

# BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 8

September 2011

**Welcome to the Autumn edition of the "Bulletin". There have been several changes within the Parish Council during the last quarter. Please read on to find out more.....**

## Editorial

Barkway Parish Council has seen several changes in recent months. Six out of seven Councillors were re-elected at the May election and, subsequently, both the Chairman and Vice Chairman have had to resign for different reasons. Dr Robert Davidson and Gordon Baker made significant contributions to the management of the Council over the past 2/3 years. Barkway Parish Council has been proactive in setting up and managing projects as well as caring for the wellbeing of the community and, in the eyes of North Herts District Council, is the "jewel in the crown" amongst parish councils.

Changes in personnel always bring about changes in style and management and Barkway Parish Council is adapting to the situation very effectively. The Council operates a portfolio system and, even with the co-opting of Simon Taylor as a new Councillor, the Council still has two vacant seats but the duties have been re-allocated so that every area of responsibility is adequately covered. A list of the current Councillors with their respective roles is published later in this Bulletin. A new Chairman will be elected shortly.

In addition to defining the duties of your Councillors, this is a very opportune time to remind parishioners of the method of contacting the Parish Council. From time to time, residents may have issues or concerns that they may wish to raise with the Council. Although the Council aims to disseminate as much news and information as possible via the website and the Barkway Bulletin and residents can talk to a Councillor at the bi monthly surgeries or attend a Council meeting, there may be occasions when a direct and individual approach is necessary.

The Parish Council employs a clerk, Mrs Catharine Toms, on a salaried basis and part of her remit is to be the point of contact for enquiries.. Any approach to the clerk will be pre-qualified and, where necessary, she will pass the enquiry to the appropriate Councillor for action. This is standard practice and, whilst the Councillors may be prominent members of the community, it is worth reminding parishioners that they perform their duties on a voluntary basis and that their privacy should be respected.

## Message from Dr Bob Davidson...

After three years as a Parish Councillor, following changes in my career I realised that I would be unable to give the Council the full attention it requires and needs. I therefore reluctantly resigned at the beginning of July as Councillor. I was cast into civic duty very much at the deep end from the very outset as Vice-Chairman and, more latterly, for the past two years as Chairman. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge that being Councillor threw at me and endeavoured at all times to approach the role with the community's needs and desires at heart. I wish to thank the fellow Councillors and Clerks past and present, whom I had the honour and privilege to serve alongside, and thank them for their support, guidance, wisdom, the odd disagreement or two, but most of all their friendship. I hope the Council will continue to be as proactive as it has been and continue to be the example of how a good parish council should be, one that has received many words of praise from both District and County Councillors and Officers and our Member of Parliament. I will continue to support Barkway Parish Council whenever possible and hope that one day, when the time is right, I might be able to return to civic office. I thank my wife, friends and the whole community for their support over the past three and a bit years, this is a wonderful village full of wonderful people - a village I am proud to call home.

**Bob Davidson**

## Thanks to Dr Bob Davidson...

Councillor Bob Davidson resigned from the Parish Council on July 11<sup>th</sup> after serving for three years (including two years as Chairman). Bob's association with the Parish Council started with Government proposals in 2007 to place a travellers' camp at the end of the village. An action group was formed which Bob joined. The successful campaign to alert North Herts District Council to our concerns over this proposal resulted in an unprecedented response by the village; Bob played a critical role in this campaign including making an impassioned presentation to North Herts District Council in front of an assembly packed with villagers. The proposal was subsequently dropped. Bob became a Parish Councillor shortly after this and accepted the role of Chairman in 2009. He has since played a major role in several other areas; the development of the Barkway-Newsells Parish Plan; the Wheatsheaf redevelopment project to provide additional homes in the village; the proposal to redevelop the recreation area pavilion to provide a youth club and community centre for all ages to use and the refurbishing of the Reading Room as a library and meeting facility for the village. Bob has also worked closely with Herts Highways and North Herts District Council on planning issues and has helped to resolve outstanding difficulties with the roads and facilities around the village. Bob has helped make Barkway a better place to live and for that he has our gratitude.

**Councillor Ken McCormick**

## What has happened in the last quarter...

- Music on the "Rec" took place on 18th June
- 16th July saw a rain affected but very enjoyable Church fete
- Sarah Hillman said goodbye to the Benefice on 21st August
- Work started on the Wheatsheaf Meadow House development

## Dates for your Diary...

Parish Council meetings: Tuesday 20th Sept, Mondays 10th Oct & 14th 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:17th Sept, 19th Nov (both jointly with Police) between 10 & 11am  
Barkway Forum: Next meeting date - to be announced

# Parish Matters.....

## Queens Diamond Jubilee 2012

A group of people from the village met in mid August to discuss possible ideas to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year.

Many excellent suggestions were made and these are being reviewed at the present moment. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 has been chosen as the date for the celebrations in the village, so please keep that free in your diaries. We are hoping to provide events and entertainment for all ages within the village and that all village organizations will become involved.

Our next meeting is planned for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Reading Room at 8pm.

Please do come along so that we can plan to make Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June a day to remember.

Any questions, ideas and, hopefully, volunteers please contact Councillor Steve Alsop.

## The Pavilion Project - update

We have decided to change the design of the new pavilion by reducing the changing rooms in number from four to two and by adding one and a half metres to the width. This will enable us to have full size changing rooms and showers, larger toilets, more storage room and a good size kitchen area. The social area will be larger with bi-folding doors to give an open feel to the area. By losing the two changing rooms, the overall cost will be greatly reduced making the project hopefully easier to fund and to bring it nearer to fruition. Further updates on the village website. You can still support this project through the "buy a brick" sponsorship.

## Barkway has a football team again

Barley FC. has now changed its name to Barkway & Barley FC with a view to eventually being know as Barkway FC. Their home ground has been the recreation ground for the past five years and, last season, they ended up in the top half of their league. Their fixture list is published on the village web site, so go along to their home games and give them some support. They play in a black and yellow strip, so you can't miss them.

## Your new Councillor - Simon Taylor



I moved to Barkway with my wife, Lisa, and young son, Rory, in December 2007. We moved up from Puckeridge and before that Ware. Originally from North Yorkshire, I have now been living in Hertfordshire for over 10 years. My youngest child, Erin, was born in our house here so is truly 'born and bred' in Barkway. I have been actively involved with Parish life since moving here. I chaired the group that produced the Parish Plan and have been an enthusiastic fundraiser for the playgroup and the school. I am also a Governor for Barkway VA school. I have been assigned to manage the replacement of the Pavilion and to keep the Parish Plan alive and up to date. When not enjoying life in Barkway, I am commuting into London for my day job as Commercial Director for a large Facilities Management company.

## Speedwatch report from Tony Harris

The first Speedwatch session took place in March this year with the aim of reducing the number of speeding vehicles in Barkway, thereby improving the safety and quality of life for its residents. It was always known that the project would not eradicate speeding but, by noticeably reducing speed, a more peaceful environment would ensue. The number of sessions has grown although we do not operate everyday - just at every opportunity - and, thanks to our growing team of volunteers, we have educated many drivers. So what is the impact? Owners of recorded speeding vehicles receive a letter from the Police - there are no fines or points on licences as the project relies on drivers behaving responsibly. From the database, it appears that the first warning letter seems to work as the same vehicle is rarely recorded speeding a second time. Second offenders are sent a final warning letter demanding a more focussed attention from the Police. When speeding vehicles are recorded, the date and time is passed to the Police enabling them to target those vehicles with their own enforcement activities, which of course do involve fines and points - but they were warned. The number of speeding vehicles is falling; initially the data filled a page but recently the sessions have been run for 1½ hours with only a similar number of vehicles being recorded. Speedwatch is having a positive impact, though not every driver can be deterred. So who are these speeders? There are a few Barkway residents but not that many; most of the vehicles are from neighbouring areas. Many vans are recorded because some drivers are oblivious or too busy on their mobile phone to notice the speed warning sign. Even buses have been recorded. Speedwatch has worked well with our local Police, who have been supportive and fun to work with. They have provided all the help requested and the project could never have started or been maintained without that help. We also have to thank our Parish Councillors who have given us great support as well as the many other people who have contributed. Finally, thanks to all the Speedwatch volunteers who give so generously of their time and enable the project to continue. However, we would love more people to join us - **Just call Tony Harris on 01763 848771.**

## Your Parish Council needs you!

- Do you think that you have what it takes to become a Barkway Parish Councillor?
- Do like getting involved with the local community?
- Are you capable of making decisions that affect your community?
- Do you have time available to spend on helping to manage your community?
- There are many other pre-requisites in being a Parish Councillor.
- Barkway Parish Council has two vacant seats at the moment.

**To find out more about becoming a Barkway Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk.**

**Remember, it can be very rewarding knowing that you are helping to manage the village in which you live.**

## Your Parish Councillors with their responsibilities and contact details

Ken McCormick: Community Liaison inc Police

Jo Cockerton: Young People, Highways and Planning

Tony Terry: Recreation and Leisure

Steve Alsop: Environment and Corporate Governance

Simon Taylor: Pavilion Project and Parish Plan update

Catharine Toms: Parish Clerk

There are two vacant seats on the Council

**Please contact the Parish Council through the Parish Clerk**

*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.*

[ken.mccormick@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:ken.mccormick@barkway-village.co.uk)

[jo.cockerton@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:jo.cockerton@barkway-village.co.uk)

[tony.terry@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:tony.terry@barkway-village.co.uk)

[steve.alsop@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:steve.alsop@barkway-village.co.uk)

[simon.taylor@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:simon.taylor@barkway-village.co.uk)

[parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@barkway-village.co.uk)

## Announcement

**The classical music concert planned for the 17th September in the village hall has had to be deferred to a later date.**

**The intention is to organise this event in aid of the Pavilion Project for later this year or early in 2012.**

**Residents will be kept informed in the usual ways.**