



# BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 5

December 2010

## Chairman's Column



Another year for Barkway draws to a close and we look to the New Year and what it might bring. Certainly, it will bring change, with Government cutbacks and financial shuffling, which will, without a doubt, have an effect even down to Barkway level.

However, due to the hard work of my fellow Councillors and our Parish Clerk in the past 12 months, I am very confident that our Parish is in a strong position to deal with any changes that might come our way and that the impact of any spending cuts in the public sector will be severely diluted before they hit us. Nevertheless, we must continue with our diligence and ensure that we do the best for our community. There will always be surprises, but I know that we, as a community, can deal with them. We shall, of course, see changes, with work in Periwinkle Close due to start in the springtime to redevelop the Wheatsheaf Meadow site into much needed and sought after affordable homes. We shall, hopefully, see a start to the measures to reduce traffic speeds within the village and see many of the other suggestions that the community put forward in the Parish Plan come to fruition. Change is inevitable, but through closely working together as a community, we can ensure change is for the better and befitting of our Parish. Christmas and the New Year are rapidly approaching so, on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest Seasons Greetings to all and wish you all good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming New Year

**Dr Robert Davidson**  
Chairman, Barkway Parish Council

**Archery on the "Rec"** - We have now organised three very good "come and try" sessions on the "Rec" with Dave Barrett and his team from Royston Archery Club. Each session has been fully subscribed and all those who attended enjoyed the excellent tuition. There are now plans to start our own archery club in Barkway. If anyone is interested or would like a course with Dave Barrett at Royston, they should contact Councillor Tony Terry on 01763 848893 or by email.

### Dates for your Diary.....

Parish Council meetings: Mon 13th Dec, 10th Jan and 14th Feb in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public welcome.  
Parish Council Surgeries: Held bi-monthly in the Reading Room. Next dates: 15 January and 19th March - between 10 and 11 am  
Barkway Forum: Date of next meeting: 30th March 2011

*Barkway Parish Council would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year*

### Village Emergency Plan and Neighbourhood Watch

Last December saw a blizzard strike Barkway with snow drifts blocking the main roads leading from the village. The "Joint" saw the marooning of a group of motorists, who faced the scary prospect of a night huddled together in their vehicles trying to keep warm. Luckily for them, a small group of Barkway residents ventured forth and escorted them to the safety of a resident's home on the Barkway Road. Another group of stranded motorists found safety in the warm confines of the Tally Ho. This winter the forecasters are again predicting the possibility of snow storms. We now have a Village Emergency Plan (VEP) in place that offers a more co-ordinated response to this kind of crisis weather situation. The VEP team has identified the need for physically fit people from the village, who would be prepared to rescue and escort stranded motorists to a place of safety. If you fit the bill and are prepared to become involved with this potentially hazardous duty, please contact Councillor Vince Styles of the VEP team.

### Caring for the vulnerable

Now that the winter weather has arrived, your Parish Council is concerned that those residents who find difficulty in coping with the cold and who are worried about over using their heating in the light of spiralling bills will be particularly vulnerable to accident and illness. In a close village like Barkway, it is a very neighbourly duty to check on such residents. If you have a neighbour about whom you are worried or know someone in these circumstances please do make regular calls on them to check on their welfare. Care of this kind is usually appreciated.

### Reading Room - update

Councillor Ken McCormick is pleased to report that the major work in the Reading Room has now been completed. A new damp proof course has been installed; the ceiling and interior walls have been insulated; the building has been re-wired with new heating and the inside has been painted. Most of this much needed work has been financed by grants obtained by the Parish Council and we are very grateful to all of the organisations and individuals who have contributed. We are planning a small re-opening occasion at a weekend to say thank you to all who have donated to the refurbishment and to which all residents will be warmly invited to see the newly refurbished room. More information about the opening day will be made available in the usual ways.

# Parish Matters.....

## Recreation and Pavilion Project

In September, the Parish Council announced that it was filing a planning application for a new Sports Pavilion/Youth Club to replace the current pavilion on the Recreation Area. We are pleased to say that planning permission has been granted. The next step is to secure the money to fund the project. We have applied to NHDC for a large Rural Grant and are investigating other funding sources for further grants. It is also planned to raise funds by organising special events involving the village and surrounding areas. This is a very large and ambitious project and, if successful, will enhance and augment greatly the existing facilities within the village. Not only will it improve the facilities for sporting activities but it will also provide a new and purpose built area for the Barkway Youth Club to meet. The uses and benefits of this new facility will be of great advantage to the village. A separately constituted management committee has been formed to oversee the project and will be looking to invite members of the public, who would like to be involved in this project, to join the committee and project team. This may be done by contacting Councillors Tony Terry or Gordon Baker in the usual ways.

## Speedwatch - update

The Barkway Speedwatch group met again with the Herts Police on Monday 15th November. All members have submitted their Police Volunteer applications, which are now being processed by Herts Constabulary. During the meeting, the group also agreed upon the best locations for the monitoring devices to be sited, along with days of the week and times of day that the monitoring sessions will be run. The application for a grant to purchase the equipment required has been submitted and we are currently awaiting the outcome. An item about the Speedwatch initiative was broadcast recently on National TV News. The Wiltshire Police, along with their local Speedwatch group of volunteers, gave an insight and answered questions about their activities. Although Barkway will not be the first in the country, we will hopefully be the first in the county.

## Welcome Pack - update

We are currently working on a Welcome Pack to be distributed to new residents of the village. The pack has been designed to provide the newcomer with important information about the services and facilities available locally to help to settle into the village. We hope to have it ready for distribution early in the New Year. It will include information on health services, education, religion, local clubs and organisations, the village pub and local shopping and banking facilities. As we know, there is a wide range of activities and organisations in the village to suit most interests: from gardening to bell ringers, from carpet bowls to cricket and from a youth group to the Barkway Players. If you have an interest or a hobby that you feel may be of interest to newcomers, please do let Catharine Toms know and we will do our best to include it. Talk to any Parish Councillor for more information.

## Parish Plan - Youth Survey

As identified in the Parish Plan process, a survey is being carried out in the village to find out what the children enjoy doing and what they would like to do, or have, in the village. So far 16 replies have been received but more responses are expected. The early results indicate that nearly all of the children enjoy using the Recreation Park, although there has shown to be a need for equipment for the older children. Many enjoy going to the Youth Club and other popular requests were for a children's football team, skate ramps, climbing equipment, tennis courts, a treasure hunt through the village to experience the history of Barkway and a kite flying club. As a further part of this research, we would now like to hear the views of the older children/young adults who have grown up in Barkway. Did the village offer enough for them to do as they were growing up and, if not, what kind of facilities would they have liked to have had available? **If anyone would like to contribute to the survey please contact Councillor Jo Cockerton. You may contact her by email - or you can pop your thoughts through her letterbox at number 2 Townsend Close. You can even submit your views on line by visiting the village website. We want to hear from you.**

## Parish Councillor training...

As a Parish Council, we have taken advantage of some of the training courses that are operated by the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils and are open to members. In July, Councillor Steve Alsop attended the course designed for new parish councillors. This covered all aspects of the administration of the council and formed an important introduction to the responsibilities and obligations of the role. This was regarded as very beneficial and we feel that it would be advantageous if all new Barkway Councillors could attend this course in the future. In September, Councillor Bob Davidson attended the parish councillor finance course. These courses are ideal for helping to increase the expertise held within the Council and also meet one of the important criteria to support our application for Quality Parish Status, for which we plan to seek accreditation during 2011.

## Your Parish Councillors with their responsibilities and contact details

Dr Robert Davidson: Chairman, Planning and Traffic  
Gordon Baker: Vice Chairman, Grants and Communication  
Ken McCormick: Special Projects  
Jo Cockerton: Young People  
Tony Terry: Recreation and Leisure  
Vince Styles: Police and Village Emergency Plan  
Steve Alsop: Environment  
Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

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**If you have any comments on the content of this edition of Barkway Bulletin, please contact the editor at [gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk) - we are always interested in hearing your views.**

## Stop Press

At the November meeting of the Parish Council, it was unanimously agreed to change the Council's meeting day to the second Monday of each month (excl August). This is designed to provide for greater attendance, not only by your Parish Councillors but also for our County and District Councillors who, being very busy people, find it difficult to attend our meetings on Tuesdays.