



**COPDOCK & WASHBROOK
PARISH COUNCIL**

Newsletter

JANUARY 2025

Welcome to another Parish Council newsletter which we are distributing in order to keep residents aware of matters that affect them and the village as a whole. A copy of this will also be posted on our new website www.copdockandwashbrook.org

Parish Council Communications

The Council continues to explore 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 Facebook page. Minutes from formal meetings still continue to be posted on the notice board outside the Church Room.

In addition, we continue to offer face to face “surgeries” before each Parish Council meeting during which anyone can come and raise / discuss an issue they are concerned about direct 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 second application to create a 90 acre sand & gravel pit and waste management site at Brockley Wood alongside the A12 just outside our Parish boundary. We are vehemently opposed to this development on environmental and road safety grounds and continue to work closely with both Bentley PC and also Babergh District Council who have themselves formally objected to the application given BW's status as “valued landscape” under their own Joint Local Plan. The latest position is that Suffolk County Council are taking legal advice over the objections submitted during the last round of consultation and any formal hearing before March is unlikely. We will continue to keep residents advised of developments, but any immediate questions should be addressed to our Clerk (*see contact details left*).

NO CHANGE TO PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL BUDGET IN 2025-26

For the second year running, we are pleased to advise that through careful management of income and expenditure, residents will – once again - see a 0% increase in the Parish Council precept when Council Tax bills land in the Spring.

Stay up to date: www.copdockandwashbrook.org

Whights Corner

Residents will have been aware of the longstanding problem with reckless driving and anti social behaviour at Whights Corner. The CCTV camera installed with the help of District and County Councils is having an impact in reducing the incidence of these problems and ensuring sanctions are issued against offenders.

NEW FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE GROUP

We had a fantastic response to our call to arms in an effort to improve the maintenance of our Public Right of Way (PROW) Footpaths and the group has already made its mark before winter set in. We hope this to be a regular feature throughout the growing season this coming year and we thank both James Mellish and Richard English in particular for getting this off the ground. We also continue to draw Suffolk County Council Highways attention to a number of environmental and drainage issues around the village that are in need of addressing.

Babergh District Council Joint Local Plan & C&W Neighbourhood Plan.

Babergh District Council have stated that they will be reviewing their Joint Local Plan because of the Government's decision to increase the annual housebuilding target from 416 to 775 (an 86% rise).

Our proposed Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any sites for development and it remains our intention to put this to a village referendum at the earliest opportunity. It remains the PC's most important priority to retain our identity as a village community and to prevent being overwhelmed by a scale of new housing that cannot be sustained by education & health infrastructure.

SPEED MATTERS!

We continue to respond to residents' concerns regarding road safety throughout the community. Our volunteer Community Speedwatch team is up and running and residents will have noticed the installation of two Speed Indicator Devices in both The Street and Chapel Lane, both of which are having a noticeable impact on driver behaviour (our thanks to Councillor Chris Hudson for his funding support on this).

Backed by our survey last year that indicated over 80% support for such a scheme, we continue to progress our application for a 20mph limit in Back and Elm Lanes, together with The Street. This has also attracted County and District Councillor support and we await surveys to be conducted by Suffolk County Council Highways to see if current average speeds meet their criteria. As residents will be aware, we are very limited by what we can do on the Old London Rd due to the higher speed limit, but we continue to press for regular safety camera van visits. We are informed by Suffolk police that there were 22 visits and 166 fines issued during the 12 months to end Oct 2024.

Active Travel/Suffolk County Council Old London Road alterations

Residents will be aware of this Suffolk County Council scheme to potentially create a walking and cycling route between Capel and the Copdock P&R (see <https://arcg.is/OXHjSW> for more detail). We have worked closely with Suffolk County Council to ensure that all residents were aware of and had the opportunity to contribute to the initial consultation process. Our own feedback can be seen within the "News" section of our website (see address below). We will continue to keep residents advised of developments.

Come join us!

The Council still 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