

BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 3

September 2010

Chairman's Column

In the June issue of Barkway Bulletin, we announced that your Parish Council was aiming to achieve "Quality Parish" status on behalf of the village. In order to attain accreditation, there is a number of criteria, both mandatory and discretionary, that we have to meet. Among the mandatory requirements is the need to have a trained Parish Clerk and Catharine Toms, our Parish Clerk, is currently attending training courses which will lead to her obtaining the required qualification. Communication is another important part of the accreditation process. We are required to engage with residents in a number of ways: we need to inform residents of Parish matters by means of a newsletter and information on notice boards and in other public places. We must also have an active village website which shows contact details for the Councillors and the Parish Clerk. Other requirements include: a Parish Plan; regular surgeries and the publishing of the Annual Report and Accounts. We are now compliant with these requirements. However, there is still a little way to go, but we are on the right track. All this leads to Barkway having a Parish Council, which is organised and set up to look after the wellbeing of its Parishioners in a businesslike and professional way and, moreover, puts us in a stronger position to negotiate with levels of Government for resource allocations.

Gordon Baker
Vice Chairman, Barkway Parish Council

Archery on the "Rec" There have been two sessions of archery tuition on the "Rec" to date and, hopefully, one more to come. Both sessions have been fully subscribed (15 people per session) with nearly 3 hours of tuition. Everyone that attended enjoyed their expert coaching and by the end of the sessions some could hit the target and even score bulls eyes. If you would like to come along to the next session, please contact Councillor Tony Terry for details on 01763 848893 or by email .

Dates for your Diary.....

Parish Council meetings: Tues 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public welcome.

Parish Council Surgeries: Held bi-monthly in the Reading Room. Next dates: 18th September, 20th November - between 10 and 11 am

Barkway Forum: Wed 15th September, Barkway Village Hall at 8pm. Parish Plan meeting: End Sept/early Oct. Date and venue to be announced.

Welcome to the September edition of Barkway Bulletin. This has now become a popular and well received source of information about Parish Council business. Copies are delivered to every household in the Parish and can also be found on display in the Church, Village Hall, Tally Ho and Barkway Service Station. Failing that you can download a copy from the village website.

Village Emergency Plan and Neighbourhood Watch

A key component of the recently published Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan was the need to create a cohesive village emergency plan, capable of responding and acting with the "999" emergency services. A team, led by Councillor Vince Styles, was formed to identify the many threats the village could face. These ranged from adverse weather conditions to the possibility of serious road accidents involving hazardous loads. And because we do have a sense of humour, the threat of vampires, zombies and aliens from Mars. Once we looked at these threats, it became clear that "muddling through" was not an option. After a lot of hard work we now have a Village Emergency Plan in draft form. There is one important element missing - **VOLUNTEERS** - for the plan to succeed, your Village needs you. The Plan identified the need for skills to cope with crises, ranging from medical to practical, such as access to 4X4 vehicles. Calling on vulnerable residents to check their welfare would be invaluable. It is hoped that people who would like to volunteer could be combined into one effective group that would include the Neighbourhood Watch team. In partnership with the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch Team, a meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on 1st September at 8pm. Failure to volunteer may lead to arm twisting and bullying.

You have been warned !

What has happened in the last quarter....

- The second meeting of the Barkway Forum was held on 23rd June
- Speedwatch was presented to the village on 15th June
- The Parish Plan was presented to the Royston and District Committee on 16th June
- Parish Council surgery was held at the Church fete on 17th July
- Affordable homes project is delayed due to roosting bats
- Work in the Reading Room commenced 2nd August

Parish Matters.....

Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan

On the 16th June, Councillors Robert Davidson and Gordon Baker attended the Royston and District Committee Meeting at Royston Town Hall. Councillor Davidson presented the Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan to the meeting and outlined the proposals contained in the plan. This was extremely well received and all those who contributed to the plan were complimented on the effort and hard work which went into producing the plan. In fact the Parish Council was commended for producing such a comprehensive plan at a low cost to the taxpayer. Our efforts were rewarded with a grant of £500 towards the print and production. **Now to the next stage.....**

Members of the Parish Plan Steering Group and volunteers intend to regroup and work towards implementing as much of the plan as possible. More volunteers are needed to assist with this process and a meeting of everyone interested in taking the plan further is being planned for early October. Date and venue to be confirmed.

Barkway Forum

The second meeting of the Barkway Forum took place on 23rd June. Although the meeting was not as well attended as the first due to holidays, etc. the Forum is fulfilling its aims in providing a platform for communication amongst the village organisations. The next meeting is planned for 15 September in the Village Hall at 8pm and, as Councillor Jo Cockerton has had to step down as Secretary, Councillor Ken McCormick has agreed to act as Secretary for the time being. Please make a note of the date and time and it is hoped that many organisations will attend in order that the momentum of this newly formed organisation can be maintained. More information will be circulated to members shortly. If there are any organisations which have been overlooked and who would like to attend Forum meetings, please contact Councillor McCormick.

Reading Room - update

We are pleased to report that the Reading Room renovations are proceeding well and that the major work is nearing completion. The room will then be repainted, shelves will be dusted off, books arranged and the coffee pot cleaned and ready for the grand re-opening in early to middle September. More detailed information will be published on the website.

Welcome Pack

One of the proposals in the Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan is for the production of a welcome pack. This pack is being designed by a working group in conjunction with the Parish Council to provide new residents with important information about the services, facilities and organisations that are available locally to help people settle into the village. It is planned to have the pack available by early October. Further information will be available shortly.

Speedwatch

Vehicles travelling at excessive speeds through our village have been causing real concern for our community for some time. So it's good news that a team of 11 Barkway volunteers, working with Hertfordshire Police, is to take part in a new initiative called Speedwatch. The volunteers will work in groups of three to monitor speeding vehicles and to record their registration details. Police advisory letters are then sent to speeders, but relax, no fines or points. Persuasion by education is the emphasis of this initiative. However, the Police will follow up with other action if there are repeat offenders. The next step is to organise a meeting with all the volunteers and the police team involved. The volunteers will then be registered with the police and trained. At the same time we need to purchase the equipment and decide upon the locations to site it. We would like more volunteers. If you feel you would like to be involved, call the Barkway Speedwatch Co-ordinator Tony Harris on 01763 848771

Parish Clerk—my training...

A mandatory requirement in our quest for Quality Parish Status is to have a qualified clerk. I have, therefore, since my appointment as clerk to Barkway Parish Council been attending courses run locally by Herts Association of Parish and Town Councils, in conjunction with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The aim is to achieve a Certificate in Local Council administration. I have attended 7 half day training sessions in Wheathampstead and now have to complete a Portfolio of Evidence and submit this to the SLCC for assessment. The standard is monitored by the University of Gloucester. This Portfolio covers various topics within the following areas: Roles and Responsibilities, Law, Procedures, Finance, Planning and Community Action. The training so far has enabled me to advise the Parish Council on important issues such as changes in legal requirements and regulations.

Catharine Toms, Barkway Parish Clerk

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 We are always interested in hearing your views.

Stop Press

Barkway Parish Council is considering organising a social event to raise funds for the benefit of the Village. A number of suggestions is being considered and details will be published in the usual places very shortly.

Watch this Space!