

**LAYER DE LA HAYE PARISH COUNCIL
2016 NEWSLETTER**



THE PARISH COUNCIL
Councillors

Mark Jones *Chairman*, Ian Moore *Vice Chairman*
Peter Bunting, Tom Harris, Anne Hughes MBE,
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 the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 9th 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; if you would like to join please contact Jo on 734258 or jojn@hotmail.com. Another good 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 841933 (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

This time last year the old small hall had just been demolished and the footings dug for the new Annexe. We were very fortunate that the build went without a hitch and our lovely new Annexe took shape over the Spring and Summer, and was formally opened by Cllr Kevin Bentley and Mr David Alborough (Northumberland Water) with Priti Patel, MP on 28th August last year. The project was a huge success and has resulted in a venue of which the village can be justly proud. We owe a huge debt of thanks to all those individuals and organisations who contributed time, talents or funds towards this valuable community asset. Plans are now afoot to update the interior of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, so watch this space. The village hall has its own website which can be used to make bookings: <http://www.layervillagehall.org/> or contact Marilyn Moore on 734267 or Jackie Pudney on 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 734267.

ALLOTMENTS

We are delighted that six Parish Council allotments on Church Road are finally up and running. All of these plots have been taken by those on the waiting list, but if you are interested in putting your name on the waiting list for any future availability please let the Parish Clerk know (01206 738056).

HEATHERFIELDS

Heatherfields is rented by the Parish Council for the enjoyment of village residents. 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.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The 30 mph speed limit in the village exists for the protection and safety of pedestrians and vehicle users alike and to help remind motorists not to exceed 30pmh we now have a group of trained volunteers who mount speedchecks on a regular basis. Any speeding vehicles are reported to Essex Police, who then take the appropriate action. If you are interested in joining the volunteers, please e-mail the Parish Clerk on layerclerk@hotmail.com.

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 at any time. 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.

CHARIOT PARISH SHOPPING BUS

The Chariot Community Bus goes to Sainsbury's supermarket every other Monday. The bus 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. 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.

DOG FOULING

The most regular complaint that the Parish Council receives is about dog fouling. It is a problem all around the village but is particularly bad on the playing field. At the end of last year we asked whether we should ban dogs from the playing field in an attempt to resolve this problem. A significant number of residents said they would support a Dog Control Order, but others were very disappointed we were even considering such a move which would unfairly penalise the majority of dog owners for the anti-social activities of the few. An alternative would be some kind of 'Community Action', with residents patrolling the Rec and raising awareness of the dog fouling issue. If you are interested in helping us work out how such a scheme might operate or would like to take part in any way, please contact the Clerk on 738056. Dogs should be kept on a lead on the Playing Field at all times, including after dark. If your dog fouls please pick up after it. Dog poo bags are inexpensive and widely available. Dog waste bins are sited at either end of New Cut, on the High Road on Malting Green and near the Church - but bagged dog poo can be disposed of in any litter bin. CBC Community Zone Wardens will continue to patrol 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)

A big thank you to the 25 enthusiastic, community minded volunteers who collected well over 20 bin bags full of rubbish from around the village at our recent Litter Pick; held this year in conjunction with the national 'Clean for the Queen' campaign. If you have time and would be interested in litter picking more regularly, you could become a PAL. PALS aim to litter pick specific roads in the village on a monthly basis. Details from Liz Appleby on 734493 or elizabeth.appleby@hotmail.co.uk.

LAYER DE LA HAYE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As always it has been a very busy year for our school. Three teachers have departed on maternity leave and three fantastic newly qualified teachers have joined the team. The school has engaged with a new local authority pilot scheme to develop collaborative working between schools called School Effectiveness Plus. Key priorities for this year have been based on further improving standards in

teaching and learning, developing a growth mindset ('I can do this') attitude and developing a new school vision. The children remain delightful, the team fully committed and our school is a very happy and positive place to be. Please visit the website to find out more: www.layer-de-la-haye.essex.sch.uk.

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 'til 10.45am on 09 April, 04 June and 30 July. Fridges, freezers, commercial refuse or hazardous waste will not be accepted.

PARISH GAZETTE

This monthly magazine is produced by the Church for residents of Layer. As well as Church news it is a great source of local information, with details of village events and interesting articles contributed by residents. For a fee you can advertise your business. The magazine, priced at 70p, is on sale at the village shop, 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.

St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Although we are still waiting for the appointment of a new Team Vicar, The Rev Anne-Marie Renshaw, Team Rector, Thurstable & Winstree Team Ministry, with the help of Curates, Lay Readers, Church Wardens and others, is ensuring that Services take place as usual in Layer. Building work on the new facilities for the Church is underway, completion due later this summer. For information on Baptisms & Funerals contact Julia Russell-Grant on 330235; for Weddings contact Rev Anne-Marie Renshaw on 01621 815260.

CAST IRON FINGER POST

You may have noticed that the dilapidated wooden road sign at the end of The Folley has been replaced with a smart cast iron finger post which matches the sign at the Crossroads refurbished two years ago. Both of these fingerposts were funded by generous grant from the Essex Community Foundation.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

There are a number of properties managed by Housing Associations in the village: 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 quickly. To register your interest, please contact Anne Hughes on 734168.

POLICING and COMMUNITY ZONE WARDENS

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). They are at the village hall between 9.00 and 11.00am on the last Tuesday of every month with replacement recycling boxes, clear sacks and food caddies (large & small). The Zone Wardens can also offer help and advice with CBC online services.

BUSES

The village benefits from a regular bus service into Colchester, with a new timetable running from April 2016. Some services are subsidised by ECC and rely on passenger numbers & overall usage to retain this support. So please consider using the bus for your trips into town. Information on times/stops/fares etc. can be obtained from Heddingsams 01206 769778 or the Traveline website.

POTHOLES & OTHER HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS

Can be reported direct to Essex County Council via their website or by phoning 01245 430430.

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