

# WEST HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 2020 Issue 6



LOCAL COUNCIL  
AWARD SCHEME  
FOUNDATION

We are delighted to announce  
West Hanningfield Parish Council  
have been awarded Foundation Level.



Meet Nevaeh.

Nevaeh is a young resident of West Hanningfield. She was so disappointed that the village litter pick was postponed back in the spring due to the Covid19 restrictions that she decided she would carry out her own litter pick and do her bit to help keep our lovely village clean and tidy!

The Parish Council would like to send a very BIG thank you to Nevaeh! Her hard work and community spirit was exceptional and much appreciated. 🧡

The Parish Council meet the second Wednesday of the Month (via Zoom at present) . You are very welcome to come join as we have a public session at the beginning of the meeting, where residents can address the Council. Cllr. Jones Cllr. Tatum & Cllr. Brand are our Planning Representatives.

|               |                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clerk         | Karen Kuderovitch |    | Springfields, Crows Lane, Woodham Ferrers, Essex<br>CM3 8RR Tel: 01245 842953<br>Available Thursdays<br>e-mail: clerk@whpc.org.uk |
| Chairman      | Cllr. Karen Jones |    | Tel: 07484 274676<br>email:<br>karen.jones@whpc.org.uk                                                                            |
| Vice Chairman | Cllr. Steve Tatum |    | Tel: 07990 564615<br>email:<br>steve.tatum@whpc.org.uk                                                                            |
| Councillor    | Cllr. J. Sims     |   | 01245 401437<br>email:<br>Jim.sims@whpc.org.uk                                                                                    |
| Councillor    | Thelma Alexander  |  | Tel: 01277 840529                                                                                                                 |
| Councillor    | Paul Mitchell     |  | 01245 400201<br>email:<br>paul.mitchell@whpc.org.uk                                                                               |
| Councillor    | Paul Galley       |  | email:<br>paul.galley@whpc.org.uk                                                                                                 |
| Councillor    | David Myers       |  | david.myers@whpc.org.uk<br>Tel: 01277 630183<br>Mobile: 0788 7633227                                                              |
| Councillor    | Paul Brand        |  | Email paul.brand@whpc.org.uk                                                                                                      |
|               |                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                   |
|               |                   |                                                                                     | www.whpc.org.uk                                                                                                                   |



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—CLLR. KAREN JONES

I hope everyone has had a lovely summer in spite of the ongoing Covid19 restrictions, and if you managed to get away, I hope you had a good break.

I am devoting my latest report to updating residents about the important developments and progress concerning the speeding and antisocial behaviour in Middlemead.

There is no doubt that Middlemead is a unique stretch of road. This 'uniqueness' attracts speed lovers both locally and nationally and the recent pandemic has appeared to make this area of our lovely village even more attractive to these groups of individuals.

The Parish Council has, along with Cllr. Ian Grundy at Essex County Council and Cllr. Sue Dobson at Chelmsford City Council, had a series of meetings with Essex Highways and the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) to discuss the long-standing problems in Middlemead and, so far, these meetings have been constructive and there has been a determination from all parties, including Essex Highways, to address this long-standing and intransigent problem.

Essex Highways have told us that they consider traffic calming measures in Middlemead are unlikely to be an option as, due to the uniqueness of the environment - the area around the Reservoir is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - any measures to change the road physically would come with a need for lighting, which could potentially cause damage to the area. Essex Highways is also of the opinion that traffic calming measures could cause the road to become more attractive to racing rather than deter it. Therefore, they want to concentrate on enforcement using technology and to work more closely with the Police as they think that the some of the current activities feels more like organised crime than a speeding issue.

Essex Highways consider that average speed cameras should be the preferred option for Middlemead - although it was acknowledged that this option might only alleviate the problems, not necessarily solve them. Essex Highways officials are now putting together costings and checking out the practical issues such as power supply along the road. It was also suggested that extra police presence should also be requested over and above normal resources, using their covert team, and Essex Highways are currently awaiting a report from the Road Crime Manager at SERP about the possibility of this.

This proposed scheme is now going forward as a priority to the Essex Highways Local Highways Panel (LHP) for review and validation.

The Fisherman's car park still remains a contributing factor to the problems in Middlemead and we have been very recently informed by Essex & Suffolk Water that they are waiting for a quotation to install concrete blocks across the front of the gates to the car park, leaving a gap for one vehicle to get through, which they feel could help resolve matters.

The Parish Council has always advocated moving the gates closer to the highway as this effectively removes the 'refuge' area where people are able to congregate. We have been informed by Essex & Suffolk Water that planning permission has to be sought to move the gates closer to the highway. We are therefore pushing hard for an early meeting with Essex & Suffolk Water Estates Department to once again open discussions about the possibility of obtaining planning permission to move the gates at the entrance to the car park closer to the highway.

We do still have some way to go before we have a resolution to these long-standing problems and it will inevitably be a long process, especially when funding is considered, but we are at last moving in the right direction.



## CLERK'S REPORT—KAREN KUDEROVITCH

We hope you are all keeping well and managing in these very difficult times we face. The Parish Council enjoyed a well deserved recess in August, but we are now back in business and ready to pursue our many projects.

We were so pleased to receive the EALC Local Council Award Scheme at Foundation Level and we can now go on and apply for the next level—Quality.

Here is an update on what we have been pursuing on your behalf:

- The pathway has been repaired by Hastoe but we will continue to monitor this and see how it holds up to the winter weather.
- We continue to pursue with a number of organisations the fight to try and ease the anti-social behaviour/speeding issues at Mlddlemead—please see the Chairman's report on this.
- E-mail from Essex County Council:

*Thank you for your email below regarding a drainage issue on Church Road, West Hanningfield.*

*Essex Highways have confirmed that an adhoc jetting investigation was carried out on 20th August 2020 and it was identified that the gully runs into the manhole then flows down towards Maythorne, the old drainage channel is broken and looks like it has a pipe within a pipe, roots in line and also a suspected collapse. A drainage engineer will be arranging follow up civils repair to the drainage system for further investigation and repairs to the Surface water drainage system. The manhole from where the channel is defective was initially believed to be on private land but records show this is not the case and Essex Highways as the highway authority will try and get this addressed in the next eight weeks, subject to utility stats availability and weather conditions.*

- The Parish Council has requested Essex County Council complete a speed check for Ship Road/Lower Stock Road. Once we have the information we can share it with you.
- New lease on play area/playing field —we continue to negotiate with Essex & Suffolk water on this.



## **Councillor Profile**

I have lived in the village for near on 9 years having moved from Moulsham and Galleywood where I spent most of my childhood and young adult life. I have been serving on the Parish council for nearly 3 years now and this is my second term as Vice Chairman.

Family life consists of my wife, 3 children and a myriad of pets including chickens, dogs, rabbits, a tortoise and fish. We have thoroughly enjoyed our life in the village even though its been fairly short compared to many villagers. We love the feel of the open space, walks in our beautiful countryside and lockdown gave us a great opportunity to explore many of the public footpaths around the village , I'm sure there are many more still to walk.

Before lockdown I had worked in the City of London for all of my career , commuting from Billericay to Canary Wharf but like many since March the commute has been from the bedroom to the virtual office and all I can say is thanks to BT for finally sorting out some fibre connections in the village otherwise this would have been impossible.

That said there is much more to do in the village whether it be sorting out our security cameras, speeding, nuisance visitors, litter, proper broadband for all , decent playground equipment, respectful planning or fund raising and I have enjoyed being part of many teams that are working to improve our village on these and many more projects.

Being part of the Parish council has given me an opportunity to be involved in some or all of these aspects and make a positive contribution to life in our lovely village, work permitting, I hope I can for many more years.

**Cllr. Steve Tatum**



## **Local Council Awards**

The Local Council Award programme is administered by the Essex Association of Local Councils. Our thanks to them for their support.

### **The Awards**

We know that local councils are at the very heart of their communities; giving neighbourhoods a voice and making people more involved in the decisions that affect them. Over 15 million people (35% of the population) live in the communities served by local councils. Local councils want to serve their communities as best they can and make a real difference to the lives of the people that live there.

The Local Council Award Scheme has been designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential. The scheme offers councils the opportunity to show that they meet the standards set by the sector, assessed by their peers, and to put in place the conditions for continued improvement.

The Award Scheme has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising councils that are at the cutting edge of the sector.

It is only through the sector working together, to share best practice, drive up standards and supporting those who are committed to improving their offer to their communities that individual councils and the sector as a whole will reach its full potential.

### **Foundation**

The Foundation award is for councils who want to show they meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for their communities. To meet this award the council demonstrates that it has the required documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice. The council also has policies for training for its councillors and officers and so has the foundations for improvement and development in place.

The Foundation award allows you to benchmark your performance as well as challenging you to consider your councils continuing development and improvement.



Thankfully our lives are slowly returning to some sort of normality and this is happening at the county council as well. All of our meetings are virtual and the majority of staff are working from home but at least individual contact can now be made.

One of the sad consequences of the shut down has been the increase in anti social behaviour. My case load is full of speeding issues, loud car radio mu-sic late at night, organised gatherings in the late evening, play areas being abused and of course gas cylinders and litter. I have to say it is a very sad state of affairs when our own citizens behave in this manner.

The school return has had a lot of publicity and I hope by the time you read this article it will have settled down. School transport has been very difficult to resolve and if you have a problem then [www.stopswapgo.co.uk/getting-to-school/](http://www.stopswapgo.co.uk/getting-to-school/) may be of help. You could also telephone the council contact centre on 0345 6032200.

Shortly the government will be publishing a white paper on changes to local government. If enacted this will be the end of ECC and local district councils as we know them. These will be replaced by Unitary Authorities and a Com-bined Authority with an elected Mayor. In addition to the County Council there are currently 12 District and 2 Unitary Councils in Essex serving a population of just under 2million. I personally welcome the review, there are substantial savings and a better use of resources to be made by a reorganisation which must be a benefit to residents. It is going to be an interesting time and I am sure I will be reporting more on this.

As always if I can help on an issue please contact me.

Ian Grundy

Email: [Cllr.ian.grundy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ian.grundy@essex.gov.uk)

Tel: 01277 840737

### **Chelmsford Mayor launches Christmas card competition**

Residents of Chelmsford – of all ages – are invited to design the Mayor's Christmas card. Not only is there the chance of winning the coveted festive spot, but also other exciting prizes.

The Christmas card competition opens on Monday 7 September. It calls on Chelmsford residents of all ages to create a piece of artwork, or write a poem, inspired by the Mayor's 2020 theme of 'family and well-being'. Drawings, photographs and poems can be submitted online at [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/xmascard](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/xmascard) by midnight 31 October 2020.

Councillor Jude Deakin, the Mayor of Chelmsford, said; "Family and wellbeing is the theme for my term as Mayor this year, and I want that to be shown in the Christmas card that I send out in December.

"Forgive me for bringing up the C-word in September but I hope this competition can bring some festive joy to a difficult year. I'm really looking forward to seeing the creative, colourful ideas that the talented people of Chelmsford choose to enter."

The Mayor of Chelmsford, with help from a panel of jolly judges, will select and announce three winners across the drawing, photograph and poetry categories in early December.

As well as being featured on the Christmas card, the winning entries will be included in the Mayor's time capsule for 2020. Prizes from Jump Street trampoline park and Mace Playce soft play centre in Chelmsford are also up for grabs, with more fun prizes to be announced shortly!

Further details about how to enter the Christmas card competition can be found at [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/xmascard](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/xmascard). The closing date is midnight 31 October 2020.

Be  
Fraud  
Smart!

caution publicis  
betrachtung



# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

5

28th August 2020

## Pension Scams

During these times of uncertainty there are increased offers of financial investment and figures from the Financial Conduct Authority and the Pensions Regulator show over £30 million has been lost to pension scams since 2017.

Fraudsters will target pension pots large and small with losses anywhere between £1,000 and £500,000.



Some **Top Tips** on how to protect your retirement:

- 1 Know how much is in the pot**—many people admit to not knowing how much money is currently in their pension making it difficult to make informed decisions.
- 2 Do your research**—you wouldn't make any sort of large purchase without checking the product out first. I should be the same with financial decisions! Take your time to ensure you know exactly what you are purchasing and make use of resources such as the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) Register to ensure that the firm is registered or speak to a financial advisor.
- 3 Don't be overconfident**—nearly two thirds of people (65%) say they feel that they would be confident in spotting a scam, and yet many would still unknowingly put themselves at risk, with nearly 40% of people saying they would be swayed by tactics such as 'limited time offers'.
- 4 Spot the signs**—as above, be wary of 'limited time offers', legitimate firms will never try to panic you or push you into making a rushed decision. Many scams also promise 'guaranteed high returns' on your savings and most offers will be as a result of unexpected emails, phone calls or social media messages.

For more information, read the Action Fraud article [here](#).

You can find more help and advice at [www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online [at essex.police.uk](http://essex.police.uk)





WE STILL HAVE A VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR AND IT WOULD BE GREAT TO  
FILL IT!

WHY NOT COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR MEETINGS AND OBSERVE WHAT  
WE DO AND MEET THE TEAM.

THERE ARE NO SET AMOUNT OF HOURS YOU HAVE TO DEDCIATE TO THE  
ROLE, SO IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AND FEEL YOU CAN MAKE A  
CONTRIBUTION PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK FOR FURTHER



**[www.roadworks.org](http://www.roadworks.org)—where you can check on line for planned  
roadworks**

**CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL**  
**[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment)**

- Book a pest control visit
- Dogs
- Pay a fine (FPN)
- Noise and nuisance
- Report a street problem
- Food hygiene and safety
- Contaminated land
- Water and drainage
- Air quality

## WEST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE HALL

It seems incredible that the first event of 2020 took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January with our celebration of English Village Halls Week which provided residents with the opportunity to review much of the history of our Parish and of the Hall and here we are heading towards winter with no sign of any new events planned!!

You will have seen we have completed the much needed repairs to all the extension roofs and this will allow the building to operate for a little longer albeit the cracks in the floor continue to worsen and the building generally is sinking into the sunset. We need to urgently get on with a new build if we are to maintain this essential asset to the Village.

We have not been idle during Lockdown, through effective use of Zoom meetings throughout the period we have been out to tender and selected a super architectural practice called Munday & Cramer who have good experience of working with organisations like us in developing community buildings. They have already started work and, working closely with our Parish Councillors, we are moving towards having drawings available to show you in the Public Consultation being run by the Parish Council sometime after the end of September.

We were so pleased to have involvement from the Parish Council in our review of architects and their bids it proved to be very helpful.

As we have said previously we have to raise a lot of money for the build and our estimate, having built in all the ideas from your input and that of our hirers is now £550,000 to £650,000 depending how many facilities you agree to putting in it!

We need all the help we can get, in terms of money yes but also in terms of help to run events and work with our dedicated team to make applications for funds. Do please get in touch if you have expertise that can support us.

You will all have seen the new gates which were installed, in the first instance, to combat the anti-social behaviour we were experiencing early in the year.



At the risk of boring you, all the content of information produced elsewhere relating to the gates is noted below:-

Here is a summary of the details of our discussions but to keep everyone fully informed we have to set out who owns the various areas. The Hall and Car Park are private property operated by the Charity Trustees under a dedicated lease from Essex & Suffolk Water (parent company Northumbrian Water). This lease specifies the car park is for Hall use.

The Playground, side field and Recreation Ground are operated under a separate lease with Essex & Suffolk Water by the Parish Council. This lease is currently under renegotiation.

We have asked the Parish Council at their meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July to consider opening their field gate to enable vehicle access and parking for their Users thereby providing easy access to those with disabilities or having to travel by car to reach the facilities.

Both the Parish Council and Hall leases carry responsibility to protect residents from nuisance.

### **Why should we open the Hall gates?**

- To provide unhindered access for hirers as our lease states the car park is for the benefit of Hall hirers
- To assist visitors to the play area and recreation field, in the short term, enjoy the facilities

### **Why should we keep them closed?**

- If usage prevents Users of the Village Hall enjoying unhindered access and adequate parking for their events
- Threat of traveller's occupation
- Security of our solar panels
- Anti-social behaviour
- COVID-19, Hall is closed for many activities but should be protected for dedicated use of hirers

### **Our Decision**

We have decided to open the gates again from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020; we will produce signs spelling out the requirements of use for the area. This decision has been made by the Trustees to try and alleviate the pressures on some residents and visitors to the play and recreation areas whilst we await the decision from the Parish Council on opening their gate. We are extremely concerned that some of our residents have felt threatened when walking around the field and some are so uncomfortable they no longer feel safe going to the Recreation Field. This has never to my knowledge been an issue in our Village. The signs will stress that the car park may be closed without notice if we experience further anti-social behaviour or interference with use of our hirers.

We have already installed security cameras some time ago to monitor the cars entering the car park and have been passing registration numbers to the Police when we have had unwanted visitors in the area.

It has been brought to our attention from the July minutes of the Parish Council as follows:

Open Spaces - Councillors considered the request from the WHVH re the opening of the gate to the overflow car park. It was resolved not to do this as it would be a potential risk for travellers to enter the open spaces.

It was resolved to request the gates are opened in the morning and closed at dusk to allow users of the play area to have access to stop potential safety issues.'

The Hall does not have resources to open and shut the gates so please note they may be shut without notice as specified on the notices.

The Hall is available for controlled hiring so please do make enquiries through email at [hall.bookings@westhanningfield.com](mailto:hall.bookings@westhanningfield.com) or telephone 01245 809009.

Hirers will be required to complete a Risk Assessment setting out how they will run the event within the COVID-19 requirements, maintain a log of attendees for contact in the event of infection and comply with the conditions instituted by the Trustees to ensure precautions are maintained in terms of social distancing and cleansing.

Very best wishes for your continued health during these strange times, we look forward to seeing you in better times soon.

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