

WHAT'S ON

VILLAGE HALL

September 8th, quiz night in aid of Little Haven Hospice & the Village Hall. Tickets £11 with food included (chicken/fish & chips), or £7 ticket only. November 3rd, back by popular demand, cabaret Going through the Decades with Jed Watts and Polly. Tickets £8.00 each.

For further information and to hire the hall for any occasion contact Tina on 07519-508072.

THE RAILWAY HOTEL

May we welcome John & Sue Murphy to the village. John & Sue have taken over the tenancy of the Railway Hotel and we look forward to it re-opening shortly. We hope to have a regular feature on "what's on at The Railway" in future!

WEST HORNDON TENNIS & SOCIAL CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY

W.H.T.C. completes 50 years of tennis in the village this year. Members, former members and guests will be enjoying a celebratory evening on the 6th October 2012. During our many years, the club has provided competitive tennis with teams entered in the local leagues, as well as regular club tennis.

Social events have always been included in our calendar. Naturally, the success of the club depends on our membership, so we are always very happy to attract new members. So anyone for tennis!!

Please contact either: Trevor Moore 07840 525370
Moira Baker 01277 810675

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The winners of the front gardens competition were: 1st place 36 Dunmow Gardens. 2nd place 65 Station Road and 3rd place 73 Thorndon Avenue. Well done to all who took part.

Congratulations should also be given to Tina & Bob Duffin of 44 Dunmow Gardens for coming 2nd in the Brentwood in Bloom premier class front gardens competition. Please don't forget to use the stores open every Sunday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Our AGM will take place at 7.30 pm 12th October upstairs in the village hall. All are welcome, new committee members needed.

WEST HORNDON W.I.

The club meets every third Wednesday in the month in the village Hall at 8.00 pm and have a variety of speakers and subjects, which are listed below together with the dates. New members are always welcome so come along and meet and make new friends. Visitors too are most welcome £3.00 per visit. Anybody interested in joining or just finding out more about the club please telephone Pat on 01277 811296.

Wednesday 19th September – 8.00 pm
Antiques & Collectibles by Brian Billins

Wednesday 19th October – 8.00 pm
The Art of Magic by Paul Clancy

Wednesday 14th November – 8.00 pm
A stroll round old Upminster by Richard Moorey



POLICE/RESIDENTS MEETING

Wednesday 26th September, Village Hall 7-8.00 p.m.

We now have a date for the second and last police/residents meeting this year. As usual it will be held in the Village Hall between 7.00/8.00 p.m. and our PCSO Mick Janes will be in attendance to bring you up-to-date and answer your questions/queries.

REPORT ON THE POLICE/RESIDENTS MEETING Held on Wednesday 27th June

Once again the main concern was speeding throughout the Village. It was even reported that children at the pre-school when playing in the outside play area, are disturbed by the speed of the traffic, especially lorries, travelling along Station Road. Another concern was the use of mobile phones while driving – it was appreciated that unless you have a police presence on every road, 24 hours a day, there was little that could be done about this problem, but it was duly noted and would be reported to senior officers. A resident asked what was known about an Essex Boot Camp van that regularly parks near to the park. Our PCSO explained it was a recognised organisation and the driver was probably an instructor or the like instructing people in the park. The resident said the next time she saw it she would go across and enquire. Another issue was anti-social behaviour and vandalism – this has now been investigated and hopefully sorted.

CRIME FIGURES – For West Horndon from 1 March 2012/present. Burglary dwelling 5 (crime prevention advice available) – Attempted burglary 2 (shed/garage – alarms available) – Criminal damage to property 4 – Theft from motor vehicles 4 – Theft of motor vehicles 1. Recently there have been a number of registration number plates taken off vehicles and used for crime – good advice is to get the garage to fit self tapping screws to plates making it difficult to remove them.

POLICE MOBILE VAN/CAR

I have very recently been advised that the Rural Mobile Police Van/Smart Car will no longer regularly be coming to West Horndon on a Wednesday. There are two main reasons for this :

- 1) Lack of support - residents calling – not just to report something but not even for a chat.
- 2) Police financial cuts.

It was pointed out to our PCSO Mick Janes that residents are more inclined to pop into the police van rather than telephone or call at the police station. Mick said if any resident has something to report, etc., they should either telephone him on his mobile or send him an e-mail and he will respond and call on them A.S.A.P.

POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please try first for all enquiries – 101

This is a non-emergency manned telephone number available 24 hour 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 Mick Janes/Neighbourhood Policing Team - direct dial 01277 266896 - mobile 07896 871008. You can also e-mail PCSO Mick Janes on michael.janes@essex.pnn.police.uk
Brentwood Police Station 01277 262212 or 101.
Real emergencies only 999.



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Doris & Nicola Scoop Citizen Awards

This years citizen awards were won by Doris (Doll) Grindly and Nicola McNicol. The annual award scheme set-up in memory of former councillor Roy Boggis has three category winners from which an overall winner of the Roy Boggis trophy is selected. Nominations are submitted by the residents and an independent panel select the winners.

Nominations this year included Gill Chapman, Bernie Cowles, Matt O'Grady, Chris Price and Gladys Winch. Nicola McNicol took the award for outstanding achievement in voluntary work, Doris Grindly for long-term commitment to the village, with Doris walking away with the overall Roy Boggis trophy for 2012. The one disappointment was in the youth category where sadly no nominations were received!

The ceremony was well attended by residents, Paul Ainsworth from the Brentwood Gazette carried out the interviews and the awards on the night were presented by our Mayor Cllr Ann Coe.



FALL BACK – SATURDAY 27th / SUNDAY 28th OCTOBER

It hardly seems possible but once again it is time to return to G.M.T. – a "fun" job time for those who do not have clocks that change automatically.

Superfast Broadband

For many years West Horndon along with other "rural" villages has suffered from poor internet connection and download speeds.

The government's ambition is for the UK to have the best broadband connectivity in Europe by 2015 with 90% of the population being able to access Superfast Broadband.

To achieve this the government are making some £530 million available to invest in the telecoms infrastructure. Essex has been allocated £6.46 million by the government and Essex CC has agreed to match this. Whoever becomes the delivery partner will be expected to match this meaning some £26 million should be available to invest.

On the 26th June the Secretary of State approved Superfast Essex, the Local Broadband Plan for Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Recently Brentwood BC announced it has reached agreement with Buzzcom to provide high-speed service to 80% of the Borough.

At present we don't know if we are "in" the 80% target range but we do know that at present BT Openreach has no plans to invest and upgrade the exchange serving us! We don't think that's fair, we don't think that's good enough. A campaign has already started in Herongate & Ingrave and we have agreed to join this.

Actions we can take

The Parish Councils will be lobbying both Brentwood BC and Essex CC for access to funding. What we also need is for all interested individuals and Companies to visit www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/expression-gen.aspx and register their interest. Regrettably BT's current policy is to act only when there has been sufficient interest generated from a particular area. They will not accept petitions only individual forms of registration of interest.

“Vote” of Confidence for the Parish Council



Following the recent leaflet drop for new Parish Councillors, we are pleased to announce that all positions have been filled. In fact the response from the village was quite something with nearly 30 people coming forward. As well as allowing us to move forward with a full council the intention is to also have steering groups that will include residents to help with youth development, village development and the parish plan.

In returning to full strength in September we extend a welcome to our new councillors Lisa Conboy, Sue Lister, Adam Herring, Terry Enever, Michael Bowyer, Colin Foan and David Hammond who will join existing councillors Crowley and Price.

As is almost always the case, when saying “hello” to some, we must say “goodbye” to others. And over the past few months those leaving the Parish Council include Christine King, Ethel Sanders, Alan Slawson, Andy Spiller and Norman Page. We wish to thank them all for the hard work they have put in and the valuable contribution they have made to the Parish Council.



Also leaving us is our Parish Clerk Geoff Rudd. Geoff has served the Parish Council for nine years and at times with all of the “comings and goings” has almost single-handedly kept the Parish Council functioning! His work ethic, regularly working more hours than being paid for, his attention to detail, are second to none. His accounting has been signed off by the Governments auditors nine years in a row without query. His accessibility to residents and his working relationships with the Borough Council, suppliers and other organisations is to be admired. His contribution simply cannot be overstated. He will be missed by all who have worked with him and will undoubtedly be a hard act to follow! Geoff we thank you and offer our best wishes to both you and Janet for the future.

No pressure then on our new Parish Clerk Lynne Farquhar. Lynne will officially replace Geoff as of the 1st September and joins us having spent most of her working career in the health and education sectors. Lynne will bring to the Parish Council her many years experience of project administration and excellent communication skills and we very much welcome her and look forward to working with her.

Target Projects

With a new team comes new momentum and the new council has already targeted projects it wants to drive forward. It is fair to say that for a while now the village has looked “untidy”. Pot holes in the roads, pavements breaking up, hedges and pathways not being cut, speed signs that don’t work (and even if they did can’t be seen because of the over-growing trees). Buses that don’t turn up or won’t come into the village. The general increase in traffic and the continuing speed problems, poor internet connection speeds, the disappointing increase in crime and so on and so on!

You’re rightly fed up with it and so are we. We are also fed up with Brentwood Borough Council blaming Essex County Council and vice versa.

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm its intention to target all of the above in the next six months to develop and instigate schemes.

We are already pleased to confirm in hand with cllr John Roberts our ECC member that we have submitted bids for the roads and pavements to be attended to.

Meetings have been held with c2c with a view to allowing the buses to “turnaround” in the station car park so that there is no excuse for the drivers to refuse to come into the village. We are now seeking a meeting with the bus companies again with John Roberts. We are lobbying c2c for a “dedicated” pedestrian walkway in the station car park.

We are considering a bid for taking over the “general maintenance” of the hedges and pathways.

We will be seeking enforcement through BBC against those that fail to maintain their boundaries and encroach onto the public paths and alleyways. This will also include disturbance from on-going building works.

Funding for Station Road “traffic calming” measures is being sought. We will be applying for a 20 mph speed zone in Thorndon Avenue adjacent to the school.

Internet connection is an issue not just for the residents but also for the businesses around the village and on the industrial estate. In conjunction with Herongate & Ingrave PC (see separate article), we will be seeking to pressurise BT to provide superfast broadband or seek an alternative to improve connection issues.

The Parish Survey will be delivered in September and its feedback will be analysed by one of the steering groups to fashion a village development plan. On this point please complete it, the better the feedback the better the development plan!

A new website will go live shortly. All parish councillors will have a unified email contact address. Information will be displayed on the website and on the notice boards giving details of what each parish councillor is responsible for and this will make it easier for residents to contact the right person.

These are some of the issues we are looking to move forward and of course this will be added to as the “new” council finds its feet!

Planning Issues

Since the last newsletter was sent out we have had the “regular” planning applications for extensions, loft conversions, conservatories etc etc! However, two recent applications warrant special mention here and are of significant interest to the village. The first is for a fuel storage and distribution depot to be sited on the industrial estate. The second is for a wind turbine sited on Dunton Hills farm.

Fuel Storage Depot application 12/00618/FUL

Behzad Fuel Uk have applied to change the use of land (yard 18) on the West Horndon Industrial Estate for the purpose of storage and distribution of white diesel, red diesel and kerosene oil. This yard is opposite where Tuffnells are sited.

The Company currently operate out of a depot in Rainham on the Fairview Industrial Estate. The application is for 3 above ground storage tanks, 2 portakabins, 2 caravans, 7 cars and 5 fuel tanker lorries. Up to 100,000 litres of fuel could be stored not including what may be stored aboard the lorries themselves! We calculate that there could be some 50 tanker lorry movements per week through the village and obviously all along Station Road. They are applying for on site 24/7 security.

We have “observed” the current operation from the Rainham site. Their yard is untidy, cluttered, the tanks are old and rusting, and there was “drying” of clothes evident, not compatible with “on-site” security but more compatible with on-site “living”! It is not clear from the application if the existing tanks are to be re-sited from Rainham or new tanks installed. It is not clear if the local Fire Authority have been consulted. Most of the industrial estate are unaware of the application!

The Borough Council have recommended approval; the Parish Council is completely against this application and has referred the application to the Borough’s Planning Committee. It will be debated at the October meeting. The safety issues and site conditions aside, we are of the opinion the BBC have completely failed in its responsibility to fully assess this application in particular the safety and environmental impact it will have on the village.

Your support in objecting to this application is welcome and should be sent to the Borough Council as soon as possible.

500kw Wind Turbine application 12/00741/FUL



Dunton Hills Farm has applied to install a single 500kw wind turbine. Given its size and location it is a contentious issue and one that the entire village should be aware of.

This application has not only split the Parish Council it is also very clear from the resident canvassing that has been carried out that the village will also be split on being for or against such an application. On the basis

of this we will summarize the application and offer some points both for and against; the choice thereafter of whether you object will be yours. Please remember there is a time limit for responses. The Parish Council will be submitting a response with its comments and observations.

We must all be careful to look at the application objectively. It is too easy to say “progress is great, so long as it’s not in my backyard”!

Dunton Hills Farm and their agents have put together a commendable application which covers almost all queries relating to such an application. Clearly they have addressed the positives but they have also addressed some of the potential negatives as well.

The proposal summary consists of:

A single wind turbine of 0.5mw.

A transformer box adjacent to the turbine.

Associated track and pad area for the crane during construction and maintenance.

An access road.

The turbine will operate for a period of 25 years after which it will be decommissioned.

Its location is on an open hill some 40mts above mean sea level.

Taking account of its location the size of hub and blades, the structure will be approx 120mts above mean sea level.

Surveys covering traffic & transport, geology, ecology, noise, archaeology, landscape, visual effects, aviation, shadow flicker, socio-economic effects have all been carried out.

Surveys covering telecoms & television reception and utilities are omitted or incomplete.

Dunton Hills Farm will become a carbon neutral business.

The farm uses approx 450,000kw of electricity per year.

The turbine can produce up to 1,000,000kw per year.

Electricity generated over and above the farms requirements will be “sold” back to the national grid.

Points for consideration:

Development of green belt land.

Is the proposal driven by profit based on the volume of electricity that can be “sold” back to the national grid? If profitable will one turbine lead to others in the years ahead?

This will without doubt dominate the landscape and will be seen by a large percentage of the village.

House prices can be depressed for a period of time. Time period not proven.

The true value and benefit of this form of power generation remains unproven.

Telecoms/TV interference.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH CENTRE, THORNDON AVENUE, 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 27th

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 25th

NOVEMBER - NO MEETING

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 6th

The first half hour will be an open forum for residents to ask questions.