

NIGHTINGALE TIMES

The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council

Spring 2019

www.wellowparish.org.uk

Meetings

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

Annual Parish Assembly

Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start at Wellow Room at Wellow Village Hall

24th
APR

Annual General Meeting followed by Full Council Meeting

6.45 pm at Wellow Village Hall

TBA
MAY

Planning & Full Council Meeting

6:45 pm – Wellow Room at Wellow Village Hall

3rd
JUN

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

With Spring hopefully just around the corner, we can look forward to getting outdoors once again and enjoying walking our dogs and making use of the recreation ground, Community Garden, local footpaths and Canada Common.

Following on from the last Parish Newsletter, a further meeting has now taken place with Hampshire Highways to take measures to reduce the number of drivers who are exceeding speed limits in and around the village. With a limited budget of just over £17,000 these measures will concentrate on areas which appear to be causing the main problems i.e. Whinwhistle Road, Lower Common Road/ Buttons Lane, Maurys Lane, Romsey Road and Canada Road. Having spoken to Hampshire Highways, design work should commence in April and following a request from Wellow Council, Highways have promised to do their very best to deliver these designs in time for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 24th April. If this happens, the full layouts will be available to view at the meeting.

We are also awaiting the outcome of a Funding Grant application made through the Test Valley Borough Council Community Asset Scheme which, if successful, will make it possible to go ahead with the complete refurbishment and renovation of the Hatches Farm Sports Ground car park. Whilst doing this project, it is intended to remove the existing wooden entrance gates and replace them with an overhead barrier which will mean that the car park can be made available to parents dropping off and collecting their children from Wellow Primary School, thus hopefully lessening the impact of cars parking along Romsey Road during school term times.

In the meantime, we welcome your views, positive or negative, and would encourage you to either speak personally to any Councillor or to contact the Parish Office.

Annual Parish Assembly

This year's annual parish assembly will take place at the Village Hall on Wednesday 24th April 2019. This meeting is open to all parishioners and is an ideal opportunity to discuss parish matters and meet Parish, Borough and County Councillors. You will learn what the Parish Council has been doing in the last twelve months as well as finding out about current and possible future priorities. Doors open at 6.30pm, with the meeting due to start at 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Did you know.....?

Elections are being held for Parish, Borough and County Councillors on 2nd May 2019. Details of the Parish Council election process have been posted on local noticeboards, the Parish Council's website and Facebook page. If you want to find out more, up-to-date information is available via the Test Valley website at <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/aboutyourcouncil/localdemocracy/elections/elections-2-may-2019-candidates-and-agents>

Please note that the parish council's administration must remain neutral and unbiased during this process and therefore it does not intend to publish candidate statements or manifestos on the parish council's website or Facebook page. However, in the by-election held back in November candidates were given the option to upload their personal statements to the Wellow Group Facebook page, so if details are provided by candidates they are likely to be made available there.

Annual General Meeting – date change

The annual general meeting of the Parish Council cannot be held on 7th May 2019 as scheduled, due to the elections taking place the previous week. The new date is dependent on the outcome of the elections, so watch local noticeboards, the website and Facebook for confirmation of the revised date.

Keeping Wellow clean

The Parish Council will continue to thank those litter heroes who brave all weathers and traffic situations to try and keep Wellow as clean as we all should want it to be. Two or three times a year the Parish Council tries to supplement their efforts by organising a community Litter Pick that often includes cleaning road signs too. The latest of these took place on 23rd March as part of the national Great British Spring Clean. Thank you to all those volunteers who participated in response to the Council's appeal for help and to Wellow School who did their bit the previous day. This community event is not only a great way to help keep the parish clean and tidy but also provides an opportunity to chat to other residents about what is good and perhaps not so good in Wellow and what the community could do about it. Please consider volunteering for the next litter pick event which will most likely be held in the Autumn.

Heathland (ground nesting) birds

The New Forest contains some of the largest areas of heathland in lowland Europe. The heathland at Wellow Common, on the northern fringe of the New Forest, provides a home to many important habitats and species, as well as boasting some of the finest views in the area. Spending time in the natural environment is extremely beneficial for both physical and mental health and naturally Wellow Common is a popular destination for visitors.

On heathland many birds nest on the ground or in low-level vegetation such as gorse, and this makes them very vulnerable to disturbance by walkers, and particularly those with dogs. Birds see humans and dogs as potential predators and will flee the nest if they sense danger. This leaves eggs and chicks exposed to cold and attack from crows and other corvids. The effects of disturbance on ground nesting birds has been well studied, and the results of many studies have shown that disturbance leads to a significant reduction in ground nesting birds, for example, Murieson (2002), showed that Nightjar (a heathland protected species which is of national and European importance) nesting within 75m of heavily used paths had 78% failure to nest rate compared to 0% failure to nest at sites more than 225m from the path.

Most birds breed between March and August, and during this time there are simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of disturbing ground nesting birds:

- When walking, stick to tracks and footpaths
- Keep your dog on a lead at all times when walking on heathland between March and August. Whilst you may stay on the path an unrestrained dog can cause disturbance over a wide area
- Pick up dog litter and dispose in bins or take home
- If you see birds that appear to be nesting, keep well away. Bring binoculars to have a closer look but do not disturb a nest as this may cause abandonment of the chicks

Here are some birds to look out for on the New Forest heathland:

Dartford Warbler: Nests in gorse and feeds on invertebrates

Woodlark: Nests on the ground, often in clumps of heather or grass

Nightjar: Nests on the ground, often at the interface of woodland and heathland and has a distinctive late evening churring call

Businesses in Wellow

Under the banner of the Neighbourhood Plan a meeting took place in January with a number of businesses based in Wellow. Whilst some overall and business specific feedback on the residents' survey was shared and discussed, much of the meeting was also about listening to the needs, concerns and aspirations of businesses in the parish. In the same way that some of the feedback from the resident survey will be used as broader input into the overall improvement and change activities of the Parish Council, so this initial meeting with businesses and subsequent follow-ups will do the same. A strong message that came across from participants was the benefit of facilitating greater business to business networking in the parish. 69% of respondents to the parish survey agreed or strongly agreed that Wellow benefits from a thriving local economy which is able to develop further in the parish. Dialogue and networking should help best achieve this in a way that is balanced with protecting the rural aspect of the parish, managing traffic flows and many of the other aspects of living in Wellow that you highlighted as important.

Grant Application Awards

The Parish Council is pleased to report the decision reached at its March meeting to award £127 for a flag and pole to the 2nd West Wellow Rainbows and £500 towards the important community support activities provided by the Wellow Lunch Club. This is in addition to £500 awarded to Wellow First Responders earlier in the year towards the installation of a public access defibrillator, to be located at the Red Rover Public House.

Helping with Remembrance Day

The Poppy Appeal is looking for a distributor to cover the Wellow area on a voluntary basis. You do not have to be a member of the Royal British Legion to do this important role. You just need to have some space to take delivery of collection boxes, poppy trays and possibly some wreaths. The boxes need to be delivered to local businesses and collected afterwards. Please contact Jim Parker, Community Fundraiser for North Hampshire Royal British Legion on 07867 537 099 or email eparker@britishlegion.org.uk

New PCSO

A big welcome to Richard Sanders, our new Police Community Support Officer. Posters have been displayed around the village, providing details. Richard's patch, Test Valley Rural, covers a large area but he hopes to hold a beat surgery in Wellow from time to time, to meet with residents and listen to their concerns. As always, the local Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted on 101. Alternatively, you can find and email the local team online using the postcode search at www.hampshire.police.uk.

Buxton Land

Some time ago a small parcel of land – known as the Buxton Land – was left to the Parish Council. This land is located on the junction of the A36 roundabout near the Scout Hut. We have recently repaired fencing that borders the land. The Parish Council is interested to see if residents have any ideas on potential future uses for this land. One or two ideas that have been suggested are to use the site for a Men's Shed or to

create a nature reserve/wild meadow. Maybe we could put in a borehole and challenge the Peak District with our own Buxton Water? Please email the parish office with your ideas clerk@wellowparish.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from the detailed analysis of the recent resident survey the neighbourhood planning team is moving forward to shape the actions necessary to start producing the actual neighbourhood plan document. We can see from the survey what you view as important and this information is being used to determine a proposed vision for the parish that we can all support. This will be developed further into a set of objectives and draft policy statements to help achieve these objectives. An update on all of this will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

A key part of the neighbourhood plan is having a local view on land-use change related to the type, scale, density, location and infrastructure impact of any new housing. We have been informed that as part of the Local Plan update, Test Valley Borough Council is carrying out an audit of housing stock in rural parishes. This is an update of a similar audit carried out in 2007. There is a perception that will be tested through the audit, that in recent years new builds have mostly been 4 and 5 bedroom houses, with very few three bedroom houses being built in rural parishes. This is interesting for us in the context of our neighbourhood plan, because you have indicated in your survey feedback an emerging demand for downsizing housing options in Wellow. More work will be needed on this and it will probably be necessary for the parish to request TVBC to carry out a formal housing needs survey to further strengthen our evidence base.

If you have any questions please contact cllrtgrant@wellowparish.org.uk or the neighbourhood planning project office admin@wellowparishnhp.org.uk.

Being clear on who your parish councillors are

The Parish Council works as a team on behalf of residents and it is important that you know who your Parish Councillors are:

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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.

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