

Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2016

Since my last report a number of issues have arisen around Green Belt development; new homes, indeed new towns, being built along the A127, A128 and A12, as well as within the town centre and surrounding localities. A local development plan (LDP) consultation has been ongoing since 2013.

The results are yet to be known, but according to the latest LDP, development will not happen within Herongate, Ingrave or Herongate Tye, although other plans, e.g. Dunton Garden Village, will have an enormous impact on all aspects of our village environment. As the Parish Council oppose the development of Green Belt areas, our response has been 'NO' to any such development. However, we expect the forthcoming year to be a testing time for the whole of Brentwood and surrounding parishes, as decisions about development have to be made by Brentwood Borough Council by March 2017.

This year we have been asked to consider the most appropriate route for a new Lower Thames Crossing. One particular route would link to the roundabout at the Halfway House PH, which would cause an inevitable problem for our road system, with even more traffic jams and congestion. The Parish Council responded to this consultation by opposing all the suggested routes in favour of 'NO Lower Thames Crossing'.

Planning permission for several flats on the Hillcrest site has been turned down locally, as well as by the Government Inspectorate. The Parish Council, being opposed to this development, put in a robust objection which seems to have influenced the decision.

The newly refurbished War Memorial at St Andrews Methodist Church, was rededicated in November by Mayor Mark Reed. The project was financed by the Parish Council.

This year the Parish Council outlined a new initiative by allocating areas of responsibility to each individual councillor. The areas and named councillors have been published in our newsletter. This means a resident can contact the councillor directly and discuss concerns or issues, or share information.

A new councillor, Mark Kelly, was appointed to the Parish Council in 2016. The Parish Council welcome him to the council and look forward to working with him on matters that concern the parish.

Speeding traffic and congestion has been a concern for many residents. To help report speeding vehicles our Speedwatch team has been busy. It has grown in number, and we are also setting up the next training session to recruit more volunteers. Congestion is another matter, something that modern society contends with on all of our roads. However, the Parish Council will continue to monitor, report, seek help and take advice from Essex Highways, police and road safety teams.

The Parish Council have supported a project to install an Outdoor Adult Gym on Ingrave Playing Fields. The Parish Council has assisted a local resident in obtaining a grant to finance the scheme. The installation is expected to be during the summer.

The Parish Council have made charitable donations to Essex Air Ambulance and 1st Ingrave Scout Group.

As this is the year to celebrate our Queen's 90th birthday the Parish Council look forward to joining the street party planned for 11th June, being held on Ingrave Playing Fields.

The Parish Council will endeavour to work in the interest of all the residents of Herongate, Ingrave and Herongate Tye.

I would like to personally thank all the Councillors for their dedication and hard work during the year. Special thanks go to Theresa Grainger the Parish Clerk for guiding me through my Chairmanship and David Tooke-Kirby the Responsible Financial Officer for providing the accounting information during the year.

Cllr. Alan Kingsford – Chairman Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council - 24/05/2016