

# BARKWAY BULLETIN

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL OF BARKWAY



ISSUE 16

JUNE 2013

**WELCOME** to the second edition in 2013 of the Barkway Bulletin. We hope that you find the articles informative and if you have any questions please pass them to the Parish Clerk. The Barkway Bulletin has been published for a number of years now and we always welcome feedback on its contents or layout. Please let us know if you have any comments.

**STEVE ALSOP, CHAIR, BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL**

## RED PHONE BOX RESTORATION

Restoration of the Red Phone Box is now in full swing, led by Councillor Tony Terry, ably assisted by Penelope Laing. So far the paintwork has all been rubbed down, both inside and out and the old glass/plastic panes removed. New glass has been ordered and will be properly fitted with glazing bars from a specialist company. Tony and Penelope would be delighted to have more help, even if you can only give an hour or so. We will be keeping track of progress on the website and hope to have the project completed by the end of the summer. The plan is to put some local reference materials inside the phone box and possibly a chair!

## WINDMILL CLOSE

The NHDC Cabinet has approved the sale of the land behind Windmill Close, and it was put before the Royston and District Committee on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2013, where Graham Swann, resident of Royston Road and Gerald Morris, our District Councillor, both spoke against the proposed sale.

The Parish Council has been supporting the majority view of the residents, to register the land as a 'village green', and this has duly been communicated to NHDC. The application has been lodged with Herts County Council and should be dealt with by them within one to two years. In the meantime, if the land is sold, then any potential purchaser would need to be made aware of the application to the Open Spaces Society.

At the Royston meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>, a compromise solution was aired, proposing that if the land is sold, then a third would be retained as 'public land' or 'open space'. This was supported by the Committee and was put back to the NHDC Cabinet, who deferred the decision. A meeting of the Windmill Close residents group will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. See the website for further information on time and venue.

## DOG FOULING

Dog fouling is still a problem in parts of the village, particularly on the Recreation Area, where children play and sport takes place. But we seem to have a new type of offender. Not only are there the people who simply don't pick up after their dogs, but we now have a new breed, those who do pick up and bag the mess, but rather than then putting the bag in a bin, just leave it on the path!!! There are plenty of dog waste bins around the village, eight in total, so there really is no excuse. There has been a suggestion that the dog bins should be positioned on the pavements, unfortunately this is not allowed.

**So please dog owners, Pick it Up, Bag it, and Put it in a Dog Bin.**

Dog fouling is an offence and individuals can and will be fined for failing to pick up after dogs. The Parish Council has been lenient in the past, but is now fully prepared to vigorously follow up reports of individuals who are seen to offend.

## TREES ALONG CAMBRIDGE ROAD

We have been advised by the arborist appointed by Ringway, who are the company appointed by NHDC to maintain the highways, that there are a number of trees along the stretch of road between the village hall and Cokenach, which are classed as dangerous as they are in such a poor condition. They have identified 14 which are to be felled. The Parish Council are hoping that each of those felled can be replaced with a sapling, so that in time they will grow to replace those felled. We will be seeking the advice of The Woodland Trust, but if anybody has any views on the type of tree they would like planted, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us through the website or by Email. The work will require a road closure, so once we know the date, we will notify you through the website.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Council meetings in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. 8th July, 12th August and 9th September. Members of the public are welcome.

# PARISH MATTERS.....

## FOOTPATHS & PAVEMENTS

We have an ongoing problem with blocked drains, particularly on the High Street, which is caused mostly by straw, knocked off farm vehicles when they pass under overhanging trees. The straw is then blown/rained into the drains which then become blocked. Could we ask any householder whose trees fall into this category, to please cut them back in line with or behind their own boundary. Also, any shrubbery which encroaches onto public footpaths or pavements should be maintained properly by its owner, the householder, so that the paths are kept clear. Again, your help with this would be much appreciated.

## WISBRIDGE SOLAR FARM

The solar farm was given planning permission, despite our attempts to prevent it. Parish Councillors made representation at the Planning meeting, but NHDC had complete disregard for the arguments based around damage to a rural environment and loss of quality agricultural land. They did however take note of our suggestions to increase the screening of the development through additional planting, and restrict access to the site to the A10/Joint only, so there will be no additional traffic through the village. The developers are also to pay attention and care towards any archaeological remains they discover whilst digging. The solar farm will be built within the next three years, if not then planning consent will lapse. The developers have recently put in a revision to their plan which will result in additional panels being sited on the proposed site. The Parish Council is reviewing the proposal and will discuss at the July meeting on July 8th. If you would like to find out about the revised plan and comment please go to the Planning Applications page on our website - [www.barkway-village.org.uk](http://www.barkway-village.org.uk).

## NEW VILLAGE SIGNS

You will have noticed by now the new village signs at the entrances to the village. We felt it was time to spruce up the appearance of our signage, as the old ones were looking rather tatty. New signs have been installed at the North end, next to the village hall, the south, next to the junction with the Nuthampstead Road and to the west, at the beginning of Royston Road. They incorporate a newly designed Parish motif of a coach and horses, which represents the historic past of our lovely village and promotes its historic nature.

## PAVILION

The Recreation and Pavilion Project has reached an interesting stage. The project to replace the existing dilapidated pavilion with an up to date sports pavilion and importantly the addition of a much needed community room with kitchen was set up in 2011. Planning permission is in place, a builder is on hand to commence the work., but at the moment we are short of the necessary funding to complete the work. The estimated total cost is £150,000 and so far we have secured nearly £100,000 including a grant from NHDC for £50,000. Research continues to seek the necessary funding but in today's climate, money is in short supply. We are awaiting to hear if an application to the Football Foundation will be considered - we are also investigating the numerous arms of the Big Lottery Fund. The "Buy a Brick" scheme is in operation and can be accessed through the website. So far it has contributed a considerable sum towards the total cost and we are grateful to all of those who have donated. We ran a stall at the Village Market on June 22<sup>nd</sup> where we raised awareness of the project, and a further £380 towards the fund. We are still looking for donations from local companies and residents and anyone interested in contributing to this ambitious but very much needed project can contact the Secretary and Treasurer of the Project Committee by emailing [gordon-baker@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:gordon-baker@barkway-village.co.uk) or by calling 01763 848755.

## NEW WEBSITE – WWW.BARKWAY-VILLAGE.ORG.UK

The new website is now live and can be seen at [www.barkway-village.org.uk](http://www.barkway-village.org.uk). If you have any events which you would like to communicate to the village, then please let us know through the Contact Us page. The website is the place to look for any village news, as it is updated whenever there is anything new to tell you, so please have a look regularly. It is on the website that you will find village news, events, information on all of the village organisations, updates from the police, and of course everything you need to know about the Parish Council. The old site has now been closed down, and any visitors to it are automatically re-directed to the new site.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Steve Alsop: (Chair) Environment  
Jim Dalton: (Vice Chair) Highways  
Andrew Murphy: Property & Leisure  
Fiona Tomkins: Community Liaison and Communication  
Suzie Bates: Legal, Governance & Grants  
Jenny Warren: Planning  
Neighbourhood Plan - vacant  
Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR AND CHANGES TO PORTFOLIOS

We are delighted to announce that Suzie Bates was co-opted on Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>, and is now Councillor Bates with a portfolio of Legal, Governance & Grants. Councillor Terry is stepping down in June, but will stay involved with the Parish Council as an advisor.

If you have any comments on the content of this edition of Barkway Bulletin, please contact the editor, Fiona Tomkins at [fiona.tomkins@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:fiona.tomkins@barkway-village.co.uk) - we are always interested in hearing your views.

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