Newsletter Spring 2023

Ellington Parish Council

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PARISH COUNCIL

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter.

The Parish Council (PC) continues to be very active in overseeing much of the management of the village. This includes the day-to-day things like grass cutting, tree maintenance and planting, replacing roadside bollards and also bench repairs, up keep of the mobile speed sign, requests for funding and grant applications, as well as meetings with representatives of National and County Highways Officers, likewise with Planning and Planning Enforcement Officers. All this is carried out on a voluntary basis by the Council members under the direction of Lisa, our hard-working Parish Clerk.

Four new members joined the Council in June last year, and, alongside the three existing councillors, we have been very active in all matters to **try** and keep Ellington as pleasant a place as possible.

Planning applications continue to occupy a great deal of Council time. Throughout the year we have made decisions on over fifteen applications. Some are straight forward, others, like the application for the motocross track, less so. This saw around thirty local residents attend the PC meeting, many of whom went on to register their comments on the application with Huntingdon District Council (HDC). (Instructions on how to comment on planning applications are on the notice board on the Green or on our website www.ellingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) Although the PC is a statutory consultee on planning applications, the ultimate decisions are made by HDC Planners. We are, though, very fortunate to have our Neighbourhood Plan, which is a fully adopted planning document.

More recently the PC has had some good dialogue with Planning Enforcement over matters of **unlawful development** on Grove Lane. As this is a complex and ongoing situation dating back nearly ten years, any eventual outcome may not fully resolve the problem to everyone's satisfaction. However, constant updates from the PC and members of the public will keep the concerns at the top of Enforcement's in-tray.

Highways, pot holes, street lighting and speeding traffic are always an emotive subject! **Stephen Cawley**, our District Councillor and, **Ian Gardener**, our County Councillor, have both been very active in reporting issues with our roads. Some are District Highways while others are County Highways responsibility, and the A14 and slip roads are those of National Highways. Lack of funding is a common excuse, although the High Street is due for re-surfacing in the near future.

The **Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign** (MVAS) or the flashing speed sign, is maintained by the PC. It records data of speeds, times and vehicle numbers. This information can be passed to the police who can carry out enforcement.

Parish Council Meetings

Held at the Village Hall. Public and Press are welcome to attend.

March 13

7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting

May 8

7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting

July 10

7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting.

September 11

7.30 pm Parish Council Meeting

November 13

7.30 pm. Parish Council Meeting

Ellington Village Gala 23 – 24 June 2023

Join us for the normal fun and frolics that the annual Gala involves - Boules, BBQ, Sports competitions, music, bar, stalls, Church Flower Festival and more! Get the date in your diary

😊

In January the PC applied to the Local Highways Initiative to help finance the implementation of a 40-mph restriction along Grafham Road, through Ellington Thorpe all the way to Grafham. Hopefully this will be third time lucky for approval of this scheme.

It is good to see the reports in this newsletter from the other groups in the village. There is always a lot going on, sometimes behind the scenes. Look out for a new **book sharing library** in the Church, **Village Hall re-furbishments.** Please support the Gala and Flower Festival, the EPFA and the Village Club and their events. Or, if a bit of peace and solitude is needed visit the church.

The work of the PC can sometimes be thankless, it may go un-noticed, but it is important and sometimes good fun! Members of the public are welcome at any PC meeting, usually either the District Councillor or County Councillor will be present. We are currently seeking a new council member. So, as with the other groups and clubs reported in this newsletter, get involved.
Much more information is available at www.ellingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Planning update

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has relaunched the Pre-Application Planning Advice Service, allowing agents and residents across the district to access planning advice before submitting planning applications. The revamped system offers a completely digital enquiry process, allowing applicants to submit requests and pay for pre-application advice through the council's website.

Government reforms of the planning system have been well published, and more than 40,000 responses were received to it. The Government is already behind on the ambitious timescales which are causing uncertainty. It has been muted that for some planning applications the consultation time will be reduced from 21 to 18 days. Ellington Parish Council discuss all planning items in their parish meetings to allow any developer or resident the opportunity to discuss their planning proposal and allows any residents to make their views known to the Parish Council before they discuss the proposed application and make observations to HDC. Comments can be directly logged on the HDC planning portal in addition to attending the parish meeting.

Cost of living support

Are you worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport? You are not alone; the rising cost of living is affecting many of us.

You may be looking for support to access grants and debt advice, get all the money you're entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support measures. Whatever your money worries may be, Cambridgeshire County Council have some useful information available at cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living

You can also apply for Household Support Fund, which has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food and household energy bills. Support is offered in five ways:

Support for people who are struggling financially
Trusted Partners
Cambridgeshire Holiday Voucher Scheme (CHVS)
Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
Support with food and household energy
Find out more here
https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund

Website and Facebook

All the Minutes of previous meetings and associated reports can be found on the PC's website, which is at www.ellingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk. You will also find contact details of Parish Councilors, information about the Neighbourhood Plan, and other local information. The Parish Council has created its own Facebook Page, where it will post the latest information.

If you search for @EllingtonParishCouncil you can then like the page and follow our updates. We also share some of these posts via the Ellington Village Facebook group, so well worth becoming a member of the group, if not already – @ellington village & gala info.

Helping older people 'Feel Brighter' again with NHS Talking Therapies

Are you 65 or older and feel like life is less colourful than it used to be? If you haven't been feeling yourself, don't suffer in silence.

'Feel Brighter' is a new NHS campaign that aims to reach out to older people aged 65 and over, who may be struggling with their mental health but don't know where to turn for advice, support and to find out what services are available locally.

The new campaign aims to encourage older people who have symptoms such as anxiety, loneliness, or low mood to reach out and access free NHS Talking Therapies and other support to help them feel brighter again.

NHS Talking Therapies are effective treatments that involve speaking with an experienced mental health professional to understand feelings and learn ways to manage them. Sessions are totally confidential and can be one-to-one, in a group, online, or over the phone.

To find out more, simply visit the Feel Brighter webpage at www.cpics.org.uk/feel-brighter for more information about NHS Talking Therapies, other support available, and how to refer yourself. Alternatively, you can call this number to make an initial referral: Tel 0300 300 0055. Phone lines are available 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday (closed on Bank Holidays

Chewing the Cud with Rev. Duncan Goldthorpe,
Rector of The Parish of East Leightonstone



God's Love Reflected in Flowers



At this time of year, you can't help at noticing the wonders of creation as flowers burst into view once more. Have you ever thought that God's love is reflected in flowers? Snowdrops, aconites, roses, petunias, tulips, daisies, and every kind of flower you can imagine reflect God's love and intelligence.

When I look at flowers, I see love and beauty. I am not talking about the kind of beauty or love people think about when they see flowers. I am thinking more about God's love.



God created flowers thousands of years ago. In His creation of flowers, I believe He thought of everything. His love is reflected in the beauty of flowers.

The petals are so delicate, yet so vibrant in colour.
Each flower has its scent, pleasant to the nose.
Some flowers offer a safe place for bees to land.
Some flowers bloom every single day only to wither before dawn.

Then you have the stem. The stem is sturdy, long, and thin. It supports the petals. While the stem Is strong enough to withstand our grasp, it is soft to the touch.

I think my favourite thing about flowers is their longevity. We have never been without them. God's creation has brought so many people joy. They have made people smile, and hearts have melted.

I believe God thought of us when he created flowers.
Flowers have become a symbol of love. God thought of everything – the size, the smell, the look, the colours, and the endurance. He gave us something to enjoy and share. So next time you see a beautiful flower, think of the creator and the love the creator so freely gives.

In Luke chapter 12 verses 25-28 we read abouts God's love for us using flowers as an illustration:

"Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can't even do that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don't fuss with their appearance—but have you ever seen colour and design quite like it? The ten best- dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?
(The Message Version)

God Bless, Duncan

Parish Council Vacancy

As a Councilor representing your community, you will help to keep it a great place to live. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude, and be willing to work as part of a team.

To qualify a person must, on the day of co-option, be a British citizen and attained the age of 18 years AND

1. On that day and thereafter continue to be a local government elector for the area of the authority, OR
2. Has during the whole 12 months preceding that day occupied as owner or tenant any land or any other premises in the area; OR
3. Has their principal or only place of work during that 12 months in the area; OR
4. Has during the 12 months resided in that area; OR
5. During the whole 12 months has resided within the parish or within three miles of it.

Please speak with any Parish Council member for further information.

Grafham Community Shop

Staying open

Good new the Shop is staying open! While the immediate threat of shop closure has been averted, we are still a long way from getting out of the woods. The incoming chairs hope to give the shop one more summer season to see if they can make the shop viable, so local support is vital.

Help needed

First and foremost, we need to recruit more paid help. We also need more volunteers whether it is minding the till, cleaning shelves, "doing the weekly shop", helping with deliveries or even bookkeeping.

We are open:

Mon – Tues – closed
Wed – Fri 9am – 5.30pm
Saturday 9am – 5pm
Sunday 10am – 2pm
Bank Holidays: 10am – 2pm

To make contact, leave your details in the shop or email us at:
shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk



Flower Festival

This will be the 49th Flower Festival on the Fete/Gala weekend, so let's all be part of it! We were thrilled last year by the support we had for the "CROWNS", Thank You. The Festival will not be a competition. We need a theme? One suggestion is "TRANSPORT", but we are open to ideas? There is a list of previous titles on the notice board in the Church. Get your thinking caps on!! We will have a get together Weds. 31st May 7-30pm in the Church to finalize ideas.

a369davies@btinternet.com



The Mermaid

Chris, Kay & the Team are delighted to welcome you to our new sister pub - The Mermaid in Ellington.

We are so pleased to start this new venture, initially starting with drinks only, before we expand into full restaurant service later in the year.

Chris & Kay have a lot of great memories with The Mermaid, and look forward to bringing back a local pub to the area.

The Mermaid in Ellington, will be open for drinks only:
Monday to Friday 1700hrs to 2230hrs
Saturday 1200hrs to 2230hrs
Sunday 1200hrs to 2000hrs

Please feel free to contact The Mermaid on 01480 891106 with any queries you have. We'll be running both pubs - the Wheatsheaf, Perry and The Mermaid, Ellington with the Team, and will keep you regularly updated with our news, menus and posts on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank very much, we look forward to welcoming you,
Chris, Kay & the Team

Mobile Library



The Mobile Library visits Ellington, Grafham, Perry, Hail Weston, Great Staughton and Kimbolton on the 4th Wednesday in the month (Round H24)

Ellington: Mermaid Pub 9.30 to 10.00am
Grafham: Breach Road 10.10am to 10.35am
Perry: Chichester Way 10.45am to 11.40am
Hail Weston: Orchard Close 12.00pm to 12.20pm
Great Staughton: The Causeway 1.30pm to 2.00pm
Kimbolton: Stow Road (Newtown) 2.15pm to 3.45pm
Kimbolton: Castle Gardens 3.50pm to 4.30pm
As well as a large range of library books, you can get your NHS hearing batteries, replacement walking stick ferrules and you can dispose of old household batteries.

Ellington Carpet Bowls Club.

The club meets every Monday at 2pm until 4 pm in Ellington Village Hall. Like all Clubs and Societies, we suffered and had to suspend play, however, we have been up and running for over 12 Months and despite the loss of a few members we have managed to recruit three new players and are very nearly back to a full complement of members. At the moment we charge £10 a year subscription and £2.50 per session.

I have been asked why we don't play in the evening well to break even we need at least 12 players to cover the rent and there is no availability for a regular evening session. The game may look like the Bowls you will see on Television but in practice is nothing like it, we don't take it too seriously and it is an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon, and you get a cup of Tea or Coffee and biscuits at Half time and the winning team get a chocolate bar each.

If you would like to join us, come along on a Monday and see what we are all about.



This year's competition winners; Eileen Clarke and Janet Stewart (Doubles)
Pat White (Singles)
Don Stewart, Chairman

Ellington Village Club

Ellington Village Club has been a valuable asset for the Village for over 45 years, after being formed in a meeting on 11 January 1977!

To adhere to licencing rules, the club is a member's only club and is open to residents (and ex residents) of Ellington and their immediate families. Membership starts at £2 for a year, with £10 providing membership for the life of the club.

The club is separate to the Village Hall (to which we pay rent) and is run by a small but dedicated committee, together with a set of volunteers who take turns to run the bar. We are always looking for new committee members and bar helpers - please email Iansburroughs@gmail.com for more details or come in a talk to a member of the team.

Operating from the Village Hall we're open Thursdays 8pm – 10:30pm, Fridays 8pm – 11pm and Sundays 1pm - 2:30pm and provide a relaxing atmosphere for all the family. We offer a wide range of drinks at very competitive prices, together with a pool table, darts and games for the younger residents of the village.

In addition to a very popular quiz night every two weeks (Fridays) we run several events throughout the year, such as Pizza nights, Bingo, Fish and Chip nights and a Christmas Disco. We also look to support other village organisations, such as the EPFA and Gala, and have opened the bar to support their events and even run a Gin Bar at the Queens Jubilee celebrations.

The club is only successful through the efforts of the Committee, bar volunteers and our membership. As the Chair of the club committee, I am extremely grateful to everyone who supports the club and hope that if you've not been to see us before, perhaps you'll pop in for a beer or two and see what we're all about.
Ian Burroughs, Chair, Ellington Village Club.

Contacting The Police

With calls to 999 and 101 increasing, we would like to inform you about the best ways to get in touch with the Police and remind you about the online services, which are available to use 24-hours a day.

Always call 999 in emergencies, or when:

- A serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- Someone is in immediate danger or harm
- Property is in danger of being damaged
- A serious disruption to the public is likely.

But for non-emergencies, there are a few different ways you can reach the Police.

Online reports
For when you would like to provide information about anything from antisocial behaviour to fraud and corruption. Submit a report online and it will be progressed in the exact same way as a 101 call.
https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/

Live web chat
Available around the clock and can be accessed via the Police website any time by clicking the green icon in the bottom right of the screen. In June, specialist operators helped more than 2,300 people using live chat. https://www.cambs.police.uk/

StreetSafe
And you can also tell the Police us about a public place in your local area where you feel unsafe using the **StreetSafe tool.**
https://beta.cambs.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe
By using the online services in non-emergency situations, you are helping to preserve call handlers' time for real emergencies for people that need help the most.

See cambs.police.uk/ for more information.

Huntingdonshire Undeafeatables

One Leisure Active Lifestyle's 'Undefeatables Scheme' that launched last year, is now also open to people with cancer, lung disease, long-term anxiety and depression. 'Undefeatables' is a discounted membership for a period of nine months, which includes activities such as badminton, squash, cyclone (indoor cycling), the gym, fitness classes, and swimming, amongst other targeted activities delivered across One Leisure.

Find out more information at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/undefeat

Ellington's District Councillor

Stephen Cawley 07925 741167
stephen.cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

34 North Road
Alconbury Weston
PE28 4JU



Ellington's County Councillor

Ian Gardener 07970 613498
ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

5 Haycraft Close
Grafham
PE28 0GA



EPFA UPDATE

The EPFA is a local village committee with the principal role of looking after the village playing field facility including upkeep and maintenance of the play equipment.

Made up of a group of 10 local volunteers, with a passion about the community we live in, over the last 5 years, we have raised **£40,000** through fund raising events and successful grant applications to bring new equipment to the village including new swings and climbing frames (2019), new football posts (2021) and new basketball posts (2022).

All of this wouldn't be possible without the amazing support we get from the residents of Ellington and the surrounding area. We hope to see you at our events this year.

EPFA 2023 Events Calendar .....SAVE THE DATES

Pirate Treasure Hunt – Sunday 14th May

Ellington Sports Day – Saturday 24th June

Santa Sleigh – Wednesday 20th December






Fancy being part of it! We are always looking for more people to join the fun.
For more information contact:
Ellingtonplayingfield@gmail.com

ELLINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI)

Ellington WI usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 19.30 in the village hall. We currently have 22 members with events and meetings organised by a small committee. Our meetings in the hall begin with a quick run through the correspondence and business side of things before we enjoy our speaker or activity of the evening followed by refreshments. The evenings vary from a talk about the 6 wives of Henry VIII, working in the Antarctic to life as a ventriloquist. Activities can range from belly dancing, flower arranging to line dancing. During the year we also arrange outings, walks and meals out. These have, in the past, ranged from Hemingford Grey Manor, Bury St Edmunds Christmas market and Paxton Pits nature reserve.

Visitors are always welcome with a charge of £5 including a raffle ticket and refreshments. If you wish *to become a WI member the annual subscription is £46 for the year beginning April 2023. Once becoming a member there is the opportunity to join in the activities and events organised by the Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation of WIs (based in Huntingdon) and the National Federation of WIs (based in London).*

For further information please contact –
Jan Sherratt (President)
jgollop@btinternet.com

Sue Rice (Secretary) normanrice@btinternet.com

Ellington Church

It is one of the three churches in the Parish of East Leightonstone, made up of
St Mary Magdalene in Brampton, All Saints in Ellington, and All Saints in Grafham.
Our weekly services are detailed below:

	1st Sunday of the month	*2nd Sunday of the month*	*3rd Sunday of the month*	*4th Sunday of the month*	*5th Sunday of the month*
9.30am	*Morning Worship Grafham*	*Holy Communion Ellington*	*Morning Worship Ellington*	*Holy Communion Grafham*	
11.00am	*Holy Communion Brampton*	*Morning Worship Brampton*	*Holy Communion Brampton*	*Morning Worship Brampton*	*All Age Communion Brampton*
6.30pm		*Taize Grafham*			

And in the week…..

Tuesdays Term time	*9.00am-10.00am*	*Little Fishes For children 0-5*	*Brampton Methodist Church*
Wednesdays Term time	*10.00am-11.30am*	*Little Fishes For children 0-5*	*Grafham Village Hall*
Last Thursday of the month	*2.30-4.30*	*Tea & Chat Time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat*	*Grafham Village Hall*
Thursdays	*2.00pm-5.00pm*	*Warm Space Time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat*	*Brampton Church Hall*
Fridays	*10.00am -12.00pm*	*Brampton Befrienders Time for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat*	*The Community Centre, High Street, Brampton*

You can find out more about us on our website www.eastleightonstone.com Or on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/EastLeightonstone

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss anything, our Rector, Duncan, would welcome hearing from you. He can be reached by email at rev.duncan.goldthorpe@eastleightonstone.com or by telephone on 01480 459246 or 07907 694177
Please contact Jenny on Newsletter@eastleightonstone.com if you would like a weekly mailing of our newsletter. To find out more, head to our website by scanning this QR code