

NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

Summer 2018

www.wellowparish.org.uk

Meetings

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

Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall

9th
JUL

Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall

6th
AUG

Planning & General Purposes Meeting

6:45 pm

Wellow Village Hall

3rd
SEP

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

Well, I am finally delighted to say that the new Cricket Pavilion is finished and functioning! The final two weeks before the official opening were frantic to say the least with contractors and volunteers working flat out to get it ready for the big day. The weather thankfully didn't let us down and all those who attended really enjoyed viewing the building, along with the refreshments. Thanks to Cllr Roy Perry for cutting the ribbon and to all those who gave up so much of their time to make it happen. Looking back to last Autumn and Winter when the ground was waterlogged, access to the site virtually impossible and no end in sight, it was a real challenge and has only turned out to be so special through the determination, enthusiasm and sense of humour displayed by every single member of the team. We're now looking forward to enjoying the new building for many years to come. Please come along to support all the teams and especially the Colts who put in so much effort.

With the Pavilion and Community Garden now finished, the Council is looking to start some new projects which will include major renovation works to Hatches Farm, more details to follow.

On a less formal note, St Margaret's Church held an Open Gardens on the 9th/10th June with twenty gardens on show, along with sales of refreshments, cream teas, bric-a-brac and plant sales in various gardens. The weather again performed and the turnout on both days was exceptional. The 'Gardeners' all agreed that all the hard work and aching muscles had been worth it and the lovely comments that were made by the visitors made our day!

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please speak to Sharon and Karen in the Parish Office who will do their very best to help. Alternatively, if you would like to speak to a Councillor directly, please make an appointment through the Office.

A new PCSO for Wellow

It's farewell and thank you to Claudia Patterson who leaves us as our Police Community Support Officer and welcome to Sam Bate. Sam's beat includes Wellow and a number of our neighbouring parishes. Sam can be contacted by telephone on 101 or by emailing sam.bate@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

Wellow included in research project on poverty

Three parish councillors attended a recent launch of the Southern Policy Centre's report on Making ends meet: The lived experience of poverty in the south. West Wellow was one of the eight areas studied across the central south which included Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight. The Southern Policy Centre worked with the University of Southampton on this research into what it is like to live on a low income in different parts of the south and in particular to understand whether experiences and expectations of poverty are affected by being in a more affluent region, perhaps living close to people with a very different lifestyle. A summary of the report's findings can be obtained from the Southern Policy Centre's website southernpolicycentre.co.uk

Are lorries and potholes putting you off cycling?

More than half of people say they would cycle more if roads were in a better condition, a survey for the charity Cycling UK suggests. A YouGov poll of 2,024 people found that potholes and drivers overtaking too closely were the joint second most common reasons for avoiding cycling. The most common concern was having to share the road with large lorries. Cycling UK wants "fundamental changes" to road design and the Highway Code to give confidence to potential cyclists. Between 2007 and 2016, potholes and other faults in the road were a factor in the deaths of 22 cyclists, according to the Department for Transport, and more than 350 others were seriously injured. The poll showed that 57% of people were put off cycling by having to share the road with lorries and other large vehicles, while 56% of people would cycle more if roads had fewer potholes and other faults.

The Wellow Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire will be seeking your views on cycling facilities in the parish but please let the Parish Office know of any issues you are currently experiencing when trying to cycle in Wellow.

Broadband in Wellow

You may have noticed a number of new green street cabinets appearing around Wellow, usually next to an existing one. These are being installed by BT Openreach and house optical fibre equipment to provide high speed broadband. Most of the parish will now be able to get download speeds of at least 25Mbps although the actual speed will depend upon on the distance from your home to the green cabinet. The further away you are the lower the speed. Unfortunately, parts of Ryedown Lane, Woodington Road, The Frenches and Tanners Lane are a long way from the nearest cabinet and may get much lower speeds or have no high speed broadband service at all at present.

A few areas of the parish have access to a slightly different technology called fibre-to-the premise which offers ultrafast broadband with speeds in excess of 100Mbps. These include Nightingale Close and parts of Canada Common.

If you want to watch high definition TV on demand or have lots of people trying to use the internet simultaneously, you may like to visit <https://www.openreach.co.uk> to see what fibre service you can get. The service can then be ordered from a range of service providers including the big names such as BT, TalkTalk, Sky and Plusnet.

Wellow Lunch Club outing to Milford on Sea 29th May 2018

Thanks to the generous grant of £500, awarded to the Lunch Club by Wellow Parish Council, we were able to arrange a Fish and Chips lunch outing to Milford on Sea. The rain stayed off until we were back on the minibus, and an enjoyable day was had by all! Thank you, Councillors for agreeing to this grant which made the day out possible. We hope to arrange another modest outing in the New Year!



Keeping younger parishioners safe

As we enter the peak summer vacation period please be aware that there may be more children than usual making use of the roads and lanes as they move around in the parish.

With an increasing number of car accidents in the lanes around Wellow, we all need to stay aware of the risks.

Burial ground benches

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that some of the donated benches at the burial ground are in need of some urgent maintenance. The Clerk is trying to find out details of the owners/donors for each of the nine benches currently located in the Parish burial ground. Please contact the Clerk, Mrs Sharon Whitehouse if you have any information about the benches.

Improving access in and from Wellow

In May the Parish Council had a really useful 'brain storming session' with representatives from Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council. The focus was on opportunities to improve accessibility in Wellow and sustainable access (foot, cycle and horse) from Wellow to other parishes. Ideas presented for discussion included some that can be addressed now, such as maintenance of the 'shared-use' kerbside space of the A36 and helping the school with parking challenges. Actions were taken to follow-up on these ideas. Other ideas included an ambition for improved connectivity between East and West Wellow, an improved footpath/cycle route from Wellow to Romsey and improvements to provide safer access for horses and pedestrians across the A36 to the Common.

Do you have any other 'big ideas' that you think the Parish Council should be considering? If so, drop an email to clerk@wellowparish.org.uk or pop into the Parish Office and let us know.

Neighbourhood Plan update

It has been about ten years since the questionnaire for the Wellow Parish Plan was sent out. Now, in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan, we need updated views from everyone living in the Parish on a range of topics that will help form and shape a strategy, set of objectives, specific planning policies and community aspirations for Wellow for the next fifteen years. The neighbourhood planning team and the Parish Council have both filled in a draft of the questionnaire on-line as part of a review process. We believe that you will want a questionnaire that is reasonably comprehensive across a range of topics, but that has also been sufficiently edited down to remove any repetition and that it is not too long. The design of the questionnaire has been informed by those used successfully for other parishes.

What we need from all of you is that you **COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE** when in paper form it gets delivered to you and collected starting **in early September**. We also really need volunteers to help deliver and collect questionnaires in your parts of the Parish – please put your names forward by contacting Sharon or Karen at the parish office (clerk@wellowparish.org.uk). We also really encourage those of you that can to complete the questionnaire on-line using a reference that will be provided on the paper questionnaire and on the parish website to a tool called Survey Monkey. And for those that feel they need some help with the questionnaire we will run a series of support sessions in the village hall.

Thanks to all our parish volunteers

For many of us perhaps the most visible regular example of community service in Wellow is the parishioner we see picking up rubbish on the A36. Many thanks again to this parishioner and the others who also work hard to keep our roads and village lanes free from litter. Many thanks also to those volunteers who have helped in working on the new cricket pavilion, community garden and neighbourhood plan. Others have helped in clearing rubbish bins on the recreation ground, maintaining gates leading into the forest and on Canada Common in helping to keep ragwort under control.

Please let the Parish Office and your councillors know about other volunteering efforts that you think we should also be recognising.



Football's coming home - Hatches Farm

With the Football World Cup now over attention turns to what we can do locally to support football in the parish. Modern football is an inclusive and social game and there are no reasons why we should not have teams of all ages participating in a variety of games, including walking football for those of us that might need to slow down a bit. The main challenge we face is that our stadium, Hatches Farm, is in desperate need of some work to address pitch drainage issues. The Parish Council is currently seeking advice from drainage experts on what best can be done, how any work can be funded and how it would need to fit in with the use of the pitches as the parish teams head into another action packed season.

Visiting Europe

A group of 28 Wellow Twinning Association members travelled by car, ferry, catamaran, plane and bikes to Couffé, Loire Atlantique, France for their annual meeting.



The weekend was organised by the Twinning Committee in Couffé and on arrival all members were asked to take part in a Eurofest dinner evening. This involved being taken by our French hosts to Varades, a small town half an hours drive from Couffé for a meal with German, French and English Twinning Associations in the region. It was partly a formal evening with speeches (in French, German and English) and a very German meal of frankfurters and a black forest type dessert.

On the Saturday we were taken on a coach trip north to Chateaubriant for a visit of the castle and its ramparts followed by a picnic at a water mill (Moulin du Pont Godalin) and trip around a foundry village (Forges de la Hunaudiere) before returning home to Couffé for an evening with our hosts.

Sunday allowed everyone to relax and gain strength ready for the soiree in the evening. We were entertained with dinner in the village hall (Salle Polyvalente) complete with music and songs and then at 10.00pm a German band called "Something Else" from Bogel (Couffé's twin town in Germany) entertained us all for the rest of the evening until midnight when it was time to go home.

On Monday members then made their way back home or to another stopping off point in France.

All agreed that, yet again, the Couffé visit was different and entertaining. The facilities and infrastructure developed by Couffé residents is truly inspiring with a large sports hall, community restaurant facilities, a 150 seat theatre, a community designed and built housing development in a rural setting and most recently a new community library in the heart of the village.

We are keen for and would very much welcome new members, so if anyone is interested in joining the Wellow Twinning Association, please contact Sandra Tutton on 01794 322852 or Lorna Thaxter 01794 322414 for more information.

Social Media and use of technology in Wellow

Some of you may have seen in a recent edition of the Romsey Advertiser that only 6.7 per cent of people in the Test Valley avoid use of the internet. Web-based software programs and apps can be a great way of providing communications and our Facebook postings for Wellow continue to provide quick and timely updates on issues that can have an impact on us. The Parish Council Facebook page can be found by searching – Wellow Parish Council @wellowmatters on Facebook. And remember to have a look at the Wellow Parish Council website wellowparish.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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