

Compton Bassett Matters

A free publication edited by Councillors Barlow and Waite on behalf of Compton Bassett Parish Council for every resident

Hills told to re-consider their Freeth sand quarrying proposal

Hills Quarry Products Ltd have been asked to re-submit their proposals concerning a review of minerals planning conditions and their application for determination of conditions for the mineral site, by Wiltshire Council. The proposals, which are opposed by Compton Bassett Parish Council and hundreds of other objectors, have been deemed to not meet the necessary criteria for noise reduction, and issues regarding the visual impact of the proposed quarry on neighbouring properties have still not been resolved.



Hills have commissioned more assessment work and the results of this work is awaited. There is also an issue with the timing of “noisy operations”, which is restricted at present to 8 weeks in any one year. The current scheme shows that this protocol would be breached under the plan in the current application, and a revisit has been requested.

In addition, the ecological surveys are now outdated and have had to be redone. These are season dependent and the results have not yet been received by Wiltshire Council. A response from Hills to all the current concerns is awaited, and they should submit their proposals within the next few weeks. If they comply with the request from Wiltshire Council, we can expect the applications will go to Strategic Planning in January 2020 at the earliest.

Objections to the proposed quarry due to proposed infringements on Bridleways, and ancient status criteria for the site have been rejected by Wiltshire Council.

Introducing the village snowplough blade!

We have to say a huge thank you to Scottish and Southern Electricity for our grant to buy a snowplough blade for emergency use in the village. Our thanks also to Charles Reis for storing the blade for the village.

We hope we won't have to use it as it will only be for emergencies and if the council aren't able to clear the lane! More information on this when the snowplough arrives.



Compton Bassett welcomes first new housing in Briar Leaze re-development

Developers GreenSquare have advised us they are still on target for plots 1 & 2 to be occupied before Christmas with the remainder at two or three per month; completion will be by the end of May 2020. In addition to the new housing, seven trees, including acer, birch and cherry will be planted on the site. Twelve bat access roof tiles will also be fitted. *Right: Plots 1 & 2*



Parish Council commissions review and update of Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP), which is a statement of the things that the village agrees are necessary for the effective management and maintenance of Compton Bassett, has been reviewed by an independent group of villagers. Now five years old, the plan should not require a huge amount of revision but the council felt it appropriate to outsource the review to a third party. Anyone can see the NP in the White Horse Inn or on the village website and were invited to a meeting to give their views on the recommendations which were adopted.

The Parish Council are now able to decide which recommendations to take on board and any additions we want to add having heard community views.

The council will then look at prioritisation of the recommendations as well as any expenditure required against budget and formulate a council/business plan against which we will review progress with regular reports to the community.



Wiltshire post box thieves

More than 12 post boxes have been stolen across the county since August, four on 12th September, which is the day ours was purloined in Compton Bassett. All were taken from quiet rural areas and are of the type fixed to a pole.

Anyone with information should call PC Hayley on 101, quoting crime reference 54190109101.

Wildflower seeds



The parish council are pleased to be giving you an early Christmas present of some wildflower seeds and an advice slip for help with planting them (during March and April). Our hope is that everyone in the village will have a small area of wildflowers to start our bid to increase the biodiversity in our village. This is the first of our initiatives to help our local wildlife and we hope you will be pleased with your seeds.

If you would like any further information about this please contact Jane Marshall on 01249 760170.

If you have any other thoughts on initiatives related to wildlife and biodiversity, please contact Julian Barlow who is a council member and trustee of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust julian@barlowcomms.co.uk

Help a hedgehog

As part of the parish council's development of a bio-diversity initiative, Councillor Jane Marshall has been trying to encourage hedgehogs into her garden. This is more of a challenge at this time of year than it first appears.

Some issues to consider:

-Hedgehogs travel a long way every day so gardens need to have entry and exit points at floor level that are hedgehog sized! (Leading into each other's gardens or fields, not onto the road!)

-Having a log pile with spaces or a hedgehog house may encourage visitors

-Accessible water is a must.

Councillor Marshall is going to introduce a wildlife pond into her garden in the hope a drinking hole may encourage them in!

You can find out more about encouraging hedgehogs on the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust website. www.wiltshirewildlife.org

Please let her know if you have any other ideas or experiences and also if you have seen hedgehogs recently in your garden (janecm16@sky.com or 01249 760170).



Litter picking

Following our successful litter pick earlier in the year we plan to hold another one in January whilst the verges are less green!

Further details will follow, so look out for this and help if you can.



A horse called Compton Bassett?

Well yes, and a very good one at that. Between the years of about 1906 and 1912 a horse bearing the name took part in showjumping events, winning many prizes. *Compton Bassett* was a chestnut gelding who competed in the 'Over 15 Hands' classification and was by all accounts a very impressive horse. His owner and frequent rider was Fred Smale who moved into Compton Bassett from Devon around 1900, renting Number 39 which is now the right hand half of Twostaks. Marrying in 1893, his wife died the very next year following the birth of their son. He had remarried by the time he came to the village but there were to be no further children. Fred was a successful farmer, by 1911 a tenant farmer at Compton Farm and in 1914 he was able to purchase Cowage Farm in Hilmarton with 349 acres, and stocked it with 500 sheep and 145 cattle.

Beside his farming, he built up a considerable reputation for his knowledge of horses, owning many which he frequently entered in various county shows. He sold *Compton Bassett* in 1908, presumably for a handsome profit and it continued to fare well in competition for several years.

Tragedy struck on 20 July 1917 when his only child Frederick was killed by a shell while serving in Belgium on the Western Front. He has a private memorial at Hilmarton church.

Cowage Farm was sold in 1935, Fred and his wife returning to Devon where he died in 1940 aged 79. The Devon & Exeter Gazette described him as "*known throughout the West of England as a judge of horses, and himself an enthusiastic horseman and a keen rider to hounds*".



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Pete Szczesiak	Chair, Calne Area & Parish Forum, Hills Liaison, Legal Duties, Neighbourhood & Farm Watch	
Jane Marshall	Vice-Chair, 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, Newsletters, Broadband, CATG, Wiltshire Wildlife	
Tony Horseman	Calne Area & Parish Forum	
Charles Reis	Heritage, Neighbourhood and Farm Watch	
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