

**LAYER DE LA HAYE PARISH COUNCIL
2015 NEWSLETTER**



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors

Mark Jones *Chairman*, Ian Moore *Vice Chairman*
Peter Bunting, Tom Harris, Anne Hughes MBE,
Duncan Jones, David Lennox, Mike Strain, Brian Turner
Parish Clerk: Sarah Hughes
(Oaklands, 153 High Road, Layer de la Haye CO2 OEB)
Tel: 01206 738056 E-mail: layerclerk@hotmail.com
Website: www.essexinfo.net/layerdelahayepc

The Parish Council will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday, 11th May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

The Parish Council is manager of the Recreation Field, Malting Green, the Cross and War Memorial, the Multisport Courts and allotments on Church Road, the Village Hall Car Park, Heatherfields and the Play Area at Millfields.

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. The schedule and the Agenda are published on the Parish Council Notice Board at the Cross. All are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council website www.essexinfo.net/layerdelahayepc has information about the village and Minutes of Parish Council meetings. There is also an Events Diary. If you would like an event included please notify the Parish Clerk.

Jo Jones runs the 'Parish Network', which keeps residents up-to-date with village news and information by e mail. This is a completely free service and if you would like to join, please contact Jo on 734258 or jojn@hotmail.com. Another source of village information is Secret Layer <https://www.facebook.com/SecretLayer>.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Our Borough Councillors try to attend our monthly meeting and are always willing to help in any way they can. They are:

Kevin Bentley: Willoughby End, 32 Willoughby Avenue, West Mersea, Colchester CO5 8AU Tel: 01206 548100 (work) 01206 382405 (home) 07740 123753 (mob) email kevin@birchandwintree.com

Andrew Ellis: Ransomes, Wigborough Road, Peldon, Colchester CO5 7RA Tel: 07768 986611 (mob) 01206 735166 (home) email andrew@birchandwintree.com

VILLAGE HALL

The most exciting news of the year is obviously the new annex to the Village Hall. Over £480,000 has been raised from a wide variety of sources including the Abberton Community Fund, Veolia, the Cory Environmental Trust and Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund. An amazing £12,000 has come from village donations!

Demolition of the old hall took place in the middle of February and it is expected that the new building will be finished by the end of July. This is a fantastic achievement and a big 'thank you' is due not only to the members of the Project Steering Group who have worked tirelessly to get the project off the ground, but also to all the donors, volunteers, village contractors and trades people without whom it would not have been possible.

Activities in the large hall will of course continue throughout the build and whilst there will inevitably be some disruption and limited car parking in the short term, the end result will be worth it.

To book the village hall for events please contact Marilyn Moore on 01206 734267 or Jackie Pudney on 01206 738967.

RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to the play area and basketball court on the playing field, the village has excellent tennis courts on Church Road, these are available for hire at a cost of £4.00 per court for adults & mixed groups or £3.00 for children. There is a £10 deposit for the key. To book the courts ring Ian & Marilyn Moore on 01206 734267

HEATHERFIELDS

Heatherfields is rented by the Parish Council for the enjoyment of the village. The paths through the woods must not be used by horses or cyclists. Your co-operation in respecting these rules ensures that the woods remain a safe and pleasant environment for all our residents. Bonfires must not be lit in the woods and timber should not be cut or removed.

VILLAGE GATES

Traffic travelling too fast through the village is a perennial problem. This year has seen the extension of the 30mph limit in the village to beyond the Church and the installation of roadside 'Village Gates' to help tackle the problem. The project was funded in part by a generous grant from the Abberton Community Fund.

CHARIOT PARISH SHOPPING BUS

The Chariot Community Bus goes to Sainsbury's supermarket every other Monday. The bus seats 14, is open to all & delivers passengers and their shopping door-to-door for a fare of £4. This is made possible by a substantial Parish Council subsidy and also this year by a grant from the Essex Community Foundation. Our thanks to Martin Friend for organising this service and to the volunteer drivers for their time and commitment. Info. from Martin Friend on 734555.

REFUSE FREIGHTERS

There will be attended refuse freighters in the Village Hall Car Park for the disposal of garden rubbish and bulky domestic rubbish between 9.30 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. on 6 June and 1 August, Fridges, freezers, commercial refuse or hazardous waste will not be accepted.

DOG FOULING

The most regular complaint that the Parish Council receives is about dog fouling. If you are exercising your dog ***please do clear up after it;*** not doing so is inconsiderate and the resultant mess, a real health hazard. Dogs should be kept on a lead on the Playing Field at all times. Dog poo bags are inexpensive and widely available at supermarkets and pet stores. Individual bags for emergency use, provided by the Parish Council, can also be collected from 17 High Road and 67 New Cut. Dog waste bins are sited at either end of New Cut, on the High Road and on Malting Green - please use them. CBC Community Zone Wardens will be patrolling various 'hot spots' in the village and they are empowered to issue fines to anyone who does not clear up after their dogs.

VILLAGE LITTER PICKS and PALS (People Against Litter)

Our annual Spring litter pick fills around 20 bin bags with rubbish collected from around the village. Our next one will take place in early May so keep an eye out for details on the Parish Notice Boards & via the Parish Network or Secret Layer website. If you want to get out and do something a bit more regularly you could become one of the PALS. They aim to litter pick specific roads in the village on a monthly basis. Contact elizabeth.appleby@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01206 734493 for details.

LAYER DE LA HAYE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our School continues to thrive. It is in the enviable position of requiring very little building improvement, but this year a new non-slip entrance pathway has been laid, and an area of adjacent wall painted blue which the children will decorate shortly. Since September there has been a new leadership structure in place with two assistant headteachers – Mrs Tracy Baxter (the Year 2 teacher) and Miss Amy Arthur (the new Year 6 teacher). There is also a new teacher in Year 5 – Mr Mark Gilbranch. With new additions to the already strong teaching team we are confident that the school will continue to grow from strength to strength! Visit the website for more details: www.layer-de-la-haye.essex.sch.uk

St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The village was very sorry to say goodbye to the Rev Celia Cook and her family at the end of December. The Rev Julia Russell Grant, with the help of Lay Readers, Church Wardens and others, is ensuring that Services take place as usual while awaiting the appointment of a new Team Vicar under the Thurstable & Winstree Team Ministry. The Church has recently been awarded a grant from the Abberton Community Fund towards a small porch extension which will house a much needed kitchenette and loo! For information about Baptisms and Funerals contact Julia on 01206 330235; for Weddings contact Rev Anne-Marie Renshaw on 01621 815260

PARISH GAZETTE

This is a monthly magazine produced by the Church for residents of Layer and a great source of local information. It contains Church news, details about village events and interesting articles contributed by people in the village. For a fee you can advertise your business. The magazine, priced at 70p, is on sale at The Fox and The Donkey; alternatively it can be delivered to your home for an annual charge of £7 (and a saving of £1.40) - contact Martin Piper on 734369 for details.

PARKING

Parked cars, particularly at school drop off and pick up times, are a real problem round our school, the Village Hall, New Cut and Heather Close. To ensure that the Emergency Services and residents can gain access to properties, it is very important that roads and driveways are not obstructed. It is equally important for the safety of all road users and pedestrians to observe the Highway Code and not park on the yellow lines, adjacent to the school. Your co-operation in parking considerately and safely would be much appreciated.

CAST IRON FINGER POST

Last year we reported the refurbishment of the 1930s cast iron finger post at the cross roads. Following on from the success of this project we have secured a substantial grant from the Essex Community Foundation to fund the replacement of the dilapidated wooden finger post at the corner of The Folley with a cast iron finger post, in the same design and colour scheme as the one at the crossroads. Work to erect the new post will start later this summer.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

There are a number of properties managed by Housing Associations in the village, consisting of flats at The Buntings, bungalows at Heather Close for the over 50s and houses at Millfields to rent and for shared ownership. The Parish Council has fought for the right for people with village connections to be housed in them. When a property becomes available, we need to be able to pass names to the associations. Vacancies do not occur very often, but to put someone's name down, please contact Anne Hughes on 734168.

POLICING and COMMUNITY ZONE WARDENS

PC Darin Patrick is our Neighbourhood Constable supported by PCSOs John Howard & Richard Hauley. The contact phone number for reporting non urgent matters to the Police is 101. The Emergency number remains, of course, 999. Our Community Zone Wardens are Tim Pickard-Smith (tim.pickard@colchester.gov.uk) and Stephen Day (stephen.day@colchester.gov.uk)

BUSES

The village benefits from a regular bus service into Colchester which is subsidised by EC and run by Heddinghams on weekdays and First Group at the weekend. The ECC subsidy relies on passenger numbers and the overall usage of these services. To ensure that the services remain viable for the future it is important that these numbers stay up – so please consider using the bus for your trips into town. Information on times/stops/fares etc. can be obtained from Heddinghams or Traveline websites or phoning 01206 769778 (Heddinghams) or 0871 200 2233 (Traveline)

POTHoles & OTHER HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS

Can be reported direct to Essex County Council via their website or by phoning 01245 430430
Please recycle this newsletter