

Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

Welcome to C&W's first Parish Council newsletter which we are trialling as part of an initiative to improve communication with village residents (see 2- way communication below). A copy of this will also be posted on our website www.copdockandwashbrook.org which we hope to be revamping and relaunching shortly!

Improving 2 Way Communication

The Council is constantly discussing ways in which the flow of communication about village matters can be improved either through printed media (e.g. In Touch) or through our website and social media. The best way of keeping up to date currently is to follow our Facebook page which is continually updated with posts on matters which affect the village. Minutes from formal meetings continue to be posted on notice boards outside the Church Room and opposite the Village Hall.

Recognising that Council meeting protocols often prevent open discussion with residents, we will also be piloting face to face surgeries before each Parish Council meeting during which anyone can come and raise / discuss an issue they are concerned about directly with a Parish Councillor. Finally, all residents can at any time contact Sue Frankis, our Parish Clerk on 07849 055699 or at clerk@copdockandwashbrook.org

BROCKLEY WOOD

Residents will be aware of the application to create a 90 acre sand & gravel pit and waste management site at Brockley Wood just outside our Parish boundary. The Council is vehemently opposed to this development on environmental and road safety grounds and was due to speak at the Planning meeting held in December. The application was temporarily withdrawn just before the meeting but has now been reissued for further consultation, this time without the concrete batching element of the proposal. Residents can comment further by visiting suffolk.planning-register.co.uk, deadline 11th February.

We will continue to keep residents advised of developments, but any immediate questions should be addressed to our Clerk (*see contact details left*).

ONE OR TWO REFURBS

Residents will have noticed that the phone box book exchange needs a little TLC. Plans are in place to complete this once we emerge from whatever the rest of winter has in store. We will also be replacing the Parish notice board next to the Church room.

No change to Parish Council Precept in 2024-25!

We are pleased to advise that through careful management of Council income and expenditure, residents will see a 0% increase in this element of their Council Tax when bills land in the Spring. Every little helps as they say!

NEW COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER

We are pleased to advise the appointment of PC Katie Jarrett as our new Community Police Officer. The Council are looking for an early opportunity to establish an effective working relationship with Katie to improve all aspects of community policing within the village.

WATCH YOUR SPEED!

The Council is aware of resident's concerns about the speed of traffic through the village and is considering ways of managing this more effectively, including the possible establishment of a Community Speedwatch scheme and installation of a "smiley face" Speed Indicator Device.

The Speedwatch scheme requires volunteer support so any residents who feel able to give a bit of time to help manage speed in the village should contact Councillor Debbie Tyrrell Debbie.tyrrell@copdockandwashbrook.org

Look out also for a survey regarding the possible introduction of "20's Plenty" zones.

BMSDC Joint Local Plan

Residents will be aware that BMSDC have now started work on redeveloping their 2018-2037 Joint Local Plan following the Government Inspector's approval of their proposed changes. This will include a significant scaling back of new housing numbers from the original plan that was rejected in 2022. Our own Neighbourhood Plan – which does not recommend any sites for development – will be put before residents in a referendum, hopefully in the first half of this year. Contact: Laura Butters laura.butters@copdockandwashbrook.org

Come join us!

The Council currently has 3 vacancies and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who feels they can make a positive contribution to village life.

For an informal conversation, contact any Councillor or Sue Frankis at clerk@copdockandwashbrook.org