



BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 9

December 2011

Editorial

Barkway Parish Council has seen some changes in the last few months. For a time it was operating with only five out of seven Councillors on board. Now with Jim Dalton and Andrew Murphy co-opted at the October meeting, the Council has a full complement of Councillors appointed to manage the affairs of the village.

For this year an increased precept of £24,000 was requested so that the series of planned projects could be carried out. With the augmentation of a sizeable sum from retrospective Section 106 monies, the finances of the Parish Council are in a healthy state. So much so, that the precept request for 2012 will be, as planned, slightly reduced - but will still be based on a carefully calculated budget for events and activities for the coming year - and in particular to cover the cost of celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June.

Following the changes to the Council, the portfolio allocation has been adjusted accordingly and details of the Councillors and their responsibilities are published in this Bulletin. This is designed to make best use of the skills and abilities available but does not preclude any further changes.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the Editor**

Wheatsheaf Meadow House Development

North Herts Homes and Barkway Parish Council have agreed on the name of Chapel Close for the new development. Work is progressing well and is ahead of schedule, thanks to the clear weather. If good progress continues, completion is anticipated in June next year.

Parish Council Surgeries

During this year Barkway Parish Council piloted bi monthly surgeries with the local Police. This joint venture has been a success and plans have been made to roll out the process throughout 2012. Dates have been agreed with the Police and the first surgery will take place in the Reading Room on Saturday 23rd January 2012 between 10 and 11am. This provides residents with an excellent opportunity to raise and discuss issues on a one to one basis with either the Police or a Parish Councillor. An opportunity not to be missed.

Dates for your Diary.....

Next Parish Council meetings: Mon 9th Jan and 13th 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: 23rd January and 17th March - between 10 and 11 am

Barkway Forum: Date of next meeting: To be announced. Queens Diamond Jubilee meeting: 12th January in the Reading Room at 8pm.

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

Precept for 2012/3

The Parish Council met recently and approved a precept request of £22k for next year. Last year's giant increase, based on careful budgetary accounting, has put the Council finances on a sound basis and has enabled the Parish Clerk and the Finance Committee to work and agree on next year's figure with a great degree of confidence. Without the expense of an election this year and with the provision of a reserve, it was always felt that the figure for 2012 would be slightly reduced. But with increased costs, particularly with electricity and insurance and the Council having an active programme of projects and events designed to improve the facilities and amenities in the village, the figure of £22k has been arrived at carefully to ensure that the Council's finances are placed and remain on a proper footing for some time.

Bonfire Night on the "Rec"

Another successful event was held last month, with over 300 people turning out to watch the fireworks. Generous donations were made and the Parish Council collected £278.09; the Playgroup raised £250 from the sale of food and drink and the youth club collected £65, which they kindly donated to the Pavilion Project - a big thank you to Vince and Julie Styles.

Barkway has a new bus shelter

There will be no more waiting in the rain at the bus stop on the corner of Townsend Close and the High Street. A new bus shelter was installed and came into operation last month. This very smart shelter came about as a result of a Parish Council initiative to use section 106 monies, which were being held by NHDC pending identification of suitable projects. Other monies from this source will be used to improve the recreation and play ground facilities and to enhance the area around the village pond.

Speedwatch update from Tony Harris

Having collected a considerable amount of data on speeding vehicles, our group and the Herts Police worked together to target those persistent speeding drivers who have chosen to ignore their previous warning letters. Knowing the locations, times and directions of repeated speeding vehicles, our local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team set up a conventional speed control session using a speed gun. Three Police officers manned the session and speeding offenders were stopped and ticketed with fixed penalties and points on their licences. It seems strange that some drivers chose to totally ignore the warning letters sent previously and continue to drive at such excessive speed through our village. But, they can't say they weren't politely advised to curb their speed. We are confident that those drivers caught by the Police will, in future, drive through Barkway with more consideration for the safety of others. The Speedwatch team at Barley have further developed the Speedwatch software, making it so much easier and faster to record data on the police systems and for the warning letters to be produced. Whilst it is still in trial mode, we are looking forward to its full adoption across the whole of Hertfordshire. The Herts Police Team continue to provide our group with excellent support and, despite the colder weather, our teams continue to operate.

Parish Matters.....

Meet your new Parish Councillors - Andrew Murphy (left) and Jim Dalton (right)



I moved to Barkway with my wife, Marian and teenage daughter Caroline in August 2004. We moved here from Great Hornead and before that we lived in Stoke Newington, London. Originally from Devon, I spent the first half of my working life in the "City". After that we went to live in Dorset for a few years, where I trained as a

joiner. We then came back to London where I worked as an estate agent specialising in lettings. I retired from this employment in 2008. We love living in Barkway and, when the opportunity arose to become a Parish Councillor, I jumped at the chance and have been assigned the portfolio of corporate governance and grants. I had been treasurer of Great Hornead parochial church council whilst my wife was clerk to the parish council. My "hobbies" are reading history, woodwork (I specialise in making wooden toy furniture) and doing up our house in France. I am looking forward to helping Barkway continue to be a great place to live.



I moved from Carlisle to Baldock in 1998, and then to Barkway in 2001 and live here with my partner Jenny Warren. I have two totally independent grown-up sons leading their lives in Warwickshire and Cumbria. From a Leicester grammar school, I went to university (chemistry) and then, during my employed career in the motor component industry, I have lived in many places including Italy. I have been the owner of a manufacturing company for 26 years which currently has its main base in Kneesworth but also has a workshop in Carlisle and a joint facility in China to supply, mainly, Tesco. In Barkway I have been an active member of the Village Hall committee for several years, and have helped in the annual pantomime both on and off stage ever since I came here. As a hobby I have always indulged in the restoration maintenance and use of vintage (pre 1930) cars of which I have three. I hope my technical background and business experience can help with some of the many issues facing the village.

Pavilion Project

The Pavilion Project management group has been enhanced by the welcome additions of David Connolly and Martin McGuire, who are experts in the planning and construction fields. Fresh planning consent was applied for and has been obtained for a new build pavilion on the site of the current changing rooms. A specification has been drawn up and agreed and local contractors have been invited to tender for the contract. Significant funding for the project has been secured so far, but we still are likely to need to raise in excess of £30k – potential donors are directed to the "buy a brick" scheme, which can be accessed via the home page of the village website. The project is being managed by a committee under the overall responsibility of Barkway Parish Council, with Councillor Simon Taylor being the official responsible for overseeing the project.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Barkway Parish will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Sunday 3rd June with a full day of activities on the "Rec". Please keep this date free in your diaries. Initial plans for during the day include a Church Service, a sports day, a fancy dress competition for original costumes and a possible dog show. Additional events for the day are still being finalised. In the evening the band 'Deja Vu' will be performing in the marquee along with other entertainment. Everyone will be encouraged to erect their gazebos and tents and to stay through the day bringing their picnics so Barkway can enjoy 'Sunday lunch on the "Rec"'. It is hoped that that residents will "dress" their houses with a Royal theme throughout the four day national celebrations. To make this event a success we urgently need individuals and village organisations to volunteer to be involved in parts of the day and therefore, everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting of the organising committee which will be held on Thursday 12th January in the Reading Room at 8pm. In the New Year, we will have a section on the village website so that we can keep you updated as our plans for the day are confirmed. We are hoping that the whole day will be '12 hours of village fun' with activities which will appeal to all people and families in the Parish. We hope to see you there! Any questions or queries regarding the plans please contact Cllr Steve Alsop.

Barkway Village Website

The Barkway Village website receives over 10,000 hits a year - an average of nearly 30 each day - with many of them first time visitors. It has become an accepted vehicle for news and events happening throughout the village. Its great advantage is that it is instant – news can be published on the day of happening.

There are many organisations within the village and some do use the website regularly – the Church, for example, sends in details of their events and services every month. However, there are some organisations that appear to overlook the website for publicising their events. In order to keep the website as an up to date provider of news and events, it is important that within these organisations it becomes second nature to advise the webmaster of any item of news or planned event. This can be done either by email to webmaster@barkway-village.co.uk or by completing the form which can be found on www.barkway-village.co.uk

Your Parish Councillors with their responsibilities and contact details

Ken McCormick: Community Liaison

Steve Alsop: Environment

Tony Terry: Property & Leisure

Jo Cockerton: Young People & Planning

Simon Taylor: Pavilion Project & Parish Plan update

Andrew Murphy: Corporate Governance & Grants

Jim Dalton: Highways

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 - we are always interested in hearing your views.

Reading Room - reminder

The Reading Room is open as a book lending centre on:

Tuesdays 10.30am - 12.30pm

Wednesdays 2.00pm - 3.30pm

Thursdays 10.30am - 12.30pm

Why not drop in and have a chat, enjoy a cup of tea and borrow a book from the wide selection available.

Please also remember that the Reading Room can be booked for meetings, etc. Contact the Parish Clerk for details.

**The Barkway School newsletter can now be viewed on line at www.barkway.herts.sch.uk/*