



The Nightingale Times Spring 2021 Edition

Parish Office, Village Hall, Buttons Lane West Wellow, SO51 6BR
<https://www.wellowparish.org.uk>
clerk@wellowparish.org.uk
01794 323275

Wellow Common

The winter has been a relatively quiet time on Wellow Common although due to the pandemic and the associated lock-downs visitor numbers have been consistently high. There has unfortunately been a spate of dog incidents recently which have caused distress, so we would urge all dog walkers to ensure they keep their pets under strict control and encourage people to report any incidents directly to the Parish Clerk via email only please, at clerk@wellowparish.org.uk so that the incident can be logged and reported back to the New Forest Dog Forum, of which the Parish Council is a member and which is trying to make the New Forest a safer place for all.

I am pleased to report that the problem of litter at the Plantation Road car park appears to have been resolved as visitors are heeding the signs and taking their rubbish home if the bin is full.

The ground nesting bird season has begun and will continue until the end of July. The New Forest National Park is a Special Protection Area for Birds and one of the last places in the UK where rare ground nesting birds such as the lapwing, nightjar and curlew come to breed. These birds are now at extremely low levels across the country and have sadly disappeared completely from many areas due to habitat loss and disturbance by people.

Helping them breed successfully in the New Forest has become critical to their long-term survival. Unlike most birds, ground nesting birds take the unusual step of building nests and raising their young brood, on the forest floor. They come into the New Forest to breed from March until late summer. They are attracted by its mix of bogs, wetlands, and open heath-lands with many returning to the same nesting spot every year. The area is a key location for many species including the Dartford warbler, with around a third of the British breeding population found in the New Forest.

Everyone using the Common can help by taking note of the notices and keeping to the main tracks and avoiding the open heathland. Those with dogs are asked to lend their support by keeping dogs with them on tracks and where necessary using leads to keep them under close control.

Message from the Chair - Gaye Chesterton-Kay

I think, without exception, it's been a very hard past few months and we're all hoping that with the vaccine roll-out gathering pace, it won't be too long before some sort of normality returns. Meanwhile, although the Parish Council Office has had to close to the Public, both Sharon and Karen have been working hard from their homes to keep up with the day to day running of the Council whilst answering various residents' questions and concerns.

Councillors have also been out and about during their permitted daily exercise carrying out various tasks such as footpath clearance, planning applications, tree surveys and several have also been doing other work volunteering at Covid vaccination hubs and organising Foodbank collections and deliveries.

Please stay safe and hopefully we can look forward to a much happier Summer and some nice warm weather.

Parish Footpaths

Footpath 18, Buttons Lane to Maury's Lane, has had its annual cut back and a group of Councillors cleared leaves from Footpath 17 earlier in the year. Unfortunately, Footpath 22, Foxes Lane to Scallows Lane remains closed because of the condition of the boardwalk. The extremely wet winter has prevented the delivery of materials but now that the surrounding land is drying out repairs should be under way soon. Hampshire County Council is arranging the boardwalk repairs and we have recently learnt that the closure of the footpath has been extended a further six months to September 2021.





Obstructions on Verges

The Parish Council has received several enquiries recently concerning the placing of obstructions on highway verges, by residents outside their properties. Indeed, the Parish Council has noted the recent proliferation in Wellow in the siting of dragon's teeth, tree stumps and boulders being placed on highway verges to prevent damage.

Although this is unlawful the Parish Council has no powers of enforcement, that rests with Hampshire County Council as the Highways Authority. If you wish to complain about the siting of obstructions on verges, then this is best done direct via Hampshire's online portal at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems>

Alternatively, you can call HCC on 0300 555 1375.

No items, except permitted highway street furniture, can be placed on the highway without formal consent, usually in the form of a licence. Residents should note that if a situation occurs where the structures lead to personal injury or damage, then the person(s) who placed them would be liable.

The following guidance provided by Hampshire Highways provides some more general information on this matter.

Obstructions such as large stones, boulders, logs etc on the Highway contravene Sections 130 and 130 Highways Act 1980 and are not permitted. The highway extends between the adjoining property boundaries on either side (fences, hedges, walls etc) and covers the whole area over which the public has a right to pass and re-pass, including roadside verges, banks and planted borders.

This is a link to the relevant legislation: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/130/1991-11-01>

Consent is required to place or store materials on the Highway. This may include building materials, spoil, storage containers, contractor's plant, survey equipment and some traffic management. This involves the application for a Materials' licence and is subject to conditions and fees. This would not include the obstructions as detailed above.

For further information see: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/licencesandpermits/materials>

Previous Parish Councils routinely reported these breaches to Hampshire County Council, but this is no longer the case. If residents wish to bring this to the attention of the organisation that has the powers to do something about it, then they can report it direct via the HCC website link or telephone number provided.

Your Council website provides information on everything we do, including Councillor details, dates of meetings, agendas, minutes, finance, Parish Council policies, local organisations' details, current events and much more.

In printed form, this Newsletter is intended to complement the website

<https://www.wellowparish.org.uk/>



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Riparian Responsibilities

As we all know, we have had a long period of wet (and sometimes very wet!) weather throughout the winter and into early spring. Because of this, flooding can easily be a problem as the ground becomes ever more saturated and watercourses run over.

Regular maintenance is therefore very important, but it can sometimes be confusing as to who actually is responsible for the upkeep of ditches, streams and pipes etc.

To clarify, you are responsible for any watercourses that run over, through or are adjacent to your property – these are known as riparian responsibilities - the exception being if the upkeep proves to be down to a third party such as the Water or Highway authorities.

Examples of responsibilities are:-

ROADSIDE DITCH - Adjacent landowner to remove silt etc and keep clear

BOUNDARY DITCH - Landowners each side to maintain up to the centre point

PIPE UNDER DRIVEWAY - Adjacent landowner to maintain and keep clear

PIPE UNDER FIELD ACCESS - Adjacent landowner to maintain and keep clear

BOUNDARY WATERCOURSE - Landowners each side to maintain up to centre point

WATERCOURSES WITHIN PROPERTIES - Landowner to maintain

Highways are responsible for roadside gullies and under road pipes.

More information can be found at:-

hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding

Nightingale Lodge - Extra Care scheme in Romsey

New homes for older people in Romsey are nearing completion following a partnership between Hampshire County Council (HCC), Test Valley Borough Council TVBC) and Places for People. Nightingale Lodge includes 54 new homes, including 34 for affordable rent and 17 for shared ownership, and available for persons over 55 who have eligible care and support needs.

Anyone interested in the affordable rented homes can make enquiries to Test Valley Borough Council on 01264 368000 or via the website

<https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/news/2021/feb/new-extra-care-homes-to-open-this-summer>

Applicants will need to be registered on Hampshire Home Choice <https://www.hampshirehomechoice.org.uk/>

For interest in the shared ownership homes, please contact Places for People via

<https://www.livingplus.co.uk/find-a-home/nightingale-lodge/>

Further information about extra care in Hampshire, eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/extracarehousing



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Wellow Community Support

Wellow has been extremely fortunate to have such a marvellous group of volunteers willing to step in and help those less fortunate than themselves over the past 12 months. The Parish Council wishes to extend its thanks to all of those involved in the Wellow Community Support Group, those collecting for the food bank and those who are now volunteering in vaccination centres, helping the NHS to roll out vaccinations, as well as those of you who have checked in on neighbours throughout the pandemic.

Wellow Parish Councillor Christopher Craig was quick to respond when the Parish Council was first advised of the arrangements that were being put in place to help vulnerable residents in the early days of the pandemic. As a result, local charity Unity selected Chris to receive one of the first Test Valley Covid-19 Unsung Heroes awards - congratulations Chris.

Although we can see a light at the end of a tumultuous 12 months, there are still people who may need help and support. If you can spare time to help with shopping or collecting prescriptions, or need help in the coming months before we get back to some kind of 'normal', then contact the leads of Wellow Community Support Group Chris or Jane - see the poster for details.

Wellow Community Support Group

We have a team of over 30 volunteers
ready to help with prescription collection,
essential food shopping and running errands

Local Contacts

Christopher Craig 07788113544

Jane Edwards 07772871880



Test Valley Community Helpline 03304004116

Test Valley Borough Council's Community Asset Fund Grant

Organisations can apply for grants of up to £25,000. Applicants can submit bids for 50 per cent of the cost of a project that provides or enhances important community infrastructure.

Who can apply?

*Voluntary groups / not for profit organisations * Parish or town councils *Management committees of community buildings *Schools (for facilities with formal open community access)

2021/22 deadlines for submissions of online applications are as follows:

Deadline 1: Mon 19 April 2021 (mid-day) - Panel meeting on 27 May 2021, for a decision by 11 June 2021

Deadline 2: Mon 12 July 2021 (mid-day) - Panel meeting on 19 Aug 2021, for a decision by 3 Sept 2021

Deadline 3: Mon 18 October 2021 (mid-day) - Panel meeting on 25 Nov 2021, for a decision by 10 Dec 2021

Deadline 4: Mon 10 January 2022 (mid-day) - Panel meeting on 17 Feb 2022, for a decision by 4 Mar 2022

All applications must be completed online via the website: www.testvalley.gov.uk/CAF

What can be funded?

New builds & refurbishments to existing buildings, Play and recreation equipment and Public art



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Finally In Sports

The proposed lifting of the government lock-down and the road map to some sort of normality means that through April and May, the local sports clubs will be allowed to open their doors and the sounds of people playing and enjoying sport should hopefully once again be heard at Hatches Farm and the recreation ground - something which has been sorely missed over the past year.

The local sports clubs are of paramount importance to the village. Local men, women and children of all ages use our wonderful amenities to enable healthy bodies and minds and we urge you (when you can and are able) to support these local groups as much as possible.

Go and watch a youth football or cricket match, contact the tennis club and use their excellent facilities, or make use of the new petanque terrain.

The clubs are friendly and offer an excellent standard of sport in each of their fields.

Be safe, keep well and we look forward to seeing more sporting action in our Summer edition.

Contact your Councillors

Gaye Chesterton-Kay (Chair to the Council), 01794 323737,
cllrgchesterton@wellowparish.org.uk

Ed Chesterton-Kay, 01794 323737, cllrechesterton@wellowparish.org.uk

Christopher Craig, 07788 113 544, cllrccraig@wellowparish.org.uk

Mike Jones (Vice Chair), 01794 322079, cllrmjones@wellowparish.org.uk

Sue Jones, 01794 322079, cllrsjones@wellowparish.org.uk

Richard Light, 07968 623 040, cllrrlight@wellowparish.org.uk

Rich Millard, 01794 323635, cllrmillard@wellowparish.org.uk

Charles Payne, 07504 573 803, cllrcpayne@wellowparish.org.uk

Mike Simpson, 01794 324107, cllrmsimpson@wellowparish.org.uk

Philip Stehr, 07801 284 565, cllrpstehr@wellowparish.org.uk