



NORTH WEALD BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT AND NEWSLETTER 2022-2023

Review from Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Alan Buckley

Dear Residents,

On behalf of North Weald Bassett Parish Council, I would like to welcome you all to the Annual Parish Assembly.

The past year has been very busy and below is just a glimpse of things that have taken place:

- In May, Ride London-Essex was held with 25,000 cyclists riding through North Weald village.
- Also in May, the Parish Council office temporarily located to North Weald Methodist Church
- In June we had the Platinum Jubilee, with celebrations taking place in each village
- Also in June, the Council hosted special Rededication services to mark the centenary anniversary of the Parish War Memorial in St Andrew's Churchyard and the 70th anniversary of the unveiling of the Norwegian Stone
- In September – Following the Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and in line with most local authorities, this Council carried out the Proclamation to the Parish conducted at the Debt of Honour with a number of local people in attendance.
- In October North Weald Methodist Church closed its doors for the final time and the Parish Council office returned to the Parish Hall in Thornwood.
- In November the Parish Council's Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving took place at the Norwegian Stone and Debt of Honour
- In December – we commenced the planting of the new woodland area at Weald Common
Also, the annual Children's Christmas Party at Norway House took place, supported by donations from Parish Councillors
- In January – the Eco-Warriors from St Andrew's Primary School were invited to plant the final 40 trees at Weald Common.

In addition, we have also hosted several "Coffee with Cops" sessions in North Weald and Thornwood.

One of the many roles of the Parish Council is to liaise with Essex County Council and Epping Forest District Council on behalf of residents. Over the past 12 months we have:

- Reported incidents of fly-tipping in the Parish, ranging from sofas, white goods, construction waste, gas canisters, etc.
- Reported potholes, damaged and missing road signs, blocked drains, damaged bollards,
- Reported issues with public byways
- Reported issues with street cleansing
- Reported issues with overgrown hedges and vegetation
- Reported ECC streetlights not working

Many of the issues reported are on-going and we continue to monitor these.

The Council has hosted District and County Councillor Surgeries in the Parish Hall at Thornwood, giving residents an opportunity to book an appointment with their local ward councillor.

The Parish Council Planning Committee continues to be led by Chairman Cllr Baden Clegg and over the past 12 months the Parish Council has made comment on 72 planning applications. The Committee is always keen to welcome members of the public to attend planning meetings where they can make representations of objections or support on Planning Applications.

I am sorry to report that at the end of December we received the sad news that Cllr George Mulliner had passed away. George had been a Councillor representing the North Weald Village Ward since 2011 and was appointed as Chairman to the Parish Council's Environmental Committee. George was an extremely active member of the community, which included working tirelessly as a member of the North Weald Village Hall Committee. George was very popular with the local community. He had a great sense of humour, always cracking a joke and lightening some of the heaviest of meetings. George will be greatly missed by all members of the Parish Council.

Regards, Cllr Alan Buckley, Chairman

March 2023

Weald Common Tree Planting Project

The Parish Council has been working closely with Essex County Council's Senior Forestry and Woodland Officer to create a new Woodland area at Weald Common. Grant funding was successfully obtained from the Forestry Commission specifically for this project.

Over 2,400 trees have now been planted on the field adjacent to the Weald Common access road. Native species have been sourced, such as willow, poplar, hazel, alder, hawthorn, sweet chestnut and oak.

The area has been divided into 3 planting compartments with specific species chosen for each compartment to ensure that they are planted in the right place for the conditions. It is hoped that the new woodland will enhance the biodiversity in this important location.



Local resident, Roger Anthony, kindly gifted seven oak tree saplings to the project. The saplings had grown in his garden from an old oak tree which is believed to have once stood in the grounds of Bluemans Farm.

Mr Anthony was invited to join the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Alan Buckley, to select specific locations in the new woodland area in which to plant the "North Weald Oaks"

The Parish Council were keen to involve St Andrew's Primary School Community with this exciting project and, following a meeting with Deputy Headteacher Benjamin Sharp, the school's Eco-Warrior Group were invited to get involved with the final planting of 40 trees. The Eco-Warriors visited the new woodland area on Monday, 9th January to plant a selection of different whips under the guidance of the Parish Council's contractors.



Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley, thanked the group for their help and said that they were helping to create a lasting legacy for future generations. He said that he hoped the children would enjoy seeing the trees grow over the coming months and years.

Deputy Headteacher Benjamin Sharp said: "It was great to see the children so excited to go and tell other children about the project when they got back to school and to hear the children discussing how they can watch the trees grow over many years to come. The project is going to bring so much to these children and I'm sure their families in the future".

Further enhancements to the project will be taking place over the next few months, with items such as information boards and seating being installed. The Parish Council intends to install a plaque to mark the location where the children have planted the trees.

Rededication Services

On Sunday, 19th June 2022, the Parish Council hosted two special Rededication Services led by Minister Jaimee Summers.

The first service was to recognise the centenary anniversary of the Parish War Memorial in the grounds of St Andrew's Churchyard. Unfortunately, the Parish Council had been unable to hold this in the year of the 100th Anniversary due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The second service was to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the unveiling of the Norwegian Stone, by HRH The Crown Princess of Norway, Princess Astrid, on behalf of the people of Norway and the two Norwegian squadrons (331 and 332) based in North Weald during WWII. The gift of the granite obelisk was to show their gratitude to the people of North Weald, the Royal Air Force and the RAF Station North Weald.

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley, welcomed Command Senior Master Sergeant Snekvik of the Royal Norwegian Airforce 132 Air Wing, and Wing Commander Richard Podmore of RAF 56 Squadron, civic dignitaries, local organisations and representatives of Norwegian veterans who had been stationed at North Weald, to the services.



Renovation work on both memorials had been carried out free of charge by Colin Quilter of CQ Surfacing Ltd.

Remembrance



Battle of Britain – Sunday, 18th September 2022

Unfortunately, due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Battle of Britain wreath laying service, which had been organised to take place at the Cross of Sacrifice in the grounds of St Andrew's Churchyard, had to be cancelled in line with official protocols.

On the Tuesday following the Queen's funeral, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Alan Buckley, laid wreaths on behalf of RAF 56 Squadron, the Royal Norwegian Airforce and the Parish Council, to recognise and commemorate the efforts and sacrifices made by those who served at RAF North Weald during the Battle of Britain.

Cllr Buckley was joined by the Chairman of Epping Forest District Council, Cllr Mrs Mary Sartin.

The Parish Council's Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving took place on Sunday, 13 November 2022.

This year we welcomed serving officers and personnel from RAF 56 Squadron to the Annual Service.

In excess of 300 people were in attendance. A total of 34 wreaths were laid by representatives of various organisations and societies. The Community Wreath was laid by former members of the North Weald Preservation Society.

Minister Jaimee Summers led the service and the Last Post and Reveille was played by bugler, Mr Michael Wood.

Davis Homes Estate Agents provided sponsorship for the event.



What do the Parish Council Do?

Listed below are some, but not all, of the Parish Council's responsibilities:

- North Weald Bassett Cemetery
- Looking after open spaces (including hedge and grass cutting on Parish Council-owned land)
- Allotments – we have sites in North Weald, Thornwood and Hastingwood
- Maintaining Defibrillators in the following locations:
 - Methodist Church, High Road, North Weald
 - Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood
 - Hastingwood Village Hall
- Maintaining Play Areas in the following locations:
 - Weald Common, North Weald
 - School Green Lane, North Weald
 - Thornwood Common Playing Field
- Streetlights (columns are identified with a number beginning '6')
- Street furniture, including bus shelters and emptying dog bins
- Planning applications (the council is a statutory consultee)
- Organisation of Remembrance Sunday events, including a service at the Airfield Memorial & Debt of Honour followed by a Community Luncheon
- Attendance at community days
- Noticeboard updates
- Liaise with other organisations and councils
- Provide recycle bags
- Managing the Parish Hall at Thornwood Common

The Parish Council is a facilitator, passing problems and concerns raised by residents onto District and County Council who will ultimately decide if any action is required.

Your Councillors

| WARD | PARISH | DISTRICT | COUNTY |
|-----------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| North Weald (Village) | Cllr Alan Buckley (Chairman) Cllr Nigel Bedford Cllr Terry Blanks Cllr Mrs Anne Grigg (Vice Chairman) Cllr Mrs Sheila Jackman, MBE Cllr Mark Stroud Cllr Andrew Tyler Cllr Ms Dawn Wood | Cllr Peter Bolton Cllr Jaymey McIvor | Cllr Chris Whitbread |
| Thornwood | Cllr Baden Clegg Cllr Mrs Shirley Hawkins Cllr Richard Spearman | Cllr Les Burrows Cllr Chris Whitbread Cllr Holly Whitbread | Cllr Holly Whitbread |
| Hastingwood | Cllr Paula Etherington Cllr Andy Irvine | Cllr Richard Morgan | Cllr Chris Whitbread |

Local Councils – Who does what? Within the borders of Essex there are three tiers of council: County, District and Parish. All have clearly defined roles, although there is some duplication and overlap of responsibilities.

Full details of services, including information on how to contact your local councillor, can be found on the following websites:

Essex County Council

www.essex.gov.uk

Epping Forest District Council

www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

North Weald Bassett Parish Council

www.northweald-pc.gov.uk





LOCAL COUNCILS

Who does what?






Within the borders of Essex there are County, District and Parish Councils. All have clearly defined roles, although there is some duplication and overlap of responsibilities.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL  | EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL  | NORTH WEALD BASSETT PC  |
|--|--|--|


Children's Services

| | |
|---|---|
| Schools: Nursery, primary, secondary and special pre-school education |  |
| Youth, adult, family and community education, student support |  |
| Children's and families' services including Welfare, fostering, adoption and child protection |  |
| Youth centres, youth justice, secure Accommodation and youth offender teams |  |






Highways

| | |
|--|---|
| Street Lighting |  |
| Traffic management and road safety |  |
| Highway maintenance |  |
| Streetlights marked with a label beginning with '6' followed by 3 digits |  |
| Bus shelters, street furniture (some) |  |



Passenger Transport

| | |
|--|---|
| Public transport, discounted travel schemes and local transport coordination |  |
|--|---|





Social Care

| | |
|---|---|
| Adult Services |  |
| Services for older people including nursing home, residential and day care and meals |  |
| Services for people with a physical disability, learning disability or mental health need |  |
| Asylum seekers |  |
| Employment support services |  |






Housing

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Social Housing |  |
| Housing benefit and welfare services |  |
| Homelessness |  |
| Housing strategy |  |

Cultural Services

| | |
|---|---|
| Culture and heritage including archives museums and galleries |   |
| Parish archive |  |
| Libraries and information services |  |


Leisure and Recreation

| | |
|--|---|
| Recreation & Sport |   |
| Open spaces, common land, playgrounds, allotments, nature reserve, village green |  |
| Footpaths |  |
| Village halls (some) |  |



Burial Grounds (some)



Waste

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Collection |  |
| Disposal |  |
| Dog bins that are owned by NWBPC |  |
| Litter bins owned by NWBPC |  |






Planning Applications

| | |
|---|---|
| Building and development control |  |
| Consultation, public enquiry representation |  |

Strategic Planning

| | |
|---|---|
| Planning policy including conservation and listed buildings |  |
| Environmental initiatives |  |
| Economic and community development |  |

Local Taxation Collection

| | |
|--|---|
| Council tax and non-domestic rates (business Rates) |  |
| Registration of births, deaths and marriages |  |
| Elections: Local and national including registration of electors |  |
| Emergency planning |  |
| Local land charges |  |

USEFUL CONTACTS

Essex County Council: 0345 743 05

Epping Forest District Council: 01992 564000

North Weald Bassett Parish Council:
07572 507591 (Temporary Mobile No.)

Epping Forest District Council Local Plan

As many of you know the Local Plan, created by Epping Forest District Council, sets out the policies and land allocations which will guide future development within the Epping Forest District up to 2033, which includes the Parish of North Weald Bassett. On 9th February 2023, after over 12 years of work by EFDC, the Inspector issued his final report which confirmed the Local Plan was 'Sound', meaning this can now be formally adopted by Epping Forest District Council as the development plan for our future. The Parish of North Weald Bassett features heavily in the plan, with the following Housing allocations included:

- North Weald Village – a minimum of 1,050 new homes
- Thornwood – a minimum of 172 new homes
- Hastingwood (Latton Priory) – a minimum of 1,050 new homes

This is in addition to a number of employment allocations, including North Weald Airfield and Woodside Industrial Estate amongst others. Now the plan has been found Sound, you can expect a flurry of activity to progress the housing development sites. For full details, including maps of where the development sites are, visit www.efdclocalplan.org.



Neighbourhood Plan

As a result of both COVID and the delays and uncertainties associated with the EFDC Local Plan, the Parish Council agreed to halt work on the Neighbourhood Plan until such time as there was greater clarity as to the outcome of the Local Plan. Towards the end of 2022, Councillors considered this issue again, and felt that it was vital the Council finished what it had started and should continue with the Neighbourhood Plan, given the high level of involvement by local residents. Now that the Local Plan has been found Sound, the framework alongside which the Neighbourhood Plan sits is now clear. Just to remind you that a Neighbourhood Plan cannot stop development, but it does allow local communities to specify matters of design, protection of heritage, and set out what new development should look and feel like.

In our case, the overriding feedback from residents was that new development should not detract from the fact that we are three villages – not towns – and new development should both respect and reflect this. Admittedly with so much development coming our way this may be a challenge, but rest assured if we work together we can create a Neighbourhood Plan which goes some way to ensuring developers must consider and design a development which addresses these points. For further details, and to keep updated, visit www.northwealdbassettplan.org



Finance

| North Weald Bassett Parish Council | | Precept request | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Precept Request | 2022 to 2023 £ thousands | 2023 to 2024 £ thousands | |
| Leisure / recreation | £ 49,800 | £ 41,908 | |
| Community Services | £ 80,962 | £ 68,870 | |
| Administration | £ 145,314 | £ 153,616 | |
| Other | £ 3,944 | £ 4,184 | |
| Use of Balances / Income Received | £ 50,254 | £ 37,494 | |
| Precept | £ 229,766 | £ 231,084 | |

The Parish Council precept for 2023/2024 is £231,084, resulting in the Parish Council element of your Council Tax being £88.49/year for a Band D Property (£1.70/week). Due to the way the District Council collects Council Tax, this has resulted in no increase on last year.

Norway House Children's Christmas Party



As in previous years, Parish Councillors gave personal donations to Norway House for the Annual Children's Christmas Party. The donations were used towards the cost of the food for the party.

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Alan Buckley, received a thank you message from the Manager of Norway House, who said that the children and parents had a great time, with a disco and party games. The staff at Norway House had built a grotto where the children were met by Father Christmas.



'Coffee with Cops'

coffee with cops

Your chance to get to know your Local Community Policing Team over a coffee. Ask questions, voice concerns – tell us how we can help you.

Location:

Date / Time:

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

CALL 101
24 HOUR EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

Over the past 12 months, the Parish Council have hosted several 'Coffee with Cops' sessions in North Weald and Thornwood. It is hoped that further sessions will be arranged in 2023.

Look out for details published on Noticeboards and social media

Community Speed Watch

SIGN UP, SAVE LIVES

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH IS HERE, AND NEEDS YOUR HELP.

In collaboration with Essex Roads Partnership, Community Speed Watch is looking for volunteers in your area. Sign up today to help save lives and make our roads safer.

GET IN TOUCH
Community speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

SAFER ESSEX
Essex Fire and Rescue

Coordinated by Cllr Baden Clegg and assisted by local resident Jimmy Waters, the volunteer led Community Speed Watch team continues to operate around the parish. The team continue to highlight particular areas of concern such as Upland Road, Weald Bridge Road and Hastingwood Road.

Interested in volunteering? Please contact:
Community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk

Seeking new 'home' for North Weald Village Defibrillator – can you help?



The North Weald Village Defibrillator is currently located on the outside wall of the now closed Methodist Church hall. The Parish Council has been searching, without success, for a new location in which to install this piece of lifesaving equipment. Are you a shop or business owner? Would you be interested in hosting the defibrillator? Ideally the premises would front on to the High Road, North Weald.

The owner / manager of the host premises would not be expected to carry out any maintenance checks on the equipment as this is undertaken by Parish Council staff. Installation of the equipment and associated costs would be covered by the Parish Council.

If you are able to help, please contact the Clerk on 07572 507591 or email clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Parish Hall, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood



The Parish Hall in Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, is the only hall owned and managed by the Parish Council.

Since the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, the hall is now fully open and functioning. There are many groups who meet on a weekly / monthly basis:

- Epping Taekwondo
- Forest Pilates
- Emma Music for Babies
- Thornwood Seniors
- Harlow Bowmen
- Over 70's Youth Club
- NCT
- West Essex Flower Club
- Farmers Market
- Vintage Fayre
- Daisy First Aid

The hall is available for hire to Parishioners at reduced rates. For bookings, please email admin@northweald-pc.gov.uk or call 07572 507591

North Weald Bassett Parish Council, Parish Hall at Thornwood Common, Weald Hall Lane, Thornwood, Essex CM16 6NB

Tel: 07572 507591

email: clerk@northweald-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Susan De Luca

The Parish Office is open on Mondays and Fridays 9.15am to 12pm. Please note these times may change at short notice due to the availability of the hall. All staff continue to work from home when not in the office.