

# West Horndon Village News

ISSUE 14 – JULY 2015

[www.westhorndonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.westhorndonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## School Bus Transport Outrage!

By Kathy Turner

West Horndon Parish Council have been made aware by local parents, that village children who have been given a place at Brentwood County High School starting in September, will have to pay for the previously free bus transport to and from school. This was not flagged to parents in the application process.

Brentwood County High has always been the first choice secondary school for most children at West Horndon Primary, and is by far the nearest Brentwood secondary school. The change in policy is due to a new policy introduced by Essex County Council ("ECC") that restricts funding for school transport to those children taking up places at their nearest secondary school.

Essex County Council has calculated by their own route planner that for West Horndon the nearest school is James Hornsby based in Basildon. The differential between the two schools is understood to be c. 100 meters, with the route identified for James Hornsby certainly not the route that most parents would choose to drive and indeed, not the route that bus transport would use.

West Horndon Parish Council has raised this issue with our ECC representative, Cllr Roger Hirst. Cllr Hirst noted that when the policy was approved by ECC, it was understood that it would not impact West Horndon, as our nearest school was thought to be Brentwood County High. Clearly, the policy interpretation differs to what was originally expected by our ECC representative.

West Horndon Parish Council will continue to liaise with Cllr Hirst on this issue, and have written to him formally. As we receive further information, we will make sure that this is disseminated to parents and the wider West Horndon community.

## Neighbourhood Plan/Local Development Plan

By Kathy Turner

West Horndon Parish Council has not heard any more on the Local Development Plan ("LDP") proposals since earlier this year when the Strategic Growth Options and Dunton Garden Suburb consultations were published.

We will continue to engage with Brentwood Borough Council to look to shape where the LDP proposals are going, and to ensure that local residents have the ability to be involved in the process as it continues to develop.

In the meantime, we have decided to commence work on a sustainability appraisal which will help inform our own Neighbourhood Plan. The work will look at the specific local issues faced by West Horndon, and consider what could be reasonably considered a "sustainable" level of development that could be accepted, if required and appropriate, by West Horndon.

This work is in its early stages at the moment, but it is hoped that it will allow us to be in a stronger position to respond to the next stage of Brentwood Borough Council's LDP work, when it is eventually released.

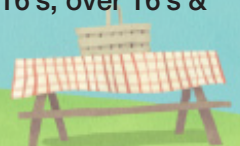
## FUN IN THE PARK

By Dan McNicol

Reserve the date in your diary for this year's fun in the park! Sunday 12th July is the date for what will be a memorable day of fun and games with the added incentive this year that winners can go forward to represent West Horndon at the first inter-community games to be held in the Borough in September.

Come and join us in the park and bring you blanket and refreshments and watch or take part in Netball under 16's & over 16's, 5-a-side football under 10's, under 16's, over 16's & over 40's.

Also enjoy tug-o-war, egg & spoon races, 3-legged races, obstacle course, swingball, table tennis, face-painting, bouncy castle. The day will end with a game of village rounders! Teams can be all boys, all girls or mixed. Register on the day by 12.45. We hope you can join us.



# Parish Council Updates

**Highways** – The Parish Council has provided Essex County Council with a list of highways issues which it would like scheduled for repair. The list includes resurfacing of pavements and roads, pot holes, tree cutting, missing/damaged signage replacement, speed reduction in Thorndon Avenue around the school zone, traffic calming measures for Station Road. We have also requested that the unlined areas of Station Road providing uncontrolled and “free” parking in the main to commuters using the station be lined in keeping with the rest of the village. We have now been informed by ECC that they do not know the “ownership” of the “dropped” inspection cover on the A128 at the junction of Station Road! A repair has been carried out which is already failing! We will keep pressing on this. We are pleased to confirm that following lobbying by the PC we have been selected as a pilot area for the trialling of new LED street lighting. Before you all jump up and down asking why can't the lights be kept on at night, we have requested this, we have offered to pay for it but it has been turned down. That aside, LED lighting would be a huge improvement on the “ancient” lights we currently have. The “new” lamp-post erected in Chafford Gardens opposite McColls will soon be a year old! We are considering celebrating this event with a candle/torch lit ceremony given that the lamp is still not working. Come on Essex County Council this is becoming an embarrassment to you!

**CCTV** – We are pleased to confirm that the cctv cameras at the village hall have been replaced and upgraded. The upgrade includes regular monitoring by BBC direct from their control centre and the installation of a new broadband line at the village hall which will offer users of the hall access to free wi-fi.

**The Park** – The PC has agreed to take over full responsibility for the management and running of the park. (See separate article). A new works schedule will be implemented shortly and we can now look forward to a better managed park and higher levels of service over and above that provided by the Borough over the past few years! Three parish councillors are to undertake training by ROSPA to allow the playground inspections to be undertaken in-house and saving the PC some £1,000.00 in doing so.

**Notice Boards** – We are pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached on the renewal of the parish notice boards. An order has been placed and you should see the new notice boards being installed over the summer.

**McColls** – Continuing on with the McColls parking saga, the PC will shortly put forward a first draft proposal to managing agents Gates Parish and ECC which would offer a permanent solution.

**Recycling** – Following a number of complaints regarding the state and misuse of the recycling centre, the PC has taken up this issue with the Borough. The Borough itself is now reassessing the revenue earned from its recycling sites against the expenditure used to maintain them and we will update you on this in due course. In the meantime, the PC would be very interested to receive your views on this. Please contact the Clerk on 07905-416941 or email her at whpc.parcouncil@gmail.com. Do you want the site to remain open or see it closed?

**Broadband** – We are sure most if not all of you will be aware that ahead of schedule “superfast” broadband is now available in the village. Well to be precise in parts of the village! For reasons that can only be clear to BT parts of some roads have it and others don't and the service was not extended to the industrial estate? You can contact your supplier for an upgrade quotation the latest news we have for complete roll-out across the village is another 18 months!!

## Parish Councillors Re-Elected By Anthony Crowley

After four years as Chairman I have decided to pass on the reigns to a new leader. I have very much enjoyed the honour of being Chairman of the Parish Council but have always been of the opinion that one should not overstay and that it is good to keep the leadership fresh and motivated. I would like to say thank you to all the Parish, Ward and County Councillors that I have served with and also to the two parish clerks, and of course to the residents that have supported the parish council through what has been a very difficult time given all the local development issues.

## A Big Thank You By Colin Foa

Anthony Crowley has decided to stand down as Chairman of West Horndon Parish Council. We say thank you to him for all his dedicated work over that time. He remains a councillor and will continue working for the Parish. At the May council meeting Colin Foa was voted in as the new Chairman and Dan McNicol takes over as Vice Chairman. Ward Councillor Cllr Murphy Conservative was also re-elected for another term whilst Cllr Squirrell previously Brentwood First has now moved across to the Liberal Democrats.

As we go forward there are going to be some challenging things happening. The Parish Council, after very long negotiations with Brentwood Borough Council, has now taken over the running the park and we hope to be able to make improvements to it in the near future. There is also the emerging West Horndon Neighbourhood Plan which we will be consulting the Parish about in due course. This should help the council to influence Brentwood Borough Council's emerging Local Development Plan so any future development in the parish is acceptable and meets the needs of the community. We are also going to try to reach out to the younger members of our community, both to provide more for them but also to try to encourage them to become more involved in the wider community life.



## Youth Survey

By Damien Biggs

We have previously mentioned our aim to engage more with the youth of the village, (**not proving an easy task**)! So we are producing the enclosed survey and would really appreciate as many responses as possible. Over the years the parish council has made various attempts at starting youth clubs etc but have not received support for this. Never the less, the village is changing and our youngsters should not be forgotten or left out and responding to this survey would help us to help you! As a thank you for taking part in this survey, everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a free prize draw for the chance to win 2 free family passes to play either FootGolf or MobyGolf at Golf Kingdom in Chadwell Heath. For more information on Golf Kingdom please visit [www.golfkingdom.net](http://www.golfkingdom.net)

# Borough Council Suspends Paid Services in the Parish Over Park Dispute!

By Anthony Crowley

The long drawn-out negotiations over the running and management of the park were resolved in March with the parish council agreeing to take over responsibility for the park. This followed some 2 years of discussions.

A brief history of the park is that a derelict field 12 years ago was regenerated by the West Horndon Parks Association through a Doorstep Green Project with a grant approaching £250,000. Following the regeneration a “new” park was created for the benefit of the village and has been widely used and enjoyed since then.

Management of the park was carried out by the Parks Association in an arrangement with the Borough Council. The park was financially supported by a tri-party agreement between the Borough Council, Parks Association and the Parish Council. This arrangement ran until the demise of the Parks Association which left the park being supported by the other two parties. The Borough then gave notice to the parish council that its financial support for the park was to be withdrawn, thus started the long-winded process resolved only recently!

However, a bombshell was dropped by the Borough within a month when they issued invoices to us for services provided by them over the past 12 months which we understood had already been accounted for given that the Borough Council held and controlled the bank account and accessed it to take monies due! In the first instance this reduced the fund handed over to the parish council by some 40%. The Borough Council issued these invoices by email to the parish clerk at 11.15am on the 29th April and the Clerk responded asking for some clarification. The response we received was an official notice that services provided by the Borough to West Horndon would be suspended with immediate effect until the outstanding invoices were paid.

Absolutely outraged by this we contacted the Head of Department explaining the situation and further explaining that the invoices could not be passed for payment until the next parish council meeting but received further confirmation that paid services would be suspended with immediate effect until the invoices were paid! The main question put to the Borough’s Head of Department was “you and only you, have access to the account created and operated by the Borough Council for the past 10 years, why then were the payments not taken by you in the same way you have taken them over the past 10 years”? No response was received! Another question put to the Head of Department was “how can you issue invoices and then 2 hours later issue a notice of suspension of services until the invoices are paid”? No response was received!

During the course of the day, we did receive an email from the Borough’s Debt Recovery Department stating “there are 6 invoices which were thought to have been previously settled by ourselves but were unfortunately not debited from the account we managed on your behalf”. We referred this back to the Borough but were still told services were suspended until the invoices paid. Fortunately due to the elections we had a meeting scheduled for early May where the invoices were passed and payment made the following day but the fact must be recorded that your Borough Council suspended its services to you as tax payers for almost two weeks for a mistake of their making.

This sorry episode is a complete disgrace and is nothing short of west Horndon being held to ransom by the Borough. It does not end here; we are in the process of making a formal complaint to the Borough and will seek a public apology on behalf of all our residents.

# Village Hall Defibrillator

By Tina Duffin

The Village Hall has now obtained a Defibrillator. This is sited on the outside of the village hall in a case. I have been told if you needed to use it and you have dialled 999 they will tell you where it is and also the code to the case to access the defibrillator. Apparently these are easy to use as when you turn it on it will give you step by step instructions how to use it. It cannot be used on someone who doesn’t need it – so will not work so you can not harm someone by using it on them.

We are very lucky to have been given this for the village. The Defibrillator itself has been donated by Essex Ambulance and the Case by the Rapid Response Team and we will be giving them a donation towards the cost of the Case. The Village Hall feel this is a great asset to the Village, hopefully it will never be used but if needed it is there and it could save someone’s life. So please pass the word round that one is sited at the hall. It is on the wall by the main entrance to the hall and is bright yellow. I would like to thank Nick Lake for very kindly donating his time to fixing the case onto the wall.

# C2C Timetable

By Kathy Turner

As some of you will be aware, after winning a further term to run the C2C railway, National Express opened a consultation earlier this year to consider proposed changes to their timetable. In particular, and importantly for West Horndon, Laindon and Upminster commuters, the proposed timetable changes would see capacity taken from the “middle” of the line to increase capacity at the east of the line (Southend and local area). Specifically, this involves removal of the Laindon starter trains.

As the commuters of West Horndon will know, if it were not for the Laindon starter trains, there would be close to no available seating on any of the post 6am trains calling at West Horndon running in to London. Despite this fact, that was noted by C2C in the consultation, the need for capacity in the east is deemed greater than the need for capacity in our local area, given our shorter journey times. As such, despite a very strong response from commuters at Upminster, West Horndon and Laindon, the Laindon starter trains will be removed from the timetable effective December 2015. Two Laindon starters will be run, however only one will call at West Horndon and given it will be targeted by the impacted Laindon commuters, one can expect it to be no emptier than the longer distance trains stopping in the morning.

The consultation on these changes has long closed, and despite continued bad feeling communicated by commuters in the “middle” of the line, C2C will not be moved to re-instate the Laindon starters once they disappear in December.

West Horndon Parish Council appreciates that this will materially impact our commuting residents. The only suggestion we can now make is that anyone who wishes, write directly to National Express/C2C to communicate their dissatisfaction with the situation. We would also recommend that once December comes around, we monitor the situation and write once again to C2C should the situation become unmanageable.



## WEST HORNDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The new neighbourhood watch team - Nicola McNicol, Nicola Giles and Jeannette Suters took over on 1st April 2015. We would like to thank all those residents who came along to our meet and greet session on 18th April as it was a pleasure to meet with you all.

**WEST HORNDON** continues to be targeted by criminals of all kinds whether it be household/shed burglaries or theft from/of cars etc.

**A BRIEF SUMMARY OF RECENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY** – 2nd MARCH – McColl's broken into; 16th MARCH – driveway dug up without homeowner's permission (this is not the first time this has been done); 7th APRIL – Land Rover Defender stolen from Lombard's Chase, also 2 car number plates stolen from Freshwell Gardens; 23rd APRIL – home broken into and car stolen in the early hours in Thorndon Ave; attempted break-in Cadogan (burglar alarm disturbed them); MAY – 2 mopeds stolen from Freshwell Gardens but found later in Fyfield Close; stolen motorbike from Laindon found in Lombard's Chase.

**OPERATION INSIGHT** is Essex Police's response to burglaries and is based on the theory of "predictive policing" which, as the name suggests, is about using a particular form of crime pattern analysis indicating where crimes are most likely to happen. Following a burglary, Police will visit near neighbours, the number of dwellings to be visited will be site specific, but would normally include 10 houses either side, 10 in front and 5 behind. Attending officers will conduct an initial assessment of security and vulnerability which may inform referrals to other schemes such as crime prevention officers or local handy many schemes. These households will receive bespoke crime prevention advice and reassurance. As one of the "Watches" in the Borough of Brentwood Area we have the pleasure of liaising with not only other "Watches" but also with the Community Safety Partnership in the Town Hall. The Partnership is made up of representatives from the Police, Fire & Rescue, Probation Service, Health and the Local Authority and we work together to try and reduce crime and disorder throughout the whole of the Borough. The Partnership carries out many innovative projects and full details of these and other information about the Partnership can be viewed at [www.saferbrentwood.com](http://www.saferbrentwood.com).

**DOOR CHAIN PROJECT** – the elderly and vulnerable residents from anywhere in the Borough can complete a very simple application form, they will then be contacted with a view to the CSP supplying and fitting, free of charge, a door chain, door mirror and magnifier to check I.D

**"KEEP SAFE" SCHEME** – With this, residents of the Borough who might get worried or confused/panic or similar whilst out shopping in the Town Centre can join, again FOC. Any time they are anxious they can then enter any shop/Bank etc. in the High Street displaying the Keep Safe sign (Yellow Telephone) and they will be looked after by trained staff and a telephone call made to their relative/neighbour. This scheme is about to be expanded to Shenfield and it is hoped will soon be available in all parts of the Borough where there are the appropriate shops etc.

**TWO OR THREE SENIOR SAFETY DAYS** are also held in the Borough each year whereby residents are invited to attend from 10am until 3pm. Presentations are made from The Police, Fire & Rescue, Home Instead and the Brentwood Borough NW and often by the Trading Standards and other agencies. A buffet lunch is provided and in the afternoon there is a play acted out by three professional actors on the subject of Distraction Burglary etc. These "Safety Day Road Shows" whereby the BBNW visit luncheon clubs, sheltered housing and the like for just over an hour giving the four presentations mentioned above, and of course, everyone receives a "goodie bag" at the end. Again FOC. It is hoped that a Senior Safety Day Road Show will soon be held in West Horndon, so please look out for this upcoming event. As your local NW we have also recently become involved with Community Agents. This is an Essex wide project providing support to vulnerable adults and their informal Carers within their own communities and is backed by Essex County Council involving Age UK Essex, British Red Cross, Rural Community Council of Essex and the BBNW. Again, this is a totally free service whereby our local Community Agent will visit residents to discuss and help with: Support in their home; getting out and about; meeting people; form filling; money worries; caring for someone. Many folk are actually astounded when they find out what is actually available to them/the informal Carer.

If you would like further information on any of the above then please contact Peter Salmon by email at [peter\\_salmon@lineone.net](mailto:peter_salmon@lineone.net) or by telephone on 01277 823305 or view [www.saferbrentwood.com](http://www.saferbrentwood.com).

**PCSO DEBBIE POWIS'S STREET MEETS:** Venue: St. Francis Church Centre, Thorndon Avenue. Time: 10:30 – 11:30am Dates: 3rd/20th JUNE 2015 and 8th/18th JULY 2015. Further dates will be posted on local notice boards when known.

**CONTACTS:** Police – 101 (please try first for all enquiries). This is a non-emergency manned telephone number available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This does not replace the emergency 999 number – if there is a serious crime, incident, serious risk of injury or damage, you should dial 999.

PCSO Debbie Powis/Neighbourhood Policing Team – direct dial 01277 266896 – mobile 07896871008.

You can also e-mail PCSO Deborah Powis on: [deborah.powis@essex.pnn.polic.uk](mailto:deborah.powis@essex.pnn.polic.uk)

Brentwood Police Station: 01277 262212 or dial 101 and ask for Brentwood. Real emergencies only 999

## West Horndon W.I.

W.I. Meets in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday every month time 7.45 p.m.

Wednesday 17th June 2015  
Speaker Mr. Dinsdale cold cases.

Wednesday 15th July 2015  
W.I. Supper for members only.

Wednesday 19th August 2015  
A member has organised an evening of horse racing

Anybody interested please contact Pat on 01277 811296.  
All ladies welcomed any age.

## Peartree Surgery Update

Reminder from Doctors Surgery patients can book on line but first must obtain a password for each member of family. Children can be booked in with parents if under 16 years of age. Children over 16 must obtain own password.

When people make appointments to see the Doctor or Nurse if they decide they don't need the appointment would they please cancel it as 24 people did not turn up for appointments they had made during April.

If anyone has a wheelchair they no longer need, the surgery would like to keep one in case of an emergency.

The next addition will be published in October. If you have any item you would like included please send to either the parish clerk at [whpc.pariahclerk@gmail.com](mailto:whpc.pariahclerk@gmail.com) or Anthony Crowley, [whpc.cllr.anthonycrowley@gmail.com](mailto:whpc.cllr.anthonycrowley@gmail.com) by the end of September. Items can only be accepted in electronic format. Thank you