

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Parish Council has continued to research the subject of affordable housing. There is a local consensus that certain groups in the village would benefit from smaller or less expensive housing options that are not currently readily available. Dacorum policy provides for small-scale housing development on Rural Exception Sites at manageable cost to local people who need housing but can't afford to buy or rent on the open market. Homes on exception sites cannot be bought outright and remain affordable for local people in the future. They are principally for low income people who need to be on the housing register and to be 'under the bar' on certain personal financial criteria.

At a well-attended village meeting on 23 September, CDA Herts, the



Rural Housing Enabler for Dacorum Council, outlined the policy and process for local communities. Working in partnership with CDA, Housing Associations and Parish Councils are assisted to assess local need and arrive at an approvable housing scheme under the policy.

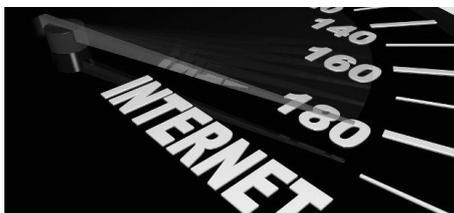
Since that meeting the Parish Council has decided that the rural exception policy and process as presented by CDA Herts is not fully relevant to our village's needs. It is

pursuing other approaches and will be reporting back in the spring. The Parish Council remains extremely sensitive to the question of control over nomination rights to affordable housing property.

Calling Dacorum Borough Council?

Dial 01442 228000. Say the name of the person you want, e.g. Housing John Smith and you will automatically be put through!

SUPER FAST BROADBAND



An extra £8.2m has been allocated by the Herts CC and central government to broaden the coverage of superfast broadband in Hertfordshire. Under the current "Connected Counties Programme" some parts of Little Gaddesden will benefit from investment in new fibre optic infrastructure, which connects with individual homes. Our exchange comprises 9 cabinets and of these

Cabinet 2 (actually in Dagnall) and Cabinet 5 (at St Margaret's cross-roads on Hudnall Lane) will have fibre installed during the first quarter of 2015. As yet, there are no plans to bring fibre to the other cabinets but the extra new funding may make this possible if there is demonstrated demand from the village.

Capital allocation decisions for Super-Fast Broadband are highly responsive to expressed public demand or lack of it. There are likely to be ongoing improvements to superfast technology but with limited budgets going forward it is

important that residents continue to lobby and indicate their support for the facility or they will get left behind. There was a wide variation in the community's response to Councillor Kutluoglu's initial village-wide survey. It ranged from 0% (total indifference) in several roads to 80% (bring it on baby) in others! Moving forward, one way to get leverage is to communicate via www.connectedcounties.org. You can also check the speeds available to your home using BT's online checker tool. To check which cabinet your phone line is connected to, go to: <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html>

WORLD WAR ONE TRIBUTE

From time to time the Parish Council accumulates reserves which it invests in new projects for the village. It has a number of small projects under consideration. Among them it is considering a permanent tribute of some sort to the memory of those who fell in the Great War.

We are looking for suggestions from the community. The tribute could be a physical memorial of a traditional character or something of a more tangible character of ongoing use to the community. Ideas and suggestions to your Councillors or the Clerk will be appreciated.

We will consult on the options.

TRAFFIC AND SPEEDING



Councillor Parker has been active in supporting the Police's 'Drive Safe' scheme which enables properly trained local residents to get involved in speed monitoring and reporting. The Police have also been active in prosecuting offenders caught speeding in the village. More than half of those stopped for speeding recently have been village residents.

CHRISTMAS TREE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Parish Council has thrown its weight behind proposals to erect a 15' temporary Christmas tree at a carefully selected site near the war memorial end of the village green. The tree will be lit throughout the festive season and should enhance comm-



unity celebrations. The Parish Church, the Gaddesden Society and Village Produce Association are supporting the initiative financially. The tree will be uplifted in the first week of January. If it is successful we will look at making it permanent.

MOWING THE VILLAGE GREEN 2015

To meet the challenge between neatness and biodiversity, Councillor Hyde has presented a new outline proposal for mowing the village green in 2015. The green would now be mown monthly but depending on the growth patterns of different flowers and the need to sustain the butterfly population, certain sections would be allowed to grow for a while whilst others would be always be mown. Grass cuttings would ideally

be collected as they cause vigorous growth to the detriment of wild flowers. Currently there are around 20 identifiable and interesting wild flower species on the green. A final decision on the scheme will be taken by the spring.



VALLEY VIEW PLANNING UPDATE

Following the appeal to the Secretary of State against Bedfordshire County Council's decision to allow the application for expansion of the caravan site at Valley View on the Leighton Buzzard Road, Parish Councillors and Clerk attended the

appeal hearing at Chicksands, Bedfordshire, in August. Having heard the submissions, the Inspector is now finalising her report and will make her recommendation on the appeal to the Secretary of State not later than December 19th.

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