

Planning

The Parish Council Planning Committee has been very active again this year. Led by the Chairman, Cllr Baden Clegg, the Committee has again discussed in excess of 100 Planning Applications, 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.

Surgery

The Parish Council has been advised that the Doctors Surgery in Wheelers Farm Gardens in will reopen during March 2019. Residents should contact The Limes for further information.

Visiting the Parish Office

If residents wish to discuss any matter formally, please make an appointment by contacting the Parish Clerk to ensure the correct member of staff is available to deal with your enquiry.

Essex County Council Library Consultation

In November 2018, Essex County Council launched a consultation on its proposed strategy for the provision of library services in Essex over the next five years. As part of the Draft Future Libraries Strategy all Essex libraries were grouped into 'tiers'. Tier 1 and 2 libraries were identified as being required as part of the statutory provision while libraries in tiers 3 and 4 were not. Unfortunately, the Parish library was graded as tier 4 and is under the threat of closure. The Parish Council actively promoted awareness of the consultation within the Parish and has registered an Expression of Interest with ECC to provide a community library service with the assistance of volunteers. The Parish Council will continue to work to protect this valuable community asset.



Freedom of District Event



The Parish Council joined visitors for a picnic at the Airfield to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the RAF. Members of 56 Squadron, which flew Hurricanes from North Weald, marched from North Weald Village Hall to the Airfield with their newly-acquired 'Freedom of the District' awarded by Epping Forest District Council. 56 Squadron is one of the oldest and most distinguished units of the RAF. The Squadron moved to North Weald in 1927 and remained until 1941.

Allotments

Allotments

Queens Road and Wheelers Farm Gardens – works still continue with the construction of the new houses in Queens Road. The building works have caused some issues at the allotments, however we hope that these will be resolved soon. The majority of allotments are now let to tenants and a strong allotment community continues, under the watchful eye of Simon Howland, the Allotment warden for both the Queens Road and Wheelers Farm Gardens Site.

Thornwood

The allotment site is thriving, with all allotments let and a number of residents also on a waiting list. The site is managed by Elaine Davis, Allotment Warden. The Allotment community work together to ensure the site looks pristine.

Hastingwood

There are a small number of plots available on this site for rent. The site is managed by Members of the Environmental Committee. There is a great sense of Community Spirit amongst tenants and they donate any surplus vegetable grown to St Clare's Hospice.

Civic Awards

The following Civic Awards were presented by Parish Council Chairman, Alan Buckley:-

The 'Group' Award was presented to **North Weald Healing Centre - New Beginnings** which is a non-profit making group which meets once a week at North Weald Village Hall. The group has been raising money from those attending the Healing Centre to purchase a defibrillator for the village. The group offers a 'Befriend Service'.

The 'Young Citizen of the Year' Award was presented to **Mitchell Tassie**, Head Cadet for the Epping Forest Volunteer Police Cadets. Mitchell was recognised for "giving back to the community through conservation work and his support of local projects".

An 'Above and Beyond the Call of Duty' Award was presented to **Paul Keens**, the street cleaning operative for North Weald village.

A 'Good Neighbour' Award was presented to **Kenneth King** who was nominated by his neighbours as he takes a keen interest in the surroundings, for example putting back fences which have fallen on neighbours' properties following stormy weather.

He also keeps an eye on neighbouring properties when the owners are away, helping to keep the area safe, as well as clearing footpaths and cutting grass

A 'Voluntary Work' Award was presented to retired police officer **Kate Collin** for voluntary work carried out at The Box in Epping offering assistance to young people requiring counselling and providing help to those escaping abusive relationships. Mrs Collin has volunteered her services to North Weald Village Hall on a number of occasions.

A 'Lifetime Contribution' Award was presented to **Derek Tringham** in recognition of his years of service to the Parish.

Mr Tringham is president of the North Weald branch of the Royal British Legion and has been involved with, and has supported, numerous groups within the community over many years.

Every year he makes a special appearance as 'Father Christmas' at the Norway House Christmas Party.

Annual Act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Over 35 Wreaths were laid at the Debt of Honour in 2018, and this year being the 100th Anniversary of the RAF we were honoured to have a representative of the family of Wing Commander Tom Neil DFC and Bar, AFC, AE who sadly passed away on 10th July 2018. The Wing Commander first came to RAF North Weald in September 1940 as a 20 year old RAF Pilot Officer at the height of the Battle of Britain. Although going on to fly more than 140 missions and shooting down 14 enemy planes during World War II, he is rightly best remembered as one of "The Few" - the pilots who fought for our freedom in the epic summer of 1940. A Wreath was laid in his memory. Lieutenant Colonel Henning Hansen Homb, Commanding Officer Air Force Base Bodø and 132 Air Wing Bodø Group also attended representing both the Norwegian Defence Attaché and the Royal Norwegian Air force. We were also pleased to welcome Flt Lt Bob Watts representing 56 Sqd RAF. The annual event continues to grow, with more people attending this Year than ever.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE SPONSORS WHO SUPPORTED EVENTS ON THIS DAY



Grant Funding

Successful grant funding has been received this year of £28,337:-

- ECC CIF £11,000 Play equipment at Thornwood & Memorial Playing Field
- ECC CIF - £9,087 Queens Hall Charity Critical Rescue Fund
- EALC - £7,000 Local Services Funding (3 year funding)
- Stansted Trust - £250 Remembrance Item
- Armed Forces Covenant Trust – 6 silhouettes (no monetary equivalent)
- Tesco Bags of Help - £1,000

Additional Defibrillator

An additional defibrillator has been installed on the wall of the Methodist Church in the High Road. Thanks go to the North Weald Healing Centre 'New Beginnings' for raising the money for this.

Christmas Trees

Again this year, three trees were lit in the Parish. One by the Flag Pole in North Weald, one in the Parish Hall in Thornwood and one in Hasting wood Village Hall.

Finance

North Weald Bassett Parish Council	Precept Request	
	2018 to 2019 £ thousands	2019 to 2020 £ thousands
Leisure/recreation	16,795	29,635
Community Services	60,167	80,705
Administration	124,377	147,030
Other	18,944	14,581
Less use of Balances	32,500	5,515
Expenditure Requirement	187,763	219,256
Less Local Council Support Grant	3,514	-
Precept	184,249	219,256

COMMUNITY ORCHARD – QUEENS ROAD ALLOTMENT SITE



Dedication of Bench

In June, a Bench dedicated to the late Chairman, of the Parish Council, Cyril Hawkins (Mr Thornwood) was unveiled in the grounds of the Parish Hall. Cyril was Chairman of the Parish Council for over 10 years, and worked tirelessly for the benefit of all three villages.



Raised Allotment Beds

Raised allotment beds for those less able will soon be available at the North Weald allotment site. To register an interest or to make an enquiry, please contact the parish office. Priority is given to residents within the Parish.

Following successful grant funding from Essex County Council's Community Initiative Fund the Parish Council has provided two commemorative benches in the orchard in memory of two long standing allotment tenants, William 'Bill' Bailes and Albert Nightingale. The Parish Council wanted to provide a fitting tribute to recognise their work and support on the allotments. Without the continued support of another tenant of the North Weald Allotments, Mr Brian Palfreman, the orchard would not look as beautiful as it does. Brian has given up his own free time to both create, maintain and care for the orchard, and thanks are given to him on behalf of the community, the Parish Council, and the Allotment tenants.



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, not on main roads. Please contact the Parish Council if your light is not working.

Play In The Park

In 2018 the Parish Council continued to fund Play in the Park in two locations - Thornwood Playing Field and Memorial Playing Fields in North Weald. Both events were well attended. The Parish Council will continue to support these events in 2019.

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, Essex CM16 6BZ. The office is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9.15am to 1.15pm. Outside of these hours, please telephone the office and leave a message on 01992 523825 or email clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk