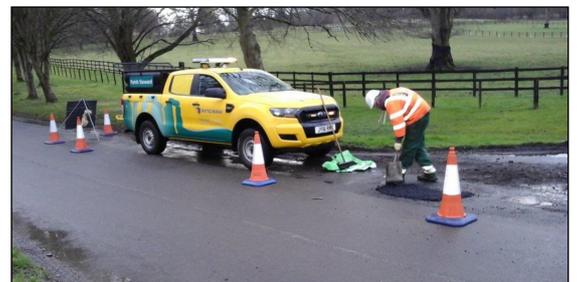


Following requests from villagers, overgrown vegetation has been removed from the pond and the railings have been painted; it's now looking very much better.

In the days when a motor car was a rarity in the village, the pond was a gathering place for children. No 60 Pond Cottage was a village shop where 20 aniseed balls cost a penny. Often, children would wait for the horses to arrive and get a ride across the pond while they were washed down after a hard day's work in the field.

Parish Steward

You may have noticed the Parish Steward in the village from time to time carrying out a variety of maintenance tasks, from clearing paths and gullies to filling small potholes. If you see anything that you want him to do please let either Councillors Barnett or Marshall know.



Gigaclear broadband work begins

The northern half of Compton Bassett is still without decent broadband coverage, but we are told this will eventually change now that Gigaclear has started preparation work. Gigaclear are the company chosen by Wiltshire Council to bring broadband to this part of the village. Current timescales suggest they will finish in around nine months. They will need to dig trenches to bury their cables stretching underground from Hilmarton exchange to the village hall. You will see the infrastructure enablement has started already from the A3102 Hilmarton end. We'll keep you informed of their progress.

Community Speed Watch

Despite over a third of vehicles known to be exceeding the 40 mph speed limit, Wiltshire Council has advised us that no further action will be taken, meaning that we cannot operate community Speed Watch in our 40 mph zone. This is because we have not met the national criteria of average speeds at 46.1 mph before Speed Watch can be activated! This is disappointing news but if we think the situation worsens, we are allowed to request another survey at this location after 12 months have elapsed.



The results of a traffic speed survey, carried out in May of this year by Wiltshire Council within the new 40 mph zone at a location near Dove Cottage, revealed that the average speed was 37.4 mph for all vehicles. However, 34.5% of all recorded vehicles were actually exceeding the speed limit, with a mean speed of 44.33 mph. The total number of vehicles travelling through the village in the seven day period was 7,463.

1,000 cars per day through village sparks call for calming measures

Many studies have looked at ways of slowing down village traffic. Pinch points, painting the road to make it seem narrower and different coloured road surfaces are to name but a few of the ideas.



In addition to the speed of traffic through the village, the number of vehicles using the village as a short cut has increased dramatically in recent years; the most recent survey shows that over 7,000 per week are now travelling through.

Councillors Marshall and Barlow are to examine both traffic calming and dissuasion options. They will present costed plans to the council to deal with this problem and share with the community in the coming few months.

Footpaths

Calling all walkers! Could you be a Compton Bassett friend? We are lucky to have lots of wonderful footpaths in our area but we need people who use them and also bridleways to help keep them well maintained and passable.

We need help to:

- Knock back nettles or cut away brambles
- Report any issues to our Parish Clerk
- Call in the Ramblers Association to clear pathways.

If you can help please contact Diane Zeitzen, our parish clerk cb.pariahclerk@gmail.com



A new map detailing the footpaths in and around Compton Bassett is available from the parish clerk.

Wildlife

Following the successful presentation given by Dr Gary Mantle of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at the annual meeting, Councillor Barlow has taken on the new role of liaison officer on behalf of the village with the Trust, with an aim to increase our awareness and protection of wildlife in and around Compton Bassett. In his role as a Trustee to the WWT he is best placed to gain an understanding of how the village might work more closely with the organisation in future; he welcomes feedback from the community on this issue.

Telephone kiosk restoration

We are waiting for BT to disconnect the power supply to the phone box before it can be removed for full restoration. Although the parish council bought the K6 series kiosk some years ago from BT, responsibility for the electricity supply remained with them. Once disconnected, it will be transported to a company near Marlborough where volunteers will extract all the glass and fittings, then hand over for renovation. The whole structure will be sandblasted, before a six stage paint process can begin. When all the work is complete, the kiosk will be returned to a new home next to the bus shelter. Restoration costs are being paid for by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Annual Parish Meeting

On Wednesday 22nd May, the Parish Council once again held its Annual Meeting open to all parishioners in Compton Bassett. Attendance was very good with many keen to hear a presentation from Dr Gary Mantle, CBE, Chief Executive Officer from the Wiltshire Wildlife Fund. Gary described the work of the Trust and enthusiastically reminded us of the wonderful landscape and wildlife in Wiltshire. He went on to warn of the dangers posed to the flora and fauna in our county by factors related to climate change and habitat decline.

There was also a short presentation by Jennie Brooks on fund raising activity on behalf of the church.

Those attending were able to view information regarding the village on notice boards at the back of the hall and give feedback. Topics covered included the Gigaclear initiative to provide broadband to the remaining part of the village not currently covered by BT as well as GreenSquare activity at Briar Leaze. Traffic management was also a topic discussed after the meeting over drinks and nibbles.

Councillors

Two new councillors have been recently co-opted, Tony Horseman and Laurie Waite.

Diane Zeitzen	Parish Clerk	cb.pariahclerk@gmail.com
Pete Szczesiak	Chairman, Calne Area & Parish Forum, Hills Liaison Committee, Legal Duties, Neighbourhood and Farm Watch	
Jane Marshall	Vice-Chairman, CATG & Calne Area Board, Health & Well Being, Village Hall Rep	
Peter Barnett	Hills Liaison Committee, Parish Steward link, Village Hall Rep	
Julian Barlow	Road Safety, Communications including Broadband, CATG, Wiltshire Wildlife	
Tony Horseman	Calne Area & Parish Forum	
Charles Reis	Heritage, Neighbourhood and Farm Watch	
Laurie Waite	Communications, Heritage, War Memorial	