

Little Gaddesden Parish Council LGPC Newsletter

APRIL 2010

From Your Parish Councillors

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Parish Councillors have decided to improve their communication with the village by distributing a newsletter twice a year. The idea is to explain what we are doing for the village and keep residents informed of our efforts. Only a very few residents come to Parish Council

meetings which are held on the third Monday of each month in the Village Hall but everyone in the village has strong views about issues like traffic, policing, litter, overflying aircraft and planning matters. Like all parish councillors we work on a voluntary and unpaid basis.

We know we are answerable to the local taxpayer and want to keep you informed about what we are doing on your behalf. This newsletter is a work in progress and will doubtless evolve and improve but for now, welcome to the first issue. It has only taken 116 years to get here!

Inside this issue:

Welcome to Our Newsletter	1
2010 Parish Precept	1
Village Gateways	1
Planning Matters	1
Traffic & Policing	2
Councillors' Contacts	2

CHARGES UP!

Residents have noticed a large percentage increase in the parish council precept this year! Here's why. For a long time we have had the lowest precept in the Borough. There are many things needing to be done to keep the village looking good as well as increased costs for what we already do. Improvements include the replacement work on village

notice boards, work on pathways, play facilities, gates and fences as well as replacement and maintenance on the village hall and playing fields. There is a backlog of tree maintenance work too and we spend over £3,000 a year on litter clearance and warden services. The current budget will not fund these costs. In total we spend about £27,000 on the village

HERE'S WHY...

each year — a small sum really. While the percentage increase in the 2010 precept is large the actual sums requested are small. We have been encouraged by the positive response to the new notice boards and improved stiles and gates on pathways. We are playing "catch up" and the increase is mainly being spent on village infrastructure.

VILLAGE GATEWAY PROJECT

Residents have called for new signs at the various entrances to the village. They will be pleased to hear that we should have a new sign on Nettleden Road later this year courtesy of the Chilterns Village Gateways Project. We are also working with the County Council to find funds to replace and improve signs at Ringshall and Hudnall.

PLANNING MATTERS: GUIDANCE ON ELECTRIC GATES

There's a bit of a trend towards people installing electronically operated gates at their homes. Some of these are imposing aesthetically and motivated by security. Over time there could be a creeping movement towards a gated community limiting neighbourly access and inter-change. Chilterns



Buildings Design Guide states 'entrance and any other gates should be simple and visually permeable, either matching the boundary fence or typical farm gates in the area; timber should be used; ornate high and solid gates and entrances incorporating security systems are out of place in the countryside.'

GENERAL ELECTION - MAY 6

Make sure you are registered to vote. You have until April 20th to get a postal vote.
Email postalvote@dacorum.gov.uk or 'phone 01442 228253

Recently we've ...

- Resurfaced the road between the Village School and the Village Hall
- Completed the tree planting programme on the village green and tackled the outbreak of metal detecting on the green
- Acquired a new Speed Gun and initiated with the Police a regular program of speed enforcement and traffic monitoring throughout the village
- Continued discussions with the County Council over speed limits throughout the village
- Created a budget for village improvement projects in 2010/2011
- Revised policies for villagers' use of the playing fields and village green for private events
- Started planning for improved play facilities at Cromer Close

Little Gaddesden Parish Council

LGPC Newsletter

APRIL 2010

From Your Parish Councillors

TRAFFIC MATTERS

Following the Traffic Survey last year there has been extensive correspondence and discussion with villagers over residents' proposals for traffic calming measures. Villagers have strong feelings on the matter!

There have also been consultations between the Parish Council, the Police and the Highways Department within Hertfordshire County Council where speed limits are decided and budgetary authority for traffic calming measures lies.

In our discussions we have focused efforts on persuading the County Council to introduce a uniform speed limit throughout the village and a reduced speed limit from Hudnall Corner up to the boundary of the village at Hudnall Common crossroads. Re-

sponses from the County Council have not been positive but we continue to press our case.

With the help of the Police, we are also focused on enforcing the existing speed limits with increased use of the new speed gun. This is a policy supported by the County Council and the Police with the latter instituting a programme of regular speed monitoring and enforcement within Little Gaddesden. They intend to publish results of prosecutions flowing from use of the speed gun in the village. This will include information on the speeds involved in offences and their locations.

As new village signs are brought into use (see Village Gateways Project above) the signage will, as a matter of policy, emphasize speed re-

strictions.

We are repeating the Traffic Survey in May to see how these measures and the greater publicity on speed and enforcement measures impacting behavior.

OND

TRAFFIC SURVEY

We need **Volunteers** to help with the next **Traffic Survey** planned for **May 24th**. To volunteer, please contact **Cllr Lyn Hyde on 842267**.



POLICING & CRIME: MOBILE POLICE STATION IMMOBILISED!

While the Mobile Police Station was off the road for repairs in December the Police decided not to repair the vehicle due to the cost. There is no plan to replace it despite ongoing signs of criminal activity in our rural area. The Police have also advised us they are no longer giving crime figures and data to the Parish Council in the comprehensive form they have been up to now. The reason given is to keep the officers on the beat rather than working at their desks. The Parish Council recently agreed to query these reductions in service with the Police. In the meantime the on-line community liaison crime reporting system (OWL) sponsored by the Neighbourhood Watch continues in place. Please sign up for this with Mandy Haynes (842496)

COUNCILLORS' CONTACTS

Chair	Douglas Adams	842746	douglas@adams251.fsnet.co.uk
Vice Chair	David Brattle	843592	david@coldharbourfarm.co.uk
Members	Louise Archer	842397	louise.m.archer@btinternet.com
	Graeme Cannon	843563	graeme@cannon1.co.uk
	Lyn Hyde	842267	lmajh@btinternet.com
	Rob Irving	843779	rirving@rhrinternational.com
	John Lupton	843969	john.lupton@hotmail.co.uk
Parish Clerk	Fiona McWilliams		parishclerk@littlegaddesden-parishcouncil.org.uk

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

Open Spaces Maintenance	7100
Paths Gates & Notices	2150
Tree Work	3600
Churchyard Maintenance	1000
Village Hall Equipment	3000
Insurances	1300
Professional Fees	1100
Phones & Communication	600
Accruals for Elections	400
Salaries	5600
Petty Cash & Miscellaneous	1100
Room Hire	250