

ST MARY & ST PETER NEWSLETTER

February 2012

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCILS

BOXTED

Denise Humphris, Clerk to the Parish Council

Parish Council Budgets April 2012- 2013

It was agreed at the January meeting that the parish element of Council Tax would increase from £27.52 per Band D household to £36.74 per Band D household. The main reason for this increase is that from 2013 Colchester Borough Council are withdrawing the Parish Support Grant of £2482 (almost 10% of the Parish Council's annual expenditure). Whilst County and Borough Councils receive a government grant for keeping any annual increases to Council Tax to a minimum, no such support is available for parish councils and so this increase is necessary to maintain services in the village at their current level. Taking into account inflation and the fact that the Parish Council used some of its reserves last year to maintain the parish element of Council Tax at its 2010 level, the Parish Council regret that this has led to a larger increase than usual this year.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Parish Council are looking for ideas and volunteers to organise and run a local event to celebrate this occasion., and would be happy to support anyone who comes forward. We have details of potential grant funding of up to £500. Please contact The Clerk to the Council or any of your councillors if you think you can help.

Vehicle Activated Sign

For some months now the Parish Council have been liaising with Essex County Council (ECC) to look at ways in which speeding in Straight Road could be Controlled and one idea was for a flashing 'Slow Down' sign.

However, following the results of a speed survey undertaken on our behalf by ECC it was noted that average speeds were: North East Bound Traffic 35mph South West Bound Traffic 34.5mph. This means that we could only qualify for such a sign for North East Bound Traffic, and additionally ECC have highlighted the difficulty of finding a suitable site for the sign in the area that it is needed.

Added to this the Parish Council would have to provide all the funding, since there is no funding available at County level which is estimated to be in the region of £5600 so at the present time the Parish Council have decided not to pursue this matter any further, particularly taking into account the current pressures on Parish Council finances as detailed above.

LANGHAM

David Winter, Clerk to the Parish Council
Items from the 3 January meeting

Planning

Colchester Borough Council (CBC) decisions:

111866: Willow Grove, Grove Hill

Approve conditional

111929: Whitnell Plant & Contracts, change of use
Refuse

111853: Ramsden Hall School Amenity Land, renewal of permission – **Approve conditional**

111967: Langham Lodge, Lodge Lane, grain store building – **Approve conditional**

The Parish Council commented on the following

112098: Stour House, High Lift Road - No objections.

112245: Southern Cross, Perry Lane - No objections.

112368: Eastmoor, Moor Road – Side Extension

This property has been the subject of a number of additional extensions upwards and to the rear and the Council is concerned that the proposal appears out of keeping with the original and neighbouring properties.

Bus Stops

The details of the bus stop locations are to be confirmed. There will be one at the Community Centre.

Effluent on A12 south of the Birchwood Bridge

There is concern about effluent seeping from the west bank of the A12 close to the Birchwood Road flyover. CBC environmental control officer has been contacted.

Broadband

The target date for service to Langham is the end of January. Buzcom is the favoured installer because no upfront finance is needed.

Footpaths

There have been three problems reported:

- the bridge at Low Lift is closed for repair;
- there is a new track by the church;
- complaints regarding a dog at Stonefield Farm, which are to be investigated.

Swan Care and Repair

Swan Care and Repair has taken over the contract for home improvement services to residents over 60 or disabled. A summary page is on the notice board.

Gardening and over 60s clubs

It was felt that it would be of great benefit to the village if these clubs were restarted. Anyone interested in this should contact the Parish Council.

Please mention the Newsletter when replying to an advertisement

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