



newsletter

Issue 16 | June 2018

PARISH COUNCILLORS NEEDED!

As the current Council is approaching the last year in its 4 year tenure, the whole Council will stand down in May 2019 and there will be elections for a new Council. Fresh blood is always needed and welcome.

There are 7 seats on the Parish Council. Councillors play a necessary, non-political, role in managing village affairs within their statutory remit. The public assets around the village including the village green, playing fields, play facilities and trees in public places all have to be maintained within a budget of about £45,000. The significant number of planning applications coming in monthly from local residents have to be commented on, or objected to as part of the statutory District planning process. Contracts for a range of local services tendered have to be let according to financial rules. Resident's concerns about local issues need to be dealt with too and

communication with the next, more senior levels of local government at District and County Council levels operated effectively. A full slate of Councillors is needed to do this work and represent varying views on local matters. The work is completely unpaid.

There are no expenses but the work is interesting and important to maintaining our status as an area of outstanding natural beauty. Those interested in joining the Parish Council should speak direct to Councillor Irving the current Chair, or the Parish Clerk, Alastair Greene. They will explain the process of application and selection and the Clerk will issue the necessary paperwork to candidates. There will be an interview and if more than one candidate applies, Councillors will vote. Please put your name forward if you are interested.

PARISH PATHWAYS

The Parish Council has been active in the last 3 years in reinstating and upgrading various pathways around the village, including those between The Grovells and the field running from Meadow Farm to the

Church, on Witchcraft Hill and most recently between Bede Court and the Bridgwater Arms. The work is done with the support of the Parish Pathways Partnership at Dacorum, which provides some funding. Please tell the Parish Clerk if you know of paths that need attention.



LADY MARION ALFORD MEMORIAL

The work to reinstate the Memorial at the entrance to Ashridge Park is approaching completion. The old trees around the Memorial have been felled and replaced with Italian cypresses donated by Ashridge Business School. A specialist contractor has been appointed to clean the monument and will complete the work during the summer.



TEENAGE FACILITIES

Councillors have been active with a teenage working group to improve facilities for younger residents of the village. Options for purchasing fresh air fitness exercise equipment for the playing field are under active consideration and fund raising activity is under way to support monies budgeted by the Council. A Curry Evening and Quiz is being held in the village hall on June 9th. In addition, residents are looking at options to upgrade the play equipment for younger children on the Cromer Close playing field.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS & CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER APPRAISAL

One of the Council's objectives for 2018 is to initiate a character appraisal for Little Gaddesden. Much Parish Council time is spent on reviewing residents planning applications, which we are required to do as part of the statutory planning process. Currently, the Council has a dedicated work group who meet regularly to do this work. Decisions

about planning applications are sometimes complex. The heart of Little Gaddesden is currently designated a conservation area and the wider village sits within a designated area of outstanding natural beauty and, in parts, the green belt. The criteria we use to comment on applications are important to balance fair treatment of appli-

cations and protect the environment from intrusive or inappropriate development. By defining attributes which contribute to and detract from the appearance and character of an area, qualitative assessment of new planning proposals can be made more rationally and openly, and thus be better understood by applicants for planning permission. The appraisal process will take about 18 months to complete. We will be assisted by senior planners from Dacorum and involve local interest groups such as the Rural Heritage Society



TRAFFIC AND SPEEDING

Traffic remains an ongoing area of concern for residents and the Council. Responsibility for speed limits and enforcement lies with the County Council and the Police. The Parish Council works with both bodies to influence the framework for the village but has no say in the limits that are set. Currently we are paying for a mobile Speed Indicator Device to monitor traffic flows and speed through the village and provide data for traffic planners. The SID has been deployed at Cromer Close and Church Road crossroads. It will shortly move to Ringshall Road and next year to

Hudnall Lane. In the meantime, the County Council has erected weight enforcement notices at the boundaries of the village to limit the flow of heavy commercial traffic through the village following the redesignation of the A4146 and the introduction of weight restrictions at Water End bridge.



WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY



Local groups including the Royal British Legion are working informally to mark the centenary of the end of the Great War in November 1918. Along with the annual remembrance service, there will be an exhibition in mid-October 2018 in the Village Hall which will commemorate villagers who both served and fell in that conflict. Those interested can contact John or Wendy Mitchell, or Shaun McCarthy.

COUNCILLORS' CONTACTS

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