



# NIGHTINGALE TIMES

## *The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council*

website: [www.wellowparish.org.uk](http://www.wellowparish.org.uk)

Have you visited our website? Information on everything we do, including Councillors' details, dates of meetings, agendas, minutes, finance, Parish Council policies, Burial Ground, local organisations' details, current events and more are available.

### **Resignation of Chairman**

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Angela Ratcliffe as Chair of the Council and Planning Committee and as a Member. At the time of this newsletter going to print, the First or Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AGM) has not yet been held. It is at this meeting that a new Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed for the year to come.

We wish Angela well for the future and thank her for all of the hard work she has put into the Parish Council over the years as both Chair and as a Member. Angela has given her all, tirelessly and willingly and has achieved a great deal of good work during her term. Thank you, Angela.

### **All Change in the Parish Office**

Unfortunately, our Clerk, Lorraine Wheeler left us on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. We thank her for her hard work and wish her well for the future. The office will therefore not be manned as usual, however Lorraine has agreed to provide some ad hoc locum cover until a new Clerk has been appointed. If you have an urgent query please contact the Councillor responsible for your area of concern. Contact details and Members' responsibilities are available on the Parish Notice Boards and on the Parish Council website. At the time of going to print, Wellow Parish Council was in the process of advertising for a new Clerk and an Administration Assistant.

### **Saturday Morning Councillor Drop-In Withdrawn**

Due to lack of public attendance, Members of the Council voted at the Full Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, to withdraw the Saturday morning Councillor drop-in sessions for the time being. The Parish Office is generally manned daily on weekday mornings for telephone enquiries (tel: 01794 323275) and is open Tues/Wed/Thurs from 10am - 12 noon for public drop in. Alternatively, please email your query to: [wellowparish@btconnect.com](mailto:wellowparish@btconnect.com)

### **Wellow Neighbourhood Plan Update**

A Neighbourhood Plan is a relatively new concept designed to address the future needs and aspirations of a community. The Parish Council initiated discussions with Test Valley Planning Department last year which led to the formation of the Wellow Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in December 2015. The Working Group is made up of parishioners who have volunteered and shown an interest in the opportunities that a Neighbourhood Plan may present. The remit of the Working Group at this stage is to investigate the possibilities that a Neighbourhood Plan may give Wellow Parish and make recommendations as to what it might include.

The Working Group is currently working towards a first direct engagement with the Parish in the form of a simple questionnaire which will seek a mandate to proceed with the drafting of a Neighbourhood Plan. The workload and cost of creating a Neighbourhood Plan would be

considerable. Therefore the team wants to be sure that a significant proportion of parishioners are in outline support of this effort.

You will all be receiving the questionnaire posted to households in May-June 2016 so please look out for this and make every effort to respond. There will be drop in sessions and further information meetings during this period to ensure parishioners have the necessary information to make informed decisions at this stage.

The first formal information sharing exercise was at the Annual Parish Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 (see below) where parishioners were asked to share their vision, issues and wishes for the future of the Parish. The Working Group welcomes more varied involvement from parishioners so please look to take part in future meetings which will be advertised on the Wellow Parish Council website.

#### **Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Wellow Village Hall**

This meeting was attended by approximately 70 parishioners. This meeting is designed for residents to learn more about the Parish Council and its activities and projects, as well as meeting District and County Councillors and other groups in the community. Our thanks to Michael Sleight who gave an interesting presentation of the history of Wellow Common and Cllr John Sampson who gave an informative presentation on the footpaths of Wellow. Our thanks also to Ivor Binns who, as a representative of the Wellow Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, gave an update of the Plan. Details of the Council's annual report are available on the Parish Council website.

#### **Parish Council Finances 2015/2016.**

Wellow PC has total assets, less current liabilities of £200,391. This total includes a General Reserve of £33,584, which is slightly less than the Audit Commission's recommendation that General Reserves should be approximately 2/3 of the Precept. Wellow PC's Precept for 2015/2016 was £60,000. Details of income and expenditure and the Balance Sheet can be found on the Parish Council website along with the minutes of meetings.

#### **Maurys Mount Planning Application Reference 15/01466/OUTS**

This application for 26 houses has been withdrawn by the applicants Stratland Estates Ltd. whose agent sent a letter to the Parish Council dated 3rd March.

#### **170 Acre Solar Farm at Woodington Farm Planning Application Reference 15/02591/FULLS**

Wellow Parish Council has objected to this planning application for one of the largest solar farms in all of the UK, which would be clearly visible from around the Parish and the New Forest. It would threaten wildlife along the River Blackwater and detrimentally transform the rural environment around St. Margaret's Church. Furthermore, it would have a devastating impact on those fellow villagers whose properties are adjacent to the site. Wellow Parish Council understands that the development of renewable energy is vital to reduce our carbon emissions, however, solar panels on brown field sites, industrial roof tops and residential homes may be preferable. Wellow Parish Council believes it is important to preserve the unique heritage and landscape of this part of the Test Valley. Please watch out for notification of a possible hearing date (not known at the time of this newsletter going to print) for the application at Crossfield Hall. To register your comments/objections, it is important to do so before this date, in writing to Test Valley Borough Council, Beech Hurst, Andover, SP10 3AJ, or email: [planning@testvalley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@testvalley.gov.uk) quoting the above reference, with your name, address and post code. Your village needs your support!

#### **Lower Common Road - Temporary Road Closure for Resurfacing - July 2016**

HCC Highways Department will be resurfacing Lower Common Road from the junction with The Drove to the A36 roundabout during July. Expected working hours will be 7.00am to 7.00pm.

### **Wellow Under Fives Mid-Summer Ball - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 - Hamptworth Golf Club**

This is a two course meal with coffee, black tie event with live band entertainment. Tickets are £28.00 each and are available from Preschool (Wellow Village Hall). Email [manager@wellowunderfives.org.uk](mailto:manager@wellowunderfives.org.uk) or call 07760223136 for more details. All funds raised go to Wellow Under Fives Preschool.

### **Looking After Your Dog and the Common**

Please look at the links below to ensure you are following the code:

[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fce-fc-byelaws.pdf/\\$FILE/fce-fc-byelaws.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fce-fc-byelaws.pdf/$FILE/fce-fc-byelaws.pdf)

[http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20165/walking/172/dog\\_walking](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20165/walking/172/dog_walking)

New yellow signs have been erected at the Common to promote public awareness of ground nesting birds during March to June. Dogs **MUST** be kept on leads.

### **What is Alabama Rot?**

The cause of the disease remains unknown. Since December 2012 a number of suspected and confirmed cases have been seen in counties throughout the UK, including the New Forest. Dogs reported with the disease can suffer kidney failure and/or skin lesions. The disease does not appear to pass from dog to dog. Research suggests the disease is more prevalent during the winter. To see cases to date, please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/alabamarot](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/alabamarot) Although the problem is being treated very seriously, many thousands of dogs are walked in the countryside every day and it is important to remember that only a very small number of dogs have been affected.

### **What Should I Be Looking Out For in My dog?**

If you notice a wound, lesion or blister on your dog's leg or face anywhere from 0 to 7 days after walking in the New Forest area or elsewhere, then you should seek veterinary attention. This may be hard to spot however, you may notice your dog licking itself more than usual. Most lesions will not be caused by this condition. Additionally, if your dog becomes quiet, starts vomiting or stops eating then please seek advice from your local vet. It is recommended that you examine your dog and hose down or wash your dog after every walk in the Forest. If you see anything suspicious, do consult your vet immediately.

### **New Tick Disease - Canine Babesiosis**

Dog owners are being warned about a deadly disease, carried by ticks, that has been found in the UK for the first time. The outbreak of babesiosis is centred in Harlow, Essex, but there are fears that it will spread around the UK. Caused by the *babesia canis* parasite carried by ticks, babesiosis has killed one dog and made at least three others seriously ill. Symptoms include weakness, pale gums, red urine and fever. The outbreak is being investigated by the Animal and Plant Health Agency and Public Health England (PHE). To protect your animal, check it for ticks regularly. Sprays/collars for ticks can reduce the risks. Dogs which have been treated with anti-tick treatment by a vet appear not to be affected. Please see the link below for further information: <http://forestvets.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Info-Babesiosis.pdf>

### **Water, Hedges and Foliage**

Landowners or residents who own land or property situated next to a main river or ordinary watercourse are legally termed riparian land-owners and they are responsible for maintaining ordinary watercourses. For further information and advice, please see: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landowners-flood-risk-guidance-leaflet.pdf>

The Parish Council continues to ask that parishioners and landowners be aware of their responsibilities for maintaining their hedges and keeping them cut back, in particular those that are adjacent to the highway, pavement or a public footpath. Once again we wish to thank those landowners and parishioners who have carried out their responsibilities in respect of their hedgerows and in doing so, have supported the Parish Council in maintaining the village.

### Village Litter

It is great when any parishioner shows some interest in making the Parish look clean and tidy. We have just recently had the "Clean for the Queen" litter clear up, where four councillors and three parishioners took part, and also the 'Sparkle Day" clean up when Roy Perry and Caroline Nokes appeared in Wellow with the Test Valley Borough cleaning team (you can still see their video on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnHQhmWETJQ&sns=em>).

The Council has spent approximately £600 recently clearing litter and fly tipping from the Recreation Ground in Lower Common Road. McDonalds have offered their support and involvement and the Parish Council have purchased, on behalf of parishioners, litter picking equipment. We need parishioner support to keep our village looking good. This can be either by taking part in organised litter picking activities or simply to pick up litter when you see it. If every parishioner picked up one piece of litter per week that would be 156,000 items a year alone!! More volunteers are required on a regular basis. Please contact Wellow Parish Council, or Cllr John Sampson email: [cllrjsampson@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrjsampson@wellowparish.org.uk) for more information or to register your interest.

### Wellow Help Group

To assist the elderly in getting to optician, doctor and hospital appointments, the Wellow Help Group rely on volunteer drivers. The bank of drivers has depleted recently and we would welcome new volunteers. You may only be asked to drive one or two times a month. If you would like to know more about this initiative, please contact Anne Jarrett on 01794 322469.

### Wellow Tennis Club LTA Event

Wellow Tennis Club will be hosting their first LTA grade 6 ratings tournament on Bank Holiday Monday 29th August 2016 with a 10am start. Each player should get 3 matches and it is £6 to enter. It is a men's open event with a guide rating of 7.1-10.2. For more details follow the link: <http://www3.lta.org.uk/Competitions/Event/?ctn=1-7FS0JBI&evt=1-7FS1N95>

### Meetings

All meetings of Wellow Parish Council are open to the public. Time is provided at each Full Council meeting for public participation where residents can raise any concern or matter relating to the Parish.

**Summer Fete, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2016 - Wellow Recreation Ground, Lower Common Road - from 11.00am.**

Come and enjoy the family fun of this event and support St. Margaret's Church.

### Meetings Dates (held in Wellow Village Hall):

**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016** - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm

**Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016** - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm

**Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016** - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm **ONLY** (if required).

**Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016** - Planning and General Purposes Committee 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm

If you would like to comment on and/or contribute to the newsletter, please let the Clerk know. Please contact the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below).

**Provide the Clerk with your email address and receive the newsletters by email!!**