



NORTH WEALD BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018

March 2018

Cemetery Opening

On the 10th January 2018 the Parish Council officially opened the new Meadow Brook Section of the Cemetery at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Among the dignitaries to attend were Deputy Lieutenant of Essex Rosemary Padfield, Essex County Council Chairman John Aldridge, Epping Forest District Council Chairman Dave Stellan, North Weald Bassett Parish Council Chairman Alan Buckley, Epping Mayor Tony Church and Loughton Mayor Philip Abraham. The Parish Council Cemetery, which was previously farmland, was originally opened in the late 1990s. It is situated, next to St Andrew's Church, and has sections for the burial of cremated remains and full burials, as well as a garden of remembrance and a memorial garden. The ribbon cutting was performed by Deputy Lieutenant of Essex Rosemary Padfield whose family farmed the land before it became the Parish Cemetery.



Former Chairman of Parish Council – Cyril Hawkins



In September 2017, the Parish Council lost its longest serving Chairman Cyril Hawkins (picture left) – who sadly passed away after a short illness. Cyril joined the Parish Hall Committee in 1991, became a Ward Councillor in 1998 and Parish Council Chairman in 2006, all of these positions he held until his passing in 2017. The Parish Council and the Parish Hall Committee have decided to name the main function room in the Parish Hall 'the Cyril Hawkins Room' in his memory. In November, Councillor Alan Buckley (picture below, right) was elected to the position of Chairman of the Parish Council. Alan was the Vice Chairman and has been instrumental in the Parish in many Environmental Projects including installing the New Garden at the Parade of Shops, Renovating the Garden by the Flag Pole on the Green, Allotments and Bulb Planting. Cllr Brian Eldridge (picture below, left) was re-elected to the position of Vice Chairman, a position he had held for a number of years. Brian is a Councillor for Hastingwood and is very active in Environmental issues and has recently been acting Chairman on Hastingwood Village Hall Committee. Brian has in the past held the position of Planning Committee Chairman.

PLANNING

The Parish Council Planning Committee has been very active this year. The Planning Committee, led by its Chairman Cllr Baden Clegg has discussed in excess of 100 Planning Applications this year. A number of which were also discussed by Epping Forest District Council Plans East Committee, where the Parish Council, often made representation. Local Residents are always welcome to attend Planning Committee Meetings where they can make representations of Objections or Support on Planning Applications. Please contact the Parish Council for further information.



Epping Forest District Local Plan

2017/2018 saw the progression of the District Council's Local Plan, the latest phase being a Regulation 19 consultation. This identified that 1,050 homes were planned for North Weald Village, 1,050 for Latton Priory, and 172 for Thornwood. This represents roughly 25% of the total housing allocation in the Epping Forest District. At an Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held in January 2018, the Parish Council agreed to respond to this consultation with the finding that the Plan was 'unsound' on the basis of what can only be described as a clear failure to secure the necessary infrastructure to support this proposed development. It is expected that the District Council will submit their plan for formal examination later this year. If so, rest assured that the Parish Council will be at the table stating why this

lack of infrastructures is simply not acceptable.



Village Halls

The Parish Council is responsible for the Parish Hall at Thornwood Common. This is a busy hall which is managed by its own Management Committee, and administered by the Parish Council. This year the hall has seen refurbishment works which include repairs to the roof (including leaking roof-lights), main hall floor re-polished, purchase of a commercial microwave, and a replacement water heater for the kitchen. There are four other Halls in the Parish, the Queens Hall Community Centre, North Weald Village Hall, Hastingwood Village Hall and The Methodist Church Hall. Please check their websites for contact details. Hastingwood Village Hall has recently had much renovation carried out to it with grant funding from Essex County Council and Epping Forest District Council, and Stansted Airport Community Fund. During November an Open Day was held to showcase the renovations with a number of dignitaries from these organisations in attendance.

Play Areas

Regular maintenance continues to be carried out at all three play areas in the Parish. This year has seen the introduction of both CCTV and new wetpour safety surfacing at the Weald Common Play Area thanks to a grant applied for by Parish Council via the Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund. This means the play area is accessible 365 days a year..mud free!

Open Gardens

The Garden by the Flag Pole in North Weald has been renovated with new railway sleepers around it and a new Flag. Thanks go to North Weald Bassett Preservation Society for the planting and ongoing Maintenance. A Very Big Thank You to the Resident who has been maintaining the Small Garden by the Road Sign by Skips Corner for the last few years and wishes to remain anonymous. The Garden by the parade of shops in North Weald continues to thrive – we are currently awaiting the removal of the empty Phone Box by BT. Thank you to our sponsors for supporting the maintenance of this garden, and thank you to Daphne Buckley, Jeanette Blanks and Margaret Mulliner who continue to weed the garden when they are passing.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continues to work hard as moving the Neighbourhood Plan forward, however due to the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan has to be in general conformity with the Local Plan, there have been a number of delays as the Steering Group has been waiting the outcome of the various consultations. In addition, the Group spent considerable time and resources trying to raise awareness amongst local people about both the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan, and looking for residents who would like to get involved. The Group has created a dedicated website – www.northwealdbassettplan.org – where updates and information on Neighbourhood Planning is available. The groups current focus is the community questionnaire which is expected to hit your doorstep late spring. It is so important that this is completed and returned, so that the Neighbourhood Plan accurately reflects residents view~



Bulb Planting

This year the Environment Committee decided that Hastingwood would be the recipient of the annual bulb plant. Members planted at various locations in Hastingwood, and we await the explosion of the daffodils in the Spring. If you have a location within the Parish of North Weald Bassett that you feel would benefit from bulbs being planted please contact the Parish Office.



Civic Awards

At last years Civic Awards, awards were handed out to the following:

Margaret Mulliner & Daphne Buckley (runners up) – for assisting with the planting of the new garden by the parade of shops in North Weald – 150 winter pansies were planted before Christmas. Laura Chalcraft - for taking over the role of Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Kevin Hebden (runner up) – for assisting the Parish Office staff, whether that be in response to an emergency, removing graffiti or ensuring that the play areas are safe.

The **Community Long Service Award** was presented to **Mrs Vivian Madden**, who has been the secretary for North Weald Horticultural Society for 30 years without a break. Mrs Madden is retiring from the role this year.

The **Lifetime Contribution Award** was presented to **Mr Arthur Moreton**, for his work with RAFA and North Weald Airfield. Arthur is the North Weald Airfield Ambassador to Epping Forest District Council.

The **Group Award** was presented to **Epping Forest Countrycare**, for the work that they carry out at

Thornwood Nature Reserve and Weald Common.

The **Citizen of the Year Award** was presented to **Mr James Waters** – Jimmy is a keen supporter of everything that goes on within the Village of Thornwood, assisting with the annual fete and the gardening club. Jimmy has completed a book about Thornwood, and work has started on the second one. The book is very informative and delves into the past history of the village. The photographs and the information contained in the book is a wonderful achievement.

The final award was presented for **Exceptional Valour** to a dog named **Stanley**. Despite being only 16 months old, Stanley raised the alarm during a night in December and woke his owners for them to discover that there was a fire in their loft. On realising this Stanley's owners, along with a new puppy, fled the house with only minutes to spare before their entire house was destroyed by fire and smoke. Stanley's senses obviously detected the heat and smoke so early and his intelligence on raising the alarm and saving them all definitely deserved recognition.

Bench Dedication

On Remembrance Sunday in 2017 a bench was dedicated in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Norwegian Air Force at North Weald and in memory of Lt General Wilhelm Mohr who was the driving force behind 75 years of friendship between North Weald and The people of Norway.



Allotments

Queens Road - This has been a challenging time for Tenants on this Site, with building works being carried out to the adjacent old allotment site owned by EFDC, and this sometimes having a slight impact on to the Queens Road Allotments. Hopefully access by the contractors will no longer be needed in the next few weeks and things should settle down.

Whealers Farm Gardens – there are a few vacancies on this site – please contact the Parish Council for further details.

Hastingwood – A & B - Site B has now been closed as the site had only one tenant who has now moved to Site A. Please contact the Parish Council regarding plots on this site as it is 'wardened' by the Environmental Sub Committee.

Thornwood – This site is full and a waiting list is in operation.

Defibrillator

The Defibrillator, which has been installed at the Parish Hall on Thornwood, is now up and running, and has been utilised. Work is ongoing to try and find a suitable location within North Weald village to house a second one.

Norway House

The Chairman Cllr Alan Buckley, and the Chairman of District Council, Cllr Dave Stallan (also a Parish Councillor) attended the Annual Christmas Party at Norway House this year. Councillor Buckley has asked that his personal thanks go to Santa (AKA Derek Tringham) and to Parish Councillors for the provision of the Selection Boxes for this event – "It was a great evening".

Christmas Tree

This year trees were lit in North Weald (by the Flag Pole) and in Thornwood by the Play Area. A Carol Service was once again held at the Parish Hall, kindly organized by the Festival Committee.

Steps at Higham View

Epping Forest Countrycare, on behalf of the Parish Council, has renovated the Steps at Higham View leading to Weald Common to make it easier to get to the Common. A number of local residents had stated the steps were looking a little worse for wear. We hope that this makes it easier for residents to access Weald Common – an area well used by dog walkers,

CCTV has now been installed at the Play Area on Weald Common thanks to the fund raising completed by the North Weald Mums to purchase the equipment. The Parish Council has agreed to maintain this service for a minimum of 5 years. There is also CCTV at the Parade of shops that the Parish Council installed and maintains. This has already proved extremely helpful to the Police when there have been recent incidents in these locations.



Clearly there is a cost involved in running your Parish Council. Parish Councillors are convinced that with their careful scrutiny of expenditure, this ensures that the local taxpayers receive good value for money. The Parish Council's precept for 2017/2018 was **£175,475**. The Parish Council precept (which is the equivalent of only **£1.33 per week** per band D property) amounts to roughly 4% of your total Council Tax bill for the year (£1,608.05 for a band D property). It must also be remembered that local taxpayers meet all of the Parish Council's precept whereas District Council and County Council expenditure is offset by Central Government funding.

North Weald Bassett Parish Council

Precept request

	2017 to 2018 £ thousands	2018 to 2019 £ thousands
Leisure / recreation	£ 19,410	£ 16,795
Community Services	£ 53,151	£ 60,167
Administration	£ 115,803	£ 124,377
Other	£ 21,994	£ 18,944
Less use of Balances	£ 27,856	£ 32,520
Expenditure Requirement	£ 182,502	£ 187,763
Less Local Council Tax Support Grant	£ 7,027	£ 3,514
Precept	£ 175,475	£ 184,249

Remembrance Sunday

This year over 400 people attended the Service of Remembrance at the Norwegian Memorial/Debt of Honour in North Weald. We were also extremely fortunate to welcome Lieutenant Christer Frekhaug, from 132 Air Wing/331 Squadron Royal Norwegian Air force, and Rt Hon Alex Burghart, MP, as well as a number of other dignitaries. The service was also attended by the Cubs / Scouts / Beavers and the Air Training Corp. The service at North Weald continues to grow year on year, which serves to strengthen the bond between North Weald and Norway.



If you have any questions about any content in this report, please contact the Parish Clerk at North Weald Bassett Parish Council, North Weald Library, 138 High Road, North Weald, CM16 6BZ. Tel: 01992 523825 or clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Community Orchard

The Parish Council has received £1,350 Grant Funding from Essex County Council's Community Initiative Fund towards a Community Orchard on some disused allotments in North Weald. It is expected that this project will be completed at the end of 2018. Over time it is hoped that any unwanted or surplus fruit will be donated to Cunningham House (care home for the elderly), Wheelers Farm Gardens (providing homes for the elderly) and Norway House (providing accommodation for people who are temporarily homeless in the Epping Forest District).

Street Lights

All Street Lights in the Parish are numbered. If the Street Light in your road begins with a 6 it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. These lights are normally located on Residential Streets but not on Main Roads. Please contact the Parish Council if your light is not working.

Play In The Park

In 2017 the Parish Council funded Play in the Park in two locations - Thornwood Playing Field and Memorial Playing Fields in North Weald. The events were extremely successful, and at their meeting in January the Parish Council agreed to fund a further two events in 2018. These events are free to attend.