

BARKWAY BULLETIN

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL OF BARKWAY



ISSUE 21

NOVEMBER 2014

WELCOME to another edition of the Barkway Bulletin.

All around us things are starting to happen but firstly I would like to publically thank Fiona Tomkins for her valuable work. Fiona resigned due to pressure of employment and we sorely miss her.

The first Solar Farm compensation money is about to arrive and we have to decide what to do with it; input from parishioners please.

The hole in the road got fixed, and delay was mainly down to a law which gives Utility Companies an indeterminate length of time to correct issues they created. If HCC had not gone legal the hole would still be there now. To get this changed, please support Tony Hunter (our HCC councillor) and write to our MP (Oliver Heald MP, Houses of Parliament, London SW1 0AA) objecting to this silly law.

From Tony Hunter's Locality budget we have also got approval in principle to get a new pavement on Royston Road and Traffic Calming is under discussion; see later in the bulletin.

We appear to have reached a deal with NHDC in which the land on Windmill Close will be split between a permanent green space and an area for new houses, probably 7 or so, in a style/size similar to the existing houses.

The first draft of the NHDC housing sites plan, for new houses to be built between 2011 and 2031, has now been released. Barkway is expected to grow by 49 houses of which 18 have already been built or planning consent granted. Nine houses are already in the system (Windmill Close and Star Instruments), so that leaves 22 to find in 17 years. This is much in line with the Neighbourhood Plan answers and should be counted as a good result: just maybe because NHDC knew we were well on with a Neighbourhood Plan. Who knows?

The Pavilion is well underway (see news elsewhere). The monies we received from NHDC and (especially) from the Football Foundation came with strings. The FF money (£60k) can be clawed back in full and with interest at any time for the next 21 years. It depends on the Parish Council fulfilling the Football Development Plan that accompanied the grant application. The first 4 years are covered by our agreement with Royston Town Football Club. After that it must be either by renewing with Royston Town FC, doing other external deals or having enough teams of our own. Anyone and everyone who can form part of the management of this programme in any way should contact us, please.

Finally thank you to everybody who trimmed back their overhanging bushes to give better access for pedestrians on the pavement. We sent out letters mainly in the interests of efficiency and time, not in officiousness. We may one day do the same again but we are hoping it is not necessary.

Jim Dalton, Chairman, Barkway Parish Council

HIGHWAYS

The quiet time during the road closure enabled us to think about permanent traffic calming.

A 20mph limit WILL NOT be considered by HCC until traffic drives through the village more slowly (honest!). A discussion with HCC about an HGV weight limit ended with me thinking that the chance is between zero and nil. The main priority therefore is to minimise the risk of a Pedestrian/Vehicle collision as they are rarely trivial, and that means simply reducing speeds.

The Neighbourhood Plan answers reinforced the "no street lights" policy so there can be no calming in the High St., but there are street lights on Cambridge Road. We are therefore in a dialogue with Highways about calming at the north end of the village, probably around the Village Hall, Social Club and new Pavilion. We hope to get a safer pedestrian crossing to the car park and Pavilion included in it, but there are lots of rules about this.

At the south end, we will be starting a consultation with the Tally Ho and London Road residents about something similar there.

Please let us have your views on ALL OF THIS.

MORE ON HIGHWAYS...

We are also delighted to say that we have been told that, after 3 years of pushing, a pavement will be created all the way down Royston Road to Mill House. As a first stage the existing pavement from Periwinkle Close to High St will be refurbished soon, and we must start a consultation process immediately on the rest so it can be done next summer. 'The rest' is a new pavement from Windmill Close to beyond the 30mph signs, and then on the other side up to Mill House.

Finally, I have been told that HCC Highways cannot accept any claim for damages from the public which occurred due to a defect that had never been reported (I only quote!!). PLEASE keep reporting them, and if it is already on the system, click on 'SUBSCRIBE' to the defect (strange choice of word) which, apart from you getting an email about it, adds weight to the need to repair apparently. You can achieve the same reporting by ringing 0300 123 4047 (a free call from a BT landline).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Parish Council meetings are held in the Reading Room on the second Monday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. Scheduled meetings for the next quarter are 10 November, 8 December and 12 January.

Members of the public are welcome.

PARISH MATTERS.....

PAVILION AND COMMUNITY ROOM PROJECT

The building is now coming up to an important milestone with the roof being completed in the next few days and thus allowing for work to progress in the interior. In all, we anticipate the project to be completed by mid December. We will be planning an Open Day to allow everyone to view the building and its facilities and to advertise the arrangements for booking the community room. As soon as we have a date we will let everyone know, but, we anticipate this to be sometime in the second half of January 2015. As we enter the final stages of the building programme there are a few more small additions we would like to make to the facility. Many people and companies have been very generous in their donations to the project, however if there is anyone else who would like to contribute, no matter how small a sum, to allow these additions to take place then please complete the accompanying donation form. We would also like to report that we have had two willing volunteers who have come forward to join the management committee for the new facility. This is really welcome news as the management committee, reporting to the Parish Council, will be very important going forward to ensure that the new facility operates correctly and efficiently whilst actively promoting its use.

Project Committee

BARKWAY PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL DATABASE

Are you receiving email messages from Barkway Parish Council? If not and you would like to be kept informed about matters relating to the Parish (and we will not bombard you with endless emails, or pass your details on to any 3rd party), please forward your details to: parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk

BARKWAY & NEWSSELLS VILLAGE WEBSITE

We try to keep the website as up to date as possible but we are somewhat reliant on being supplied with current news and information from you. If your organisation has some news to share or an event to publicise, then please forward the details by email to: webmaster@barkway-village.co.uk or use the 'Contact Us' page on the website www.barkway-village.org.uk

BARKWAY & NUTHAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to have in place a document which represents the views of the villages of Barkway and Nuthampstead with respect to the future development of their neighbourhood over the next 15-20 years. Once ratified, it will have some legal force. On 23rd October we had a public meeting to present the outcome of the questionnaire and to describe the next stages in the process. The vision that has emerged is that we love our surroundings and do not want the character of our neighbourhood to be altered detrimentally.

359 questionnaires delivered to households, 14% to Nuthampstead, 51% of the households responded. Response rates between Barkway and Nuthampstead were broadly similar. Most people thought the villages could support some 10% extra houses and wished them to be designed in a sympathetic style to existing homes with a mixture of affordable (shared equity) and family sized buildings. Home working and non-nuisance generating business would be welcomed, as would a shop. The walks and views in a rural setting are highly valued, as is the community spirit. The main extra leisure facility requested was a tennis court.

The report is on the parish website and any further comments can come to sonia.falasci-ray@barkway-village.co.uk by 14th November, at which point the Plan will be finalised for audit and submission. If you did not complete the questionnaire we would especially love to hear from you.

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

We are indebted to Paul Droy (High St.) for taking the initiative and organising the planting of 6 trees to replace some that were felled for safety reasons last year in the 'Avenue' north of the Village Hall.

Small leaf Lime trees about 10 feet tall have been planted and staked by Paul, with the help of Reg West, Graham Penning, Robert Squire and the Gatwood family.

The Parish Council would like to thank them all. It is a perfect example of local volunteering for the general good. Your Council supported the venture by covering all financial costs.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Jim Dalton: (Chair) Highways
Sonia Falasci-Ray (Vice-Chair): Neighbourhood Plan
Steve Alsop: Pavilion Project
Steve Foster: Community Property
Giuseppe Frapporti: Environment
Jenny Warren: Planning
Vacant Position: Community Liaison and Communication
Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

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BARKWAY WAR MEMORIAL

Barkway Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Francis Duncan and Sue Neilson for their generous help and support over many years now in expertly maintaining the planters either side of the War Memorial.

If you have any comments on the content of this edition of Barkway Bulletin, please contact the editor, Catharine Toms - parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk - we are always interested in hearing your views.

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