

Village Update from Gt Barton Parish Council – July 2021

The pilot for the automatic number plate recognition speed camera is operating in Suffolk and Gt Barton has been accepted as part of this project.

Declan Gallagher and Philip Reeve have resigned from the Parish Council leaving 2 vacancies. We thank them for their hard work and support of village projects. Research tells us that people are most concerned about issues such as crime, schools, transport and the environment. Your local council can make a difference on all these issues and many more, and so can you as a local Councillor. Councillors are elected to the local council to represent their local community, so they must either live or work in the area. Becoming a Councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service. You will be in a position to make a difference to the quality of other people's daily lives and prospects. For further information on what being a Councillor entails visit www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor or call Maggie Dunn (Chair) on 01284 787357 for a chat.

A resident raised concerns regarding the barriers on the new School Lane/Downing Drive link footpath and whether the layout allows them to be navigated by double buggies and bikes. Councillor Matthew Parker confirmed that the barriers have been installed to Suffolk County Council's specifications for the width of the path. The Parish Council will look at viable solutions.

West Suffolk Council are still maintaining Maple Green. The Parish Council did not wish to purchase the green, as this would make them liable for the cost of long-term maintenance, which would have to be included in the precept. The Green is offered protection as it is designated a green space in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The new design of taller 'entrance to village white gates' from Suffolk County Council, would be suitable for the entrance on East Barton Road. Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger will place an order. The existing gates have been damaged.

The damaged bus shelter on Livermere Road has been removed.

Suffolk County Council will cut back the overgrown verges along the A143 from Fornham Road, including the junctions.

Councillor Maggie Dunn had raised an initiative with Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger, where a road outside the school is temporarily closed during drop off and pick up times. This has been passed to Suffolk County Council's Highways Team for consideration. A Traffic Regulation Order may be needed.

No date has been given for the Mill Road tree work – Councillor Hopfensperger will chase.

The failed hedging along Mill Road is being looked into by Suffolk County Council.

The land sale for the Triangle of land bordered by Mill Road/A143 and School Road has been completed.

The Post Office has been flooded following heavy rain, thought to be caused by the camber of the road. Suffolk County Council will investigate.

The following planning applications had been approved by West Suffolk Council:

Property	Reference number	Details
Mundal, Livermere Road	DC/21/1017/HH	Single storey side extension (following demolition of existing garage /utility)
Conyers Green Farm, Livermere Road	DC/21/0982/TPO	TPO 445 (2006) tree preservation order - three Willow crown lift to 5.4 metres above ground and reduce back from cables by two metres
Grove End, Livermere Road	DC/21/0959/TPO	TPO 513 (2010) tree preservation order - two Sycamores - fell ; one Sweet chestnut - reduce height by up to two metres
The Cottage, Livermere Road	DC/21/0795/HH	Replace and raise roof to match pitch, ridge and eaves height of attached neighbouring dwelling

Council agreed an application from the Community Woodland Group for a grant for £316.51 to go towards their insurance costs and the hire of a wood chipper for work to be completed in Downing Wood in the Autumn. A grant was also agreed for £695 to pay for a greenhouse for the school's new hub garden.

The footpaths around the village will be sprayed to remove weeds in July by Suffolk County Council.

A new Vicar has been appointed to cover Gt Barton and Thurston.

The re-opening of the Livermere Road telephone box book exchange will be managed by Councillor Steve Todd and the Clerk

Work to repair the edging around the basketball surface will be carried out.

The request for a bench by the allotments has been referred to Rights of Way.

Councillor Maggie Dunn has spoken to Rougham Airfield following a complaint about noise from small aircraft. Anyone wishing to discuss this should contact Andrew at Skyward Flight Training on 07763 148640.

Councillor Gwyn James will be working on information for the new tree working group, over the next few months.

Gift of Land Schofield Estate - The solicitors have acknowledged the Parish Council's request for a piece of land adjacent to Mill Road and Livermere Road for a community woodland. This will be referred to the trustees and other beneficiaries.

Gt Barton's Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made' by West Suffolk Council and will be formally part of the development plan for West Suffolk.

Ixworth Parish Council are setting up a task force to look at the traffic along the A143. Councillor Andy Baker will represent Gt Barton Parish Council.

A newsletter working group will be set up to include Councillors Maggie Dunn, Gwyn James and Steve Todd. Councillor Maggie Dunn will contact the church regarding The Messenger magazine, which is no longer being circulated in the village. Any residents who would be interested in being part of this group should contact Linda Harley at infogbpc@gmail.com.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 20th September at 7.15pm in the village hall.

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