

NEW PARISH COUNCIL ELECTED – TRIBUTES PAID TO DOUG ADAMS

As part of the round of local and national elections on May 7th, a new Parish Council was elected and appointed at the annual council meeting on May 18th. Councillors Adams and Parker stepped down and Councillor Jim Townsend was elected as one of their replacements. Councillors Archer, Heaphy, Hyde, Irving and Kutluoglu were re-elected unopposed. The Council has initiated a co-option process to fill the remaining vacancy. Those interested should approach the Parish Clerk or Councillor Archer, who replaced

Councillor Adams as Chair at the annual meeting. Councillor Irving was appointed Vice Chair. In the District Council elections, Jim Douris was elected to replace Councillor Nick Tiley who has retired.

Parish Councillors met at Barn Cottage on Friday 22 May to pay tribute to Douglas Adams' period of service on the Council which ended on May 11th. Doug was elected to the Council some 13 years ago and for the last 7 years has chaired its discussions and skilfully steered the direction of

local affairs. Along with her husband Antony, Councillor Louise Archer hosted the reception at her home and presented Doug with a gift from fellow Councillors to mark their regard for his contribution to village affairs.



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!

VILLAGE GREEN

The Parish Council has received agreement from Hertfordshire County Council for the transfer of the lease for the Green to the Parish Council for a 125 years term. Updated byelaws have been drafted which will be adopted once the lease is confirmed. As regards maintenance, the Parish Council is experimenting with a new mowing regime that seeks to balance environmental and neatness criteria. Several dedicated villagers have volunteered to take part in a regular survey of the flowers and wildlife on unmown conservation areas. Currently, we have four groups of three, one for each area. So far only the April survey results are in, with findings of Ladies Smock, both single and double,

white violets and Goldilocks as the showiest items. The sprinkling of yellow celandines earlier in the spring and of course the wonderful cherry blossom at the end of April were much enjoyed this year. We have six lime trees on the Green. The three very large ones below Red House Farm were 'tomographed' (MRI scan for trees) a couple of years ago. We will maintain these trees for as long as is safely possible. The remaining younger limes are showing signs of stress. Inspection of the bark indicates that they are not in good health. It is proposed that we remove one every 3 – 5 years. The question is (as ever) what to replace them with bearing in mind the increasing number of fatal tree

diseases. Research with the National Trust shows that during the early part of the 20th Century there were ten Damson trees on the green. It is now proposed that we find a source for traditional local varieties and consider planting them instead. They would not grow enormously tall and would not have future maintenance issues and we would have the pleasure of the blossom and fruit for the birds and bees.

In the meantime residents should remember parking on the driveways overnight is prohibited as is any intrusion onto the Green without prior permission of the Clerk of the Parish Council.

LGN PC Newsletter

From your Parish Councillors

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Side 2

LITTLE GADDESSEN PARISH COUNCIL

JUNE 2015

PEDLEY HILL CROSSROADS

Parish and District Councillors from Little Gaddesden and Central Bedfordshire have been meeting with highway authorities and County Councillors to discuss the possibility of tackling traffic speeds and visibility at the accident black spot at Four Ways Garage/Pedley Hill crossroads. To start the ball rolling, discussions about options for improvements have taken place. County Councillor David Lloyd has indicated his support for some form of traffic calming at the location. It is hoped that the volume of traffic on the A4146 will anyway be impacted by upcoming road improvements on the A5.

VALLEY VIEW

As we go to press, the Secretary of State has yet to issue his decision on the outcome of the planning application for increased accommodation at Valley View. Originally expected in December 2014, the application was placed in purdah during the general election campaign as it is potentially contentious.

SUPER-FAST BROADBAND BOOST

Little Gaddesden received a broadband boost in May as plans were announced to increase high-speed fibre-optic broadband coverage in the county to more than 98 per cent of premises, thanks to additional funding of £13.9 million for

LITTLE GADDESSEN BUS SERVICE

At the end of March members of HCC Transport, Access and Safety Unit were invited to a public meeting in the Sports Pavilion to challenge Hertfordshire County Council's proposal to cut bus services through the village. 45 parishioners attended for a frank exchange of views with transport planners. HCC have to save money

and services will be reduced from September but parishioners emphasised the need to maintain at least some of our bus service, especially to Berkhamsted. It is expected that a decision will be made during June at which time the effect of local representations on the detail of the plan will become clear.

RURAL POLICING

The largest ever survey into crime and anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in rural areas has been launched in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to find out how the police can better serve rural communities. The survey, launched by the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN), is calling for people who work or live in rural areas to come forward and give their views on policing in their community, the impact crime and ASB has on them and their neighbours and to ultimately help shape the future of crime prevention and rural policing.

Anyone living or working in rural areas is being encouraged to take part in the survey to help build a picture of what is a widespread but often misunderstood issue. You don't need to have been a victim of crime to have a view on how the police work. You may be concerned about police visibility or response, see incidents that go unreported, or you may have a local officer who is engaged and proactive.

The survey will be open until Wednesday 24 June. To complete it, visit <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net/survey?member=Hertfordshire>

able to more than 400,000 households and businesses in the county by 2016. Cabinet 5 at the Hudnall end of the village and Cabinet 2, at the Dagnall end, are scheduled for upgrading by June 2015. Others should be upgraded later as part of the investment boost.

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