

BARKWAY BULLETIN

A Regular Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway



Issue number 28

Autumn 2017

Welcome to another edition of the Barkway Bulletin.

Barkway Parish Council is pleased to deliver to you the latest news and updates on matters relating to the village and it is hoped that residents will find this bumper issue interesting. If anyone has any thoughts or comments on the content please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Barkway Needs You.....

Every day, things go on that affect the Parish, and its only when there's an issue that people realise that Barkway doesn't run itself. The main reason people get in touch with the Parish Council is usually when there's a complaint, to object about a planning application, or to seek assistance with a project, but very often it's someone with a good suggestion on how to improve the Parish.

Parish Councillors are elected volunteers who work on behalf of local residents. Individuals may also be co-opted by the Council if there is a vacancy. Currently we are looking to co-opt 3 councillors following the resignations of Rob Squire, Sonia Falaschi-Ray and Richard O'Sullivan.

As a Parish Councillor you can become a voice for your community, somebody who residents will look to for guidance and support. You will be involved in local decision making and planning for the benefit of your Parish. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you great satisfaction.

What are the roles and responsibilities involved?

- A Barkway Parish Councillor is one of 7 individuals, who is elected to represent the voice of residents This will involve engaging with local residents to ensure that their views are heard and addressed.
- As part of the Parish Council you may have responsibility for managing local services and amenities such as the Recreation Ground, the pond, the footpaths or getting involved with the other organisations in the village.
- As a Councillor, you will also help to make decisions regarding the finances and how we spend our precept.
- You may be involved in working to protect and improve the environment of Barkway. This may involve contributing to long term policies and commenting on local planning applications.
- Working with village volunteers, where needed, on short term local projects.
- Liaising with other organisations, agencies or neighbouring parish councils where necessary.

The Parish Council benefits from diversity and welcomes interest from people of different ages, backgrounds, experiences and abilities. Good communication skills, problem solving and being a team player are all attributes. But most of all, caring about the village and its environs and being able to stand up and say, "Yes, I want to be involved and have a say", says more than any individual skill.

What you get out of being a Parish Councillor will depend on what you put in. How much time you are able to commit is largely down to the individual. As a minimum, you would be expected to attend the Parish Council meetings held one evening per month.

Barkway cannot run itself, and without a Parish Council, decisions about Barkway would devolve to NHDC, with limited knowledge of what's happening in our village; what our concerns are. But a Parish Council needs Councillors. We have three empty seats that we must fill soon. If you are willing to step up to the mark, and say, "Yes I care about the future of the village and want to be proactive about running it", and be able to give some time to help the village you live in and make it better for all, then please let the Parish Clerk know at:

parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk

Battle for Barkway—update

The NHDC Local Plan 2011-2031 is being examined by the Government Inspector over the course of November 2017. Be assured that Barkway will be represented at all relevant meetings where decisions appertaining to the village will be discussed and decided upon. Most importantly, whether the field at the north end of the village, known as BK3, can be eliminated from land allowed for house building. This will take a considerable commitment in time and effort from those involved and we would remind you that we are all volunteers. In parallel, the owners of BK3 may be forming a detailed planning application for some 140 houses.

For Barkway - key dates at the NHDC Local Plan Hearing are:

Weds 15 Nov AM & PM - Matter 4 - The housing strategy: the supply of land for housing

Thurs 23 Nov AM & PM - Matter 9 - The basis for the housing allocations

Weds 29 Nov PM - Matter 11 - The housing allocations and the settlement boundaries: Barkway and some other villages.

War Memorial Renovation

Barkway Parish Council is delighted to have been awarded a grant of £7,220 from the War Memorials Trust which will contribute 75% towards the cost of the renovation works to the War Memorial.

Work commenced on 29th September and is expected to be completed before the end of October, in time for Remembrance Sunday on 12th November. A re-dedication ceremony is planned following the Remembrance Day ceremony on 12th November. A press release was issued and a copy of this can be found by visiting the Barkway Village website.

Recreation Ground News

The new football season started with some bad news. Long-time groundsman, Sam Methven told the Parish Council that he was off to start a new challenge. Sam has been with us for 3 years and has done a sterling job during this time. Our thanks go to Sam for all his efforts, and the very best on his new adventure. We are delighted to have another local in Jacob Kingston as a replacement. Jacob continues the Parish Council's aspiration of offering the best sport and recreation area as possible to all residents and visitors.

On football matters, use of the football pitches during pre-season and the start of the season has been slightly higher than seen in previous seasons.

Currently U11, U15 boys and U12 and U18 girls from Royston Town FC use the Rec. as their home pitch. Also, Royston Town A, play home games at the ground.

Use of the community room has also seen an increase. Year to date, we have seen family get togethers and children's parties, making use of this pleasant facility. With the addition of soft furnishing to the community room, we hope that the experience can only be enhanced.

If you would like to hire the community room, please contact Janine Reay barkwaypavilion@barkway-village.co.uk for all other inquiries please contact Councillor Bernie Morss

Resignations from the Parish Council

Following four years as a Parish Councillor, including two years as Chairman, The Rev'd Sonia Falaschi-Ray has decided to resign from the Council. She wishes to thank her fellow Councillors and many parishioners for having been so supportive of her during her time in office. She will continue to support the Council specifically regarding North Herts District Council's Local Plan and in combating unsustainable housing being built in Barkway. Additionally, we have to announce that Dr Richard O'Sullivan, after a very short, but proactive time on the Council, has regretfully offered his resignation due to new work commitments.

The Council would like to welcome Graham Swann on being elected Chair at the September meeting.

Parish Council meetings are held in the Reading Room on the second Monday of every month, starting at 7.30pm. The next three meetings are 13th November, 11th December and 8th January 2018.

MORE PARISH MATTERS.....

Windmill Close

We are nearing the end of consultation process with NHDC to secure a section of land at the rear of Windmill Close and Royston Road.

The Parish Council will apply for the land to be classified as open space which will protect the land from any future development. Whilst this application is submitted the land will be leased as open space to the Parish Council.

Update on collapsed culverts

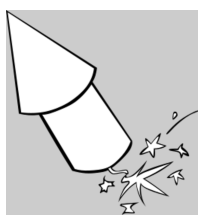
Councillor Graham Swann has discussed the problems with the culverts with the Highways Department and their Structures Engineer to determine if there are any weak structures. The damage to both culverts was caused by historic connections carried out by third party utilities and the plant used whilst making the connections; this affected the fabric of the culverts. This damage required considerable repairs to HCC owned assets and thus regrettable delays. The Parish Council is not aware of any damage being caused by large vehicles, or that any structures in the village are vulnerable.

Drivesafe (ex Speedwatch)

The last two sessions (one at each end of village) lasted an hour and about 25 vehicles were recorded speeding over 36 mph on each. Most were speeding at late 30 mph or early 40 mph regions, but there was one vehicle on each that was in the 50 mph region. Both sessions organised for Sept were cancelled due to inclement weather. We would, however, still appreciate any assistance with this important project. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk

Communication

A small working party met recently to discuss a revamp of the Council's website. Communication is an important part of a parish council's responsibilities and an efficient and up to date website is an instant way a council can communicate important news and information to parishioners. Gordon Baker, the current webmaster, will work with new resident, Kristian Melson in looking at new designs, with a view to making the website less wordy and more vibrant and eye catching. Comments and ideas from residents sent through the current website would be welcome.



Bonfire Night on the Rec

Bonfire Night on the Rec. will take place on Sunday 5th November. Gates open at 6.15pm and the fire-works display will start at 7pm. The event is free, however there will be a bucket collection. Suggested donations are £2 per adult and £1 per child. The Preschool will be selling refreshments and glow sticks as usual.



Sign up to receive news from the Parish Council by email. Just send a request to parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk

Speed indicators



The Parish Council is looking at changing the current speed indicator devices at the entrances to the north and south of the village to a Speed Indicator Device (SID) similar to the one along Royston Road. This will give us better information on traffic movements which can then be supplied to police for specific targeted speed enforcement and provide vital data for the Parish Council. We aim to approach our local councillor Fiona Hill to use some locality funding to achieve this.

Your Councillors:

Graham Swann: (Chair) Highways
Giuseppe Frapporti: (Vice Chair) Environment
Bob Davidson: - Corporate Governance and Planning
Bernie Morss: Sport & Leisure
Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

Weight restriction on Barkway High Street

Since the recent road closure on the High Street we have had some correspondence from residents asking us to look into the possibility of an access only weight restriction along the length of the High Street. Following this, we have been in contact with the Hertfordshire Highways Department with regard to the recent closure of the High Street and the possibility of weight restriction being imposed along the High Street.

The Highways Department has advised us that it is difficult to restrict the movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) as they are permitted to use any classification of road for access and deliveries, even if there is a weight restriction in place (unless it is a structural weight limit).

Weight limit restrictions are used to limit the impact of HGVs on residential areas or estates, which are not on the main road network. Weight limit allows them as the Highway Authority to prohibit and restrict the movement of HGVs. This requires the making of a Traffic Regulation Order which gives the Police the power to enforce a weight restriction for which a fixed penalty notice can be issued to offending drivers. Any weight restrictions would, therefore, require the support of the Police. Hertfordshire Highways, on our request, investigated the possibility of a weight restriction have consulted with the Police Traffic Management Unit regarding the introduction of a weight limit in the High Street and other roads in Barkway. The Police have checked their records and have no evidence to suggest that the roads within Barkway justify the introduction of a weight limit restriction because of problems directly associated to the use of HGVs.

The Police, therefore, do not support the Parish Council's request for the weight limit. The County Council encourages HGVs to use the Primary Route Network by means of signing and use traffic management measures to restrict inappropriate HGV movements on certain other routes.

Barkway Parish Council would like to say "thanks" to

- **Sam Methven for being a superb groundsman over the past few years and we wish him well for the future. And to Jacob Kingston for taking on the role**
- **Shirley Streater and Val McGow for dealing so well with the Welcome Pack and for greeting new residents to the village with a warm smile and to Laura Childs for volunteering to take over this important role now that Shirley and Val have had to give up**
- **Brian Walsh and Dan Methven of Walsh's Garage for their efforts in keeping the village signs cleaned, many in awkward places to reach easily**
- **Francis Duncan and Sue Neilson for maintaining the planters either side of the War Memorial**

Howard Marshall

A memorial service will be held in Barkway Church on Saturday 28th October at 3pm for Howard Marshall, our former District Councillor, who sadly died on 22nd September aged 82

There are currently three vacancies on the Council

graham.swann@barkway-village.co.uk
giuseppe.frapporti@barkway-village.co.uk
bob.davidson@barkway-village.co.uk
bernie.morss@barkway-village.co.uk
parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk

Annual Parish Report 2016/17

This presentation was made by the then Chairman, Sonia Falaschi-Ray at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th May 2017.

Current Large Planning Applications

Rand's Field, 2/3 of BK3, application for 100 houses: This was turned down and the owners of both parts were invited to apply together for a coordinated planning application, incorporating the entire field.

Tom Duke's field between the former RAF mast and the houses on Royston Road—25 houses. This has been refused.

Other Planning applications

Tally Ho site: Applications had been made for two semi-detached houses on the former beer garden on the south end of the plot. This has been approved by NHDC. The pub owners then applied for a two-bedroom house on the patch of land to the north of the pub building. The Parish Council objected and NHDC has turned it down.

Windmill Close open space: Final stages of completing a lease with NHDC to secure an open space to the rear of properties off Windmill Close and Royston Road.

Other planning applications were mostly non-contentious and for infill houses and additions

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has employed a consultant to assist with the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan. It cannot now be completed until NHDC's Local Plan is passed, as it may not contain anything which contradicts the Local Plan. This was not how the original idea of Neighbourhood Plans was sold to communities as a way of influencing district plans, but the methodology changed, hence our inability to complete it sooner. Once we have one, the village will be able to access bigger grants to enhance amenities following local commercial development than it would do otherwise.

Local Highways

Speed indicator has been installed at Royston Road entry to village.

There is upcoming planned resurfacing to Windmill Close.

Royston Road, improved access points were installed to properties with access on to Royston Road.

Pavilion with Community Room

Successfully held full season for Royston Town Football Club who have committed to continuing for next 2 years. Then renegotiate 5-year contract.

Particular thanks to Sam Methven, our groundsman, for his solid effort to make sure games go ahead, also to Janine Reay, our cleaner and Bookings Secretary for the Pavilion—she does a wonderful job!

Recreation Ground

During the year we fixed the zip wire—all now back in action again.

A wide section of the Recreation Ground on the southern boundary has now been reclaimed and reseeded.

Problems arose at the Pavilion due to earlier budgetary constraints. Leaking external hatch, concrete in the drains, warping woodwork and plumbing. Improvements made during the year—flooring laid in the toilets.

Parking problems on football match days

As a result of the lack of parking facility, Cambridge Road is being used as an overspill, consequently the road is being reduced to a single track, with some cars parking on and fully obstructing the pavement. This is causing real concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. It is a problem that will only get worse with many proposed new houses and cars in the future in this area.

Parish Council Emergency Meeting to be held on Monday 22nd May at 19.30 in the Pavilion Community Room to discuss the issue. This resulted in a working party being formed from various interested parties to try and find an acceptable solution.

Environment

The renovation works to the War Memorial, has been on hold awaiting results of a grant application submitted to the War Memorial Trust before any work can commence (it is anticipated that a grant of £7,200 will be awarded towards the total cost of the £9,600 project). The newly renovated memorial will be rededicated during the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 12th November.

Police Matters

Many shed break-ins recently. Some tools and machinery taken.

A tradesman's van, trailer and motor mower stolen from Royston Road, which was subsequently recovered in Ireland.

Finances

Full financial details were available at the Annual Parish Meeting and are published in this Bulletin.

Parish Council Accounts to 31st March 2017 and the Budget for 2017/2018

	Y/E 31/03/2016	Y/E 31/03/2017	Y/E 31/03/2018
Item	Actual	Actual	Budget
Reserves and cash brought forward	23,255	42,747	60,979
Precept	36,000	36,000	36,000
Other Income	13,507	11,325	500
Total Income	49,507	47,325	36,500
Media & Communications	532	3,350	6,855
Environment	2,189	2,225	4,050
Equipment	0	58	200
Parish Administration	6,903	6,101	6,066
Reading Room	1,067	1,042	1,520
Recreation Ground	4,849	1,161	1,575
Pavilion	2,140	2,545	3,000
War Memorial	125	136	5,625
Clerk Wages & Expenses	11,146	11,865	11,988
Councillors Expenses	68	199	300
Other	996	411	2,000
Total Expenditure	30,015	29,093	43,179
Carried forward	42,747	60,979	54,300

Note 1: The income and expenditure figures in this summary vary from the Accounting Statement for 2016/17 due to different accounts reporting methodology used. The brought forward and carried forward figures are the same.

Note 2: The increase in actual balance carried forward from budget is mainly accountable by unspent Solar Farm Community Contribution, delay in Neighbourhood Plan due to matters beyond Parish Council control, delay to renovation works to the War Memorial pending grant application, delay in finalising the acquisition of the Open Space on land behind Windmill Close due to legal negotiations and reduced spending on Environment costs due to a mild winter.

Councillor Attendance at Meetings 2016/17

Cllr. Falaschi-Ray	11 out of 12
Cllr, Frapporti	12 out of 12
Cllr. Squire	4 out of 5
Cllr. Davidson	11 out of 12
Cllr. Swann	10 out of 12
Cllr. Morss	6 out of 10

Councillors that have resigned during the year - Rob Squire

New Councillors co-opted during the year - Bernie Morss

(Since then co-option of Richard O'Sullivan)