

BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 2

June 2010

Chairman's Column

Now that summer is upon us, let's hope the weather will be kind to us. The Barkway market has come and gone, an outstanding success despite the efforts of Mother Nature to spoil the party. This year saw yet another excellently organised event and the committee and organisers can be proud of their efforts. They are true ambassadors for Barkway and all that the community of Barkway stands for. Alongside the Bulletin, you should receive the Annual Report and a copy of the Parish Plan for Barkway and Newsells. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Plan Steering Group and volunteers who worked on the Plan for their hard work. I am pleased to say that the final report has been adopted by our District and County Councillors. Last year was a busy one for the Parish Council, with both changes in councillors and clerk. I believe now that we are on the right track to have a strong Parish Council for the community and, with the Parish Plan in our hands, we are in a good position to work with the authorities to make Barkway an even better place to live. But it is not just up to the Parish Council. We are but seven volunteers and need the support and assistance of the community. A community is only as good as the people it comprises - it takes people to make plans successful. I therefore hope that you will, on reading the Parish Plan, agree to get behind and support it and give some of your time to make happen the improvements we want and need .

Dr Robert Davidson
Chairman, Barkway Parish Council

Archery on the "Rec"... great interest has been shown in this activity and Councillor Tony Terry is in ongoing discussion with Royston Heath Archery Club about the first session. Look out for details on the website and on notice boards.

Dates for your Diary.....

**Parish Council meetings: Tues 1st June, Tues 13th July, no meeting Aug - in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public welcome.
Parish Council Surgeries: Held bi-monthly in the Reading Room. Next dates: 17th July, 18th September, 20 November - between 10 and 11 am**

Welcome to this second edition of Barkway Bulletin. Feedback from the first edition has been very good. The most popular comment being "it's nice to know something about our Parish Councillors". There is so much going on in our village at the moment that we are intent on keeping everyone up to date with events and plans for the present and for the future.

Community Speed Monitoring in Barkway

This month Herts Police rolled out Community Speed Monitoring in our area. This involves the community purchasing and operating speed monitoring equipment using volunteers and the Police issuing warning letters to those caught speeding. Repeat offenders will be investigated by the Police. The Police and the Parish Council believe that this could be a major step in reducing speed in our village and may enable us to minimise the implementation of permanent traffic calming measures. The community would need to raise £2500 to purchase the equipment, which is operated in a non-confrontational manner by a minimum of 3 volunteers. We would therefore need a pool of approximately 12 volunteers willing to be trained to implement, manage and operate Speedwatch in Barkway. If you wish to get involved, or would like more information, we will hold a meeting on 15 June in the Reading Room at 7.30pm to assess the level of interest. Meanwhile, if you are interested or have any fundraising suggestions or wish to pledge a donation towards the purchase of the equipment, please contact Councillor Bob Davidson.

Affordable housing for Barkway

North Hertfordshire Homes, Vincent Goring (architects) and Barkway Parish Council invite you to an open day to view and discuss the redevelopment of the former Wheatsheaf Meadow site in Periwinkle Close. This will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 19 June from 10.30am - 12 noon and from 1pm - 2.30 pm. It is a chance for the community to view, discuss and comment upon the plans for the redevelopment of the site, aimed to deliver much needed affordable accommodation in the Parish.

What has happened in the last quarter....

- The first meeting of the Barkway Forum took place on 6th May
- Over 4000 people attended the Barkway Market on 8th May
- The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 26th May
- The Parish Plan was unveiled at the Annual Parish Meeting
- Barkway decided to aim for Quality Parish Status
- Graham Penning retired as a Councillor after 7 years service
- Parish Council surgeries were held on 27th March and 15th May

Parish Matters.....

Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan

After months of hard work involving meetings, research and project groups, the Parish Plan Steering Group proudly launched the Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan at the Annual Parish meeting held on 26th May, where brief details of the Plan were unveiled. Producing a Parish Plan is an important part of the Parish Council's aims of developing and implementing a strategy for the present and future benefit of the Village. It will enable the Parish Council to exert some influence over the decision making authorities that have control over affairs affecting our community. The Plan highlights issues and concerns elicited from the research and suggests possible actions to resolve such concerns. It is not a finite document - it is a living plan, capable of being revisited and reviewed on a regular basis. Thanks must go to the Steering Group and the many volunteers who participated in the project groups. The Plan has been produced by the community for the community.



Councillor Graham Penning retires...

After 7 years sterling service to the community as a Parish Councillor, Graham Penning announced his retirement from the Parish Council. Graham has made an amazing contribution to the Parish over the years with his selfless and unconditional support and work in the community, and will be sorely missed from the Parish Council. We wish Graham a very enjoyable retirement and thank him for his commitment, work and friendship. We were very grateful that he agreed to continue for a little longer as an advisor to the Parish Council, so that he could hand over to Steve Alsop, who was co-opted as a Councillor at the May meeting.

Barkway Forum

Although the Parish Plan has only just been launched, one of the initiatives proposed in the Plan has already been set up. The Plan suggested that in the interests of communication, a group representing as many village organisations as possible, be formed to share ideas for the benefit of the Village in general. The first meeting was held in the Village Hall on 6th May and 15 representatives of village organisations attended. This inaugural meeting set the scene for the new group, to be called Barkway Forum, and aims and objectives for the group were discussed. The next meeting is planned for 23rd June and residents will be kept up to date with full details published in the Diary, on the village website and of course in Barkway Bulletin.

Quality Parish Status



The Quality Parish and Town Council Scheme was launched in 2003 following the Government's *Rural White Paper*, 2000. The aim of the Scheme is to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils. The scheme also aims to enhance relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations. Criteria were set in order to become a "Quality Parish Council" and these were updated in 2008. Local councils are encouraged to consider seeking accreditation. Barkway Parish Council is aiming to achieve "Quality Parish" status and has embarked on a series of plans and activities to meet the required standards. Achieving "Quality Parish" status will be a big step for the progress of Barkway and Newsells and will play an important role in improving the quality of management and administration of our Parish Council, thus resulting in greater benefits for the Village in general.

Neighbourhood Watch

We understand from the local Constabulary that, although crime in the village does occur from time to time, Barkway is a relatively safe place. Crimes in Barkway numbered 20 in the year to 1st April 2010, with 9 being detected—well above the national average. PC Paul Marina says "*the crime rate is very low and as I live not too far away I intend to keep it down*". A Neighbourhood Watch scheme does operate in the area but according to the Police, it is a bit on the thin side. The Police have asked the Parish Council to put out a call for more members. Anyone wishing to volunteer to become a Watch member can contact Councillor Vince Styles (contact details shown below). Remember, with your help, Barkway can be an even safer place.

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 Emergency Plan
Steve Alsop: Environment
Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

robert.davidson@barkway-village.co.uk
gordon.baker@barkway-village.co.uk
karmc2@waitrose.com
jcockerton@tesco.net
anthonyterry@btinternet.com
vpstyles@tiscali.co.uk
stevealsop@btinternet.com
parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk

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.



Your new Councillor—Steve Alsop

I moved to the village in February 1999 attracted to such an ideal rural setting, close to my work. Through the years, I have enjoyed village life and its community, acted in the Christmas pantomimes and been a member of the 'Music on the Rec' committee. Within the Parish Council, I now look forward to the opportunity to maintain and improve our environment for the benefit of all.