

Beckford Parish Council Newsletter March 2023.

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Trees and hedges.

Hedge cutting should be finished now until August. It is advised that tree and hedge cutting should not take place between 1st March and 1st August to avoid disturbance to nesting birds.

Drought Warning.

As we head into spring and summer we are advised that, following low rainfall through the winter months we may see hosepipe bans come into force. It is suggested that we ensure our rainwater butts are full and use that for watering. Further any water we put down the sink can be used for watering. Perhaps we can increase our daily steps by taking more trips out to the garden with our kitchen waste bowls.



The Parish Council is offering free basic two hour familiarization sessions. These will be Monday 17th April 13.00 to 15.00 hrs and 18.00 to 20.00 hrs. Then Thursday 13th 10.00 hrs to mid-day. Should there be sufficient interest a full one day course will be made available. There will be a minimum age of fourteen years but no upper age limit. You will be required to have the ability to get to your knees on the floor; suitable clothing will be necessary.

You can request training from councillor Mantle. 07940439959.

Everyone has now had opportunity to view our four community defibrillators and consider whether or not they would like to have some basic knowledge of their use.

All the defibrillators in Beckford and Grafton are registered with South West Ambulance Service and with West Midland Ambulance Service.



Councillor Vacancies.

There are a number of councillor vacancies for Beckford and Grafton. Please consider whether you would like to take part in council business and represent your neighbours on the council. View the poster on all the parish noticeboards. We are such a small council that it is difficult to represent parishioners as we would wish. Elections are to take place in May. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance; his email is overleaf.

A46, Sewage Discharge, and Flood Defences at Little Beckford

Hopefully you have all heard the good news that speed limits are to be introduced in the Hinton crossroads area. It will be for a short period initially and will hopefully become permanent if the serious accidents and incidents prove to be reduced. Unfortunately no reduced speed limit has been announced for Beckford so I have written to Highways England and to Harriett Baldwin asking for this to be addressed.

There is no update on sewage outflow so we assume it continues. We do know that the sewage processing for Beckford is not fit for purpose and is wholly inadequate for the village.

Grafton has been denied access to the system and we all rely on septic tanks some of which appear to work better than others.

As a reminder please do not put wipes or fat down the drain, whether mains or septic tank; none of them are biodegradable and all cause blockages. Consider using a shower rather than a bath as this uses less water and therefore puts less stress on any sewage system. Only put the washing machine or dish washer on when full. Use friendly cleaning products to reduce stress on systems.

The new system at Little Beckford has not been put to the test due to low rainfall so we wait a report there.

Woodland Management Skills Training.

There is training available to people who may be interested in the above. Good woodland management can be a considerable aid in reducing flooding risk. If you would like to know about this training please contact councillor Nicholds, initially via the parish clerk.

Village Gates

The village gates are now in place. Hopefully they will be a clear reminder to motorists that they are entering a reduced speed zone. Also obtained are vehicle activation speed signs which should be going up in the very near future. Residents have raised concerns about vehicles speeding and, hopefully, these measures will help to address some concerns.

Grants.

Grants available from various sources.

- Businesses may apply for a small Rate Relief Grant and can obtain more information from Wychavon District Council <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/business/business-rates/business-rates-reliefs> The business grant aims to help new and established businesses by helping out with rate relief.
- Individuals can apply for a Community Support Grant from the Parish Council. Individuals can apply for grants to support community based projects. For further information see: <https://beckford-parish-council.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Beckford-Grant-Aid-Policy.pdf>."

Your councillors are: Martin Spice (Chairman), Lynette Mantle (Vice chair), Diane Colvin, Anne Worrall and David Nicholds.

The clerk is Dave Roscoe (email: clerk@beckford-parish-council.org.uk) preferred method of contact.