

NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

Spring 2018

www.wellowparish.org.uk

Meetings

All meetings of Wellow Parish Council are open to the public.

Planning & Full Council Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall

9th
APR

Annual Parish Meeting

Doors open 6.30pm
for 7.00pm start

Wellow Village Hall

25th
APR

Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6:00 pm

Wellow Village Hall

14th
MAY

Annual General Meeting followed by Full Council Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall

14th
MAY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
Members of the public are invited to ask questions or make statements at all Parish Planning and General Purposes Committee meetings and Full Parish Council meetings relating to items included on the agenda.



Wellow
Parish Council

Your Council website provides information on everything we do, including Councillor details, dates of meetings, agendas, minutes, finance, Parish Council policies, Burial Ground, local organisations' details, current events and much more. In printed form this Newsletter is intended to complement the website.

Message from the Chair – Councillor Gaye Chesterton-Kay

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year from the Parish Council. Building on all the hard work put in by Councillors and members of the Parish, we can now look forward to completing two large projects which were started in 2017, namely the new Cricket Pavilion and the Community Garden.

As many of you will no doubt have noticed, foundations for the new Cricket Pavilion are now finished and the main structure arrived on site on Monday, 26th February as scheduled. As soon as the building is watertight, internal works will commence. The new Pavilion has been a long time coming but the end result will certainly be worth all the effort.

The Community Garden is now finally finished. The planting of shrubs and trees took place on the 27th January and plaques have been placed on the sponsored benches. Of course, the full impact of the garden will only really be realised when all the shrubs and trees begin to grow in response to warmer weather, hopefully in the not too distant future. Please, if you have time, take a few minutes to view the Community Garden which has only been possible because of grant funding by Viridor Waste Management, very generous donations from our County and Borough Councillors, and purchasing of benches by our local businesses and residents. Hopefully it will prove to be a great meeting place for all of our residents and visitors to Wellow.

The Council has also been busy installing a storage facility for use by Wellow Youth Football Club who were desperate to move all the clutter from the Clubhouse into a storage shed, thus freeing up the Clubhouse for the children to use when they are not out on the fields (please see photograph later in the Newsletter).

Finally, if you have any questions or would like to speak directly to any of your Councillors, please contact Sharon or Karen at the Parish Office and they will arrange an appointment for you.

Chirpy, chirpy cheep cheep

For our younger readers, ask your parents or perhaps even grandparents what this is about and you might get them singing one of the classic songs from their youth! Yes, it is that time of the year, birds will soon be nesting on Wellow Common and throughout the parish. Let's give them their best chance of survival by keeping our dogs under control when they go out with you to enjoy the great outdoors that Wellow offers.

Community Garden



On a very wet Saturday in late January, five intrepid Parish Councillors (Cllrs Ed and Gaye Chesterton-Kay, Cllrs Mike and Sue Jones and Cllr Harmeet Singh Brar) turned out to plant up the new Wellow Community Garden on the recreation ground. Following a planting plan, and after lots off digging, heeling in and dressing with bark chippings, some six hours later the job was done. Special thanks go to Sue Read, a nearby resident, who fought her way through the atrocious weather to deliver the Councillors a very welcome cup of coffee!

The picture also shows the recently renovated roundabout and the groundworks being undertaken for the new Cricket Pavilion.

Some great new additions to the Wellow skyline

For those who walk, or increasingly run and cycle, around Wellow, the skyline has just become a lot more interesting. On the ridge of one of the iconic thatched cottages in the parish animals have appeared.

What a super thing to do to celebrate Spring. Invite some friends over. Walk around Wellow, take in the sights, look at the snowdrops and other flowers as you explore a footpath or wander across the Common. Rest for a bit on the growing number of benches in the parish – thanks to all those who have donated benches. Have a look at the carved oak tree, the community garden and see the new Cricket Pavilion.



Delivery of the Newsletter

Although the newsletter is available on-line, as editor my biggest disappointment is when residents say they have not received a paper copy of the Nightingale Times. The Parish Council has discussed this topic in some detail because it is part of how we support and promote overall community engagement. We want you all to be able to learn about the great things happening in Wellow and sometimes consider those things we just need to remember to do as part of a community. We have looked at a range of delivery options including volunteer delivery and use of the postal service, but have decided to partner with a local agent who will include the newsletter as part of an existing delivery.

Being prepared and knowing who might need some extra help

In the event of a major incident impacting Wellow, there is a possibility that the emergency services might not be able to reach the scene immediately. In such circumstances, the initial response may be down to us. To co-ordinate such activity, and in common with good practice on the part of councils generally, the parish council is considering producing a Community Resilience Plan to help prepare for an emergency and reduce its impact. The idea is that we, as residents of Wellow, may know about particular hazards and problems that could affect an area, be aware of individuals who might need assistance in an emergency, and have access to people, resources or buildings that allow the Emergency Services to respond quickly and effectively to specific incidents.

Some important parts of the Community Resilience Plan will be identifying those in our community who would be most likely to need some form of assistance and having good information on those best able to help. For example, we will seek to know what first-aiders or ex-health professionals we have in the parish and who might be able to help with sleeping accommodation or transport.

Sport in Wellow



Football in Wellow is not just about success on the pitch. It is also about making the best of the facilities available. The parish council has worked with Wellow Youth Football Club to get foundations laid and a new equipment store built at Hatches Farm. The new storage shed means that all the associated football equipment can be safely and securely stored, freeing up space so that the Clubhouse can be used more effectively.

The Parish Council is aware of a range of issues impacting the use and enjoyment of facilities at Hatches Farm. Perhaps the most pressing and challenging issues relate to drainage and the car park. This is impacting use of the football pitches and parking facilities for all local clubs. Consultations are underway

to understand what possible and affordable solutions might be available to help address the problems.

Neighbourhood Plan update

We have a Parish Plan and a Village Design Statement. Both are fine documents, available on the Parish website, and thanks again to all who were involved in producing them. The Neighbourhood Plan has alignment with these documents but has one major difference. Once it is drafted and examined as 'fit-for-purpose', if you as a community approve it, it becomes a statutory planning document as part of the Test Valley Borough Council Development Plan.

So what activities are the Neighbourhood Plan team working on? A key area of work is preparing a community-wide survey. We want this to be an engaging document that helps you share, and in some cases continue to share, your views on what topics are special, important and need to be planned for in the future across the parish. Other parishes have told us just how valuable the community survey process has been to them.

With the statutory focus of the Neighbourhood Plan on land-use related change we have also been examining in detail what is shown in the latest Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) 2017 document published by TVBC on their website <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework>. This technical document, which Test Valley have a statutory duty to produce, seeks to identify and assess land that could be made available with housing and economic potential to inform future allocations for housing and employment. Inclusion of sites in the SHELAA does not imply that TVBC would necessarily grant planning permission. We are looking to explore if there is any other land that, even after TVBC reaching out for declarations of interest, should be taken into account as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. We would ask any landowners who did not respond to the SHELAA 2017 request, but now consider they should have done so, to make contact with the Neighbourhood Plan project office (admin@wellownhp.org.uk).

Climb every mountain

Our congratulations go to Cllr John Sampson on his recent ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro. It is great to see what rigorous training on Wellow Common and cycling around the parish can help to achieve.

Roads and traffic in Wellow

In the Nightingale Times we try not just to inform residents on the fun things going on the parish but to also make all aware of wider issues that have a potential to impact life in the parish. One such issue is a recent government consultation paper on the road network. As part of the Transport Investment Strategy, the government has committed to creating a Major Road Network (MRN) under the umbrella of Highways England and have published a Consultation asking for views on these proposals. This should be of interest to us in Wellow, and our neighbouring parishes, because the paper shows a map of what the MRN might look like with the A36 shown in the same colour as the motorways and other dual carriageway trunk roads. The consultation paper can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposals-for-the-creation-of-a-major-road-network>.

Cllr Brar, with some assistance from the Neighbourhood Plan team, has been liaising closely with Hampshire County Council and the traffic police looking into what can best be done now to address known issues such as speeding in Whinwhistle Road. Six volunteers have expressed an interest in being part of the Community Speedwatch team and this is now being progressed with the Police Community Support Officer.

As part of building the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan some members of the team have been looking at <http://www.crashmap.co.uk>. It shows just what sort of accidents have occurred along the A36, and some other roads in Wellow, over the past few years. It is well worth taking a look at this web-site.

Vive la France!

Wellow Twinning Association has been very active for 27 years with its twinned French village Couffe. In May a group from Wellow will visit the village for a weekend of European festivities. Next year Couffe will visit Wellow.

The Association is open to all and would welcome new members to ensure our friendship continues. Throughout the year Twinning organises village events including wine tastings, dinners, race nights and our next event The 5-Course Walk on 15th April. For more details on becoming members or joining in the walk please contact Sandra (01794 322852) or Lorna (01794 322414).

Social media and use of technology in Wellow

Facebook postings continue to provide quick and timely updates on issues impacting Wellow. The Parish Council Facebook page can be found by searching – Wellow Parish Council @wellowmatters on Facebook.

The Neighbourhood Plan team is also considering using Survey Monkey as a tool to help capture answers on the community survey that will be issued soon. If anyone in the parish has good experience in using Survey Monkey we would like to hear from you. Please contact Kathy Taylor on admin@wellownhp.org.uk.

Newsletter

If you would like to comment on and/or contribute to your newsletter, please let the Clerk, Mrs Sharon Whitehouse know. You can contact her at the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below). Let the Clerk have your email address and receive the newsletters by email! Distribution of paper copies of the newsletter has been arranged but if you have not received a paper copy and would like one please let the Parish clerk know.

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