



HALSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Issue 29

COMMUNITY LED PLAN

After two years of hard work by the steering committee under the chairmanship of Cllr. Chris Ford, the collation was undertaken of hundreds of pages of information supplied by Parishioners and now, the draft document is ready for publication.

This will be available through the Parish Council website and possibly in hard-copy form. Thanks to everyone who responded to the questionnaire, your input was essential for the success of this project.

HOME BASED BUSINESS SUPPORT

If you work from home or have a great business idea, free advice is available from a team of experts. Find out more at [Centre-For-Microbusiness](#)

Lloyds Bank Social Entrepreneurs Programme has grants to between £4,000 and £15,000 for community-focused people to start or scale up their projects. Also look into Escalate, a 0% loan fund for West Kent. Help is available from the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

ALLOTMENTS

So near and yet so far. It was obviously too good to be true but Council had planned that by the beginning of 2014 all the allotments would have been under cultivation by the keen allotmenters. A meeting was held in September and the draft tenancy agreement was approved by all.

The site was cleared in September; fencing has been installed; plots have been measured, trenches dug and pipes laid ready for connecting to the mains water. Then the rain started and everything has been held up since then.

The Thames Water engineer came to approve the pipe-work but the trenches were filled with water, and have remained so up until the date of this newsletter. Hopefully the water will disappear now and the pipe-work can be inspected. As soon as the inspection takes place the trenches will be back-filled and it will be safe to go onto the allotments.

Unfortunately the car-park cannot be laid until the ground is completely dry but work can start on the plots.

Council will contact everyone on the list in the very near future with your tenancy agreement and other details.

DIARY DATES 2014

THE FREIGHTER SERVICE

will visit Halstead village on

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

Southdene 9.15pm – 10am

Station Road 10.15 – 11am

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Fort Road 8.am

Southdene 9.15am – 10am

Station Road 10.15am – 11am

VILLAGE CLEAR UP

SATURDAY 12 APRIL (provisional)

Volunteers are needed. Meet at the Pavilion at 9.30am.

PLAY-BUS

This will be on the Recreation Ground on

WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST

10AM – 2PM

Open to all

WORLD WAR 1 COMMEMORATION

EXHIBITION of

Artefacts and memorabilia

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

4, 5, 6 JULY

Coolings Nursery, Rushmore Hill

PARISH NEWS

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held on **Monday 19 May at 8pm in the Pavilion.**

The Guest Speaker will be **Allan Spence, Chairman of Halstead ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**, who will talk about the World War One Commemorations which will be taking place in Halstead and Knockholt this year.

Reports will also be given by councillors. Wine and cheese will be served at the close of the meeting which is open to all.

COUNCIL PRECEPT 2014-2015

Following intense discussions and calculations the Parish Council was able to keep the Precept the same as the last two years. This has meant cutting our cloth very tightly as Council has not received the usual Government grant which means a short-fall of £3000.

THE PAVILION AND PARISH ROOM

Both buildings are available for hire; fees being by the hour. For casual hirers the cost is £9 per hour, regular £7 per hour.

Contact the clerk on 01959 534881 for information and bookings or visit the Parish Council website for information.

KEEP SAFE AND SECURE

The Police advise that burglars have ways of indicating to each other when a property might be worth 'visiting'.

Be aware of stickers placed on letter-boxes advertising a locksmith service - this gave one burglar an excuse to scout out the property as when challenged he said he was delivering advertising.

Mud on the front door that is not removed promptly! This indicates that the property is empty. One offender used this trick, was caught, and then imprisoned for 4 years, 8 months.

Chalk marks on gate posts indicates that the house is worth visiting, this is often used by 'knockers' who are selling goods or services at the door.

Remember when using a tradesperson that all tree surgeons and builders should have licences to remove rubbish including building materials from your home. Frequently this ends up as fly tipping.

POLICE CONTACT POINT

This is available fortnightly on Fridays in the car-park of the village hall from 2pm – 3pm. The local neighbourhood officer who runs the mobile police station will be pleased to help you with any community issues and with crime prevention measures. Call 101 for non-emergency matters and 999 for crime in action. Our PCSO Jenny Bowden is available via 101.

COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

David Taylor: Chairman of the Parish Council, member of Finance committee, ex-officio all committees

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Terry Brooker: Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, Chairman of Planning committee, member of Finance committee

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Jeff Baldwin: Chairman of Amenities & Highways committee, member of Finance committee, member of Planning

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Chris Ford: Member of Planning Committee, member of Amenities & Highways committee, member of Finance committee

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