

# NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

Winter 2018

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

## Meetings

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

### Planning & General

#### Purposes Meeting

6.45 pm – Wellow Room at Wellow Village Hall



### Full Council Meeting

7.15 pm  
Wellow Room at Wellow Village Hall



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**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

Happy New Year and I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities with family and friends.

Looking back over the months since the last Newsletter, issues regarding speeding in the village are ongoing and concern appears to be increasing. Please take a look at the separate article which outlines what the Parish Council has been doing and where we are currently at.

On another topic, in listening to residents' concerns regarding Planning Applications within the Parish, I thought it might be useful to clarify some key points regarding the process in Wellow. Firstly, it's important to note that there is no statutory requirement for Wellow Parish Council to process planning applications in the way that it does. Parish Councils are routinely consulted by the relevant Planning Authorities for all new applications, but the way that each Parish Council responds varies greatly. There is no legal requirement for example, to run separate Planning meetings, to visit sites, speak to applicants and neighbours, or to issue letters to affected neighbouring properties, or even to respond to the Planning Authorities.

However, Wellow Council feels it is vital that planning matters are thoroughly discussed and that local views are taken seriously by the Planning Authorities, even though the Parish Council is in fact only one of several Consultees in the process. We DO NOT make the final decisions – these are made by the relevant planning authority i.e. Test Valley Borough Council or New Forest National Park Authority. Further details about Wellow's process is available on our website.

Each application can only be judged against material planning considerations and personal views or opinions cannot be taken into account. Therefore, even though Councillors, residents or members of the public may have strong personal views or opinions, these cannot be used as a reason to object to, or indeed support any particular application in a response sent by the Parish Council.

Residents can make their own representations to the Planning Authorities by writing to them direct.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we can start looking forward to more daylight hours and some warmer weather. As ever, if you would like to discuss anything in particular with me or one of our other Councillors, please don't hesitate to contact me personally (Home: 01794 323737, Mobile: 07721 552288) or any one of our other Councillors, whose details are shown at the bottom of this newsletter.

## Post Office closure

Wellow Parish Council is disappointed for residents and businesses that the Post Office in the parish closed just before Christmas. We understand that discussion between the Sub-Postmaster and The Post Office Limited is still taking place and we hope for a positive outcome. Alternative Post Office Branches are available at:

- **Landford:** Lyndhurst Road, Landford, Salisbury, SP5 2AJ
- **Sherfield English:** Hill Farm Caravan Park, Branches Lane, Sherfield English, SO51 6FH
- **Whiteparish:** The Street, Whiteparish, Salisbury, SP5 2SG
- **Romsey:** 15 - 25 Church Street, Romsey, SO51 8WA

## Parish Council management of the Common

One of the unique aspects of Wellow parish is that it owns and manages part of the New Forest national park. Wellow Common and the surrounding commons, which are managed by the National Trust, have unfortunately experienced a number of small fly tip issues recently. Over the Christmas period we also had reports of moss being removed from the Common. Wellow Common is protected by SSSI legislation within the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This states that a person who intentionally or recklessly destroys or damages any of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of a Site of Special Scientific Interest is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine. In plain English, this means that what is on the Common stays on the Common, other than anything that is left by visitors or dogs, which needs to be picked up and taken away or disposed of in the bins provided.

The Parish Council regularly puts up notices on the Common as a reminder of responsibilities. This is not always as effective as we would like and the advice from the Hampshire police countryside watch is to report any suspicious activities, including offences such as off-roading, poaching, camping and anti-social behaviour to 101. If you witness fly tipping on Wellow Common, please let the Clerk know.

## Remembrance Day

In the Centenary Year marking the end of the First World War another fine parade took place, led by veterans and young people from the village, for the Remembrance Day service at the Wellow Memorial. As many will have seen, to mark the special occasion of this year's Remembrance the Parish Council purchased and installed a memorial bench which faces the War Memorial. This year's Remembrance was also greatly enhanced by the lovely soldier statue made by the school, and decorated with personal messages of remembrance from the children. Thanks to all in the parish who participated and contributed to making it such a well-attended and successful community event.



*The Wellow Poppy Appeal again raised almost £5.5k for the district.*

After organizing six Poppy Appeals, Phil Stenner, the Wellow and district Poppy Appeal Organiser has decided to stand down. Should anyone be interested in taking on this voluntary role, please contact Phil by email on Pstenner@btinternet.com, who would be pleased to pass on your interest to The Royal British Legion.

## Speeding measures in the village (update from the Chair)

As mentioned earlier, I wanted to let you know the current situation regarding the Parish Council's plans for implementing speeding measures in the village. We know some residents are increasingly frustrated at what they perceive to be a lack of both understanding of the problems and action by the Parish Council.

As a resident, I understand the problems, particularly as I live on the frontage of Buttons Lane on a dangerous bend. The speed of vehicles and the complete disregard by some drivers of both their own safety and that of other drivers and pedestrians using village roads constantly amazes me. All Council members are very aware that if some action isn't taken, it's only a matter of time before a major incident occurs.

Back in February 2018 the Parish Council contacted Hampshire Highways to discuss what could be done to make village roads safer. A meeting held in May 2018 proved useful in identifying some of the options available to help make village roads safer. Although Whinwhistle Road had been particularly identified as dangerous, it was felt that measures were needed throughout the village, i.e. Whinwhistle, Romsey Road, Maurys Lane, Lower Common Road, Buttons Lane and Canada Road.

At the end of September 2018, a report was received from Hampshire Highways detailing specific individual measures and recommendations, along with costings.

Having discussed what is practical (and affordable), Hampshire Highways proposed incorporating Village Gateways at various points. These are commonly used to mark village boundaries or changes in speed limit and take the form of fence style features or a series of bollards to highlight changes to drivers, to encourage them to adopt a driving style appropriate to the village location. Carriageway roundel markings can be used alongside upright repeater signs to draw driver awareness to the speed limits. Whilst speed bumps and other more radical measures were considered, the costs were prohibitive and have been found to be noisy and unpopular with residents, particularly when located directly outside of properties.

The next question was "how do we fund it?" Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not have the funds available to pay for such measures. However, Hampshire County Council holds developer contributions (S106 funds) which have been allocated to Wellow. It has finally been determined that just over £17,000 of S106 money can be used to fund these speeding measures. A further meeting has been arranged with Hampshire Highways for early February to agree and finalise details of the project. IT HAS TAKEN A FULL YEAR TO GET TO THIS POINT!! Even now we are being advised that it is unlikely that design work will start until Spring 2019, let alone the work actually taking place.

Please rest assured that the Parish Council is working extremely hard to get these speeding measures in place as soon as possible. Our frustration at not being able to do so far more quickly can only match yours! Whilst commenting on the subject of speeding in and around the village, we would take this opportunity to respectfully request that residents be aware of, and adhere to, speed limits when using local roads.

## Men's Shed follow-up

In the Autumn edition I wrote about the Men's Shed movement. Since then I have been contacted by two residents who are keen to explore further what could be done with this in Wellow. I have also visited the Romsey Men's Shed when they had an 'Open Day' for people to bring in things to be repaired. There are many sheds in Wellow and some of us may spend quite a bit of time in them tinkering with our tools. Why not get together, share ideas over some coffee and tea and perhaps see if we can assist those in the parish that would welcome some helping hands. Please drop me an email if you would like to be involved at this early stage in exploring what we could do in Wellow. clrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk

## Neighbourhood Plan

Thanks to everyone who was involved with and completed the Wellow Parish Neighbourhood Plan survey. In drafting a plan that will have legal planning weight, by being part of the Borough Development Plan, it is important that we gain as wide an understanding of the views of residents as possible. We received 599 responses which represents about 40% of households in the parish. For the 60% of you who did not respond to the survey, please continue to think about the issues that are important for you living in Wellow and, if possible, share your comments or observations with the neighbourhood planning team. The costs associated with printing the survey were funded by a grant from TVBC.

The survey results are now being analysed. Discussion has taken place, both at Parish Council level and within the neighbourhood planning team, on how best to provide residents with feedback. We want to give the maximum number of parishioners the opportunity to access the survey results and encourage you to continue to share any comments or observations you may have. A presentation event is one way of providing feedback and this will form part of the agenda for the Annual Parish meeting in April. Prior to this we intend to produce a short summary document of the survey results, which will link to a more detailed document made available on the website, for those who want to drill down into specific topic areas.

If you have any questions please contact [cllrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk) or the neighbourhood planning project office [admin@wellowparishnhp.org.uk](mailto:admin@wellowparishnhp.org.uk).

## New parish councillor joins the team

Welcome to Aly Jones who joined the Parish Council following the by-election held on November 15th 2018. A belated welcome also to Richard Light who joined in September 2018. To bring you up to date with recent changes, your Parish Councillors are:

### **Gaye Chesterton-Kay (Chair)**

Telephone: 01794 323737  
[cllrgchesterton@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrgchesterton@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Mike Jones (Vice Chair)**

Telephone: 01794 322079  
[cllrmjones@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrmjones@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Alan Clark**

Telephone: 01794 323024  
[cllraclark@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllraclark@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Sue Jones**

Telephone: 01794 322079  
[cllrsjones@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrsjones@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Ed Chesterton-Kay**

Telephone: 01794 323737  
[cllrechesterton@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrechesterton@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Philip Stehr**

Telephone: 01794 323275  
[cllrpstehr@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrpstehr@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **John Sampson**

Telephone: 01794 322923  
[cllrsampson@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrsampson@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Rich Millard**

Telephone: 01794 323635  
[cllrrmillard@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrrmillard@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Aly Jones**

Telephone: 01794 323275  
[cllrajones@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrajones@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Richard Light**

Telephone: 01794 324487  
[cllrrlight@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrrlight@wellowparish.org.uk)

### **Trevor Grant**

Telephone: 01794 324529  
[cllrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:cllrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk)

If you want to find out more about what the Parish Council is doing we encourage you to look at the minutes of the monthly parish meetings that are available online or via the parish office.

**Wellow Parish Council, Parish Office, Village Hall, Buttons Lane**

**West Wellow, Hants SO51 6BR**

**Tel: 01794 323275 • Email: [clerk@wellowparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wellowparish.org.uk)**