

Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2018

This last year has seen some changes on the Parish Council. We welcomed in our new Parish Clerk Stephanie Robinson, who stepped into Theresa Grainger's shoes after her retirement. Stephanie also holds the office for Responsible Financial Officer too, and the two areas of responsibilities have tested her and stretched her to use her skills and professional approach to reach resolutions. Being Clerk is not an easy job. It is the first port of call for enquiries, complaints, and information sharing. But Stephanie has managed to work through the aggravating bits as well as the more pleasant aspects of the job. Thank you Stephanie for taking on these two roles and supporting me during my year as Chairman.

We have also welcomed new councillors David Watts and David Hills. They each have an area of responsibility, and are available to fully engage with the residents.

All of the councillors have supported the residents in their areas of responsibility. Delivering the newsletter, taking on board comments about potholes or speeding traffic and so on. With diplomacy and skill you have all handled each issue. Thank you all.

The Parish Council have supported and made donations during the year to Ingrave and Herongate Flower Show, Essex Air Ambulance and the 1st Ingrave Scout Group, Brentwood.

We welcome Cat Thierney as our new Borough and Ward Councillor. We look forward to working with her in the forthcoming year.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The use of Facebook has proven to be a useful tool in communicating information to its users. Even though it was problematic recently, I am pleased to say that this has now been brought under control. I would like to thank non-councillor and resident Neil McGuinness, supported by Stephanie Robinson and Cllr Kelly Pegram, for their time in managing this site.

MARKS AND SPENCER ARRIVED

Our local garage was refurbished and a new Marks and Spencer convenience store opened. Whilst we heard some complaints which the Parish Council have had to deal with but in the main many residents are praising its arrival.

CHRISTMAS TREE & CAROL SINGING

Again Calcott Farm allowed us to select a tree for our annual celebration of Christmas, though sadly their stock is running low. Many residents turned out for the lighting up event and enjoyed the sing-along carols, wine and mince pies. It would be great if more councillors came along to this year's event to help with the catering and setting up of the gazebo etc. So helping hands will be very welcome.

PROJECTS IN 2017/18

Two defibrillators were installed in the villages, on St Nicholas and St Andrews halls – thanks to a grant from National Lottery small awards scheme. A third defibrillator will be installed on a site to be confirmed later this year.

We held our first defibrillator training course in April which proved successful and popular. It was encouraging to see how many locals wanted to know about using the life saving devices. It is hoped to repeat this events later in the year.

SPEEDWATCH

We have the gun, we have the means. What we need is people power. Because we are short of helpers – once having 9 now only 3 - we have not been able to go out at all this year and only part of last year. We would like to promote this more so those interested please contact either the Parish Clerk or Chairman. Let's try to keep this going for the sake of safety.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

The Parish Council have continued to maintain Peartrees Pond and grass verges at Button Common. We have encountered no problems this year.

EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr David Hills is in the process of producing the emergency plan for Herongate & Ingrave.

PLANNING PRESSURES

We are aware of the forthcoming Local Development Plan. Although there are currently no plans for housing to be built within either village, the impact on infrastructure – schooling, doctors' traffic etc. – will undoubtedly have a big impact.

We will continue to liaise with Brentwood Borough Council and update residents in a timely manner.

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

It will keep close ties with Essex Police, Brentwood Borough Council and Essex County Council.

LADY MAYOR

Finally, we congratulate Parish Councillor Sheila Murphy on her appointment as Mayor of Brentwood for 2018/19. She will take over the role of ambassador and first citizen for the coming year and we wish her a successful and eventful year.



Alan Kingsford

Chairman and Cllr Herongate & Ingrave Parish Council