

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Summer Newsletter Issue 33 - 2016

Chairman's Annual Report 2016

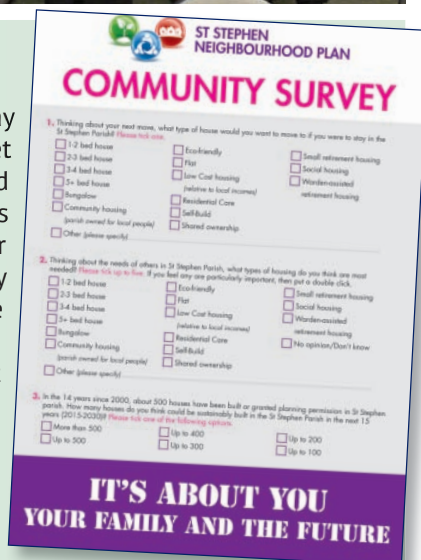
I have had the honour of being Chairman for the past two years and, as usual, it has been extremely busy.

In addition to your Parish Council's main committees, we have a number of working parties to coordinate specific activities and responsibilities, namely Annual Events, Car Park, Greenwood Park Pavilion, Income Generation, Festival, Licenced Refreshment, Localism, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Parish in Bloom and Park Street Rec Cricket. It is the function of these working parties to investigate specific issues and to report back to your Council with their findings and recommendations. We are also seeking to find an alternative location for the How Wood Post Office. This list will give you an indication of the breadth of activity in which we are engaged – highlights of committee activities appear overleaf. (Continued on page 2)



Your Neighbourhood Plan – the next step

Although matters may appear to have gone quiet on the Neighbourhood Plan front, in reality this is far from the case. Rather like the swan, apparently floating serenely on the water's surface, there is much frantic paddling out of sight. In essence the Plan's Steering Committee is now assessing the findings of the Working Groups and preparing for the next step in the process – the all-important Community Survey. This survey, which will be distributed to every dwelling in the Parish with the Autumn issue of this newsletter, will provide residents with the opportunity to 'have their say' on numerous key issues that will, eventually, form the core of the Plan.



See: 'Neighbourhood Plan': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

2016 FESTIVAL
11-12 JUNE 2016

Saturday & Sunday 11 - 12 June 2016
The Parish Centre, Station Road, Bricket Wood, St Albans, AL2 3PJ

- Arts and Crafts Fair with displays and demonstrations
- Music and Dance Arena Performances from Elvis Shmelvis, Groove Daddy, The Jumping Fleas and many more
- Children's Funfair

Sunday
Fete, Food Arena and Real Ale, Falconry Display, Terrier Racing, Dog Show, Dove Release

Celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday
Enter the Great British (Birthday) Cake-Off Competition
Take the Abbey Flyer to the Festival
No parking on site -
but the Festival is two minute's walk from Bricket Wood Station

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL
Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street
THE PARISH CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BRICKET WOOD, ST ALBANS, Herts. AL2 3PJ
www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

ABBEY FLYER USERS' GROUP
PROVIDING SUPPORT TO ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Abbey Line
Community Path Partnership

QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL

Don't miss these summer events

Parish in Bloom Awards deadline, 24 June:

Entries are due for Best-Kept Back Garden and Children's or Youth Group/Club. Nominations for Best-Kept Front Garden via Residents' Associations. Best-Kept Allotment, Best Allotment Newcomer, Best School Garden and Best Floral Business Display will be judged automatically; no entry is necessary. See your Parish website for the entry form and judging criteria.

Armed Forces Day, 25 June: The Parade of Standards will march from Black Boy Wood Shops at 3.30pm to the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood, where the flag will be raised at 4pm, followed by free light refreshments, music by the Watford Brass Band and a display of memorabilia, with a charity bucket collection.

Crafts in the Park, 25-27 July: Children of all ages will once again be able to try out lots of different crafts themed around the Queen's 90th birthday, at the free craft activity sessions on offer 11.00am-12.30pm at Greenwood Park during the first three days of the school holidays. Activities will be free, with a bucket collection for a nominated charity.

See: 'Parish Events': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Your Council has a lengthy wish-list of desired projects, although given budget constraints we have to prioritise among them. We are ever mindful of the need to provide services which deliver best value for money, making savings wherever possible. It has therefore been necessary to increase the Precept by 2.9% in order to go some way in achieving these goals. Alongside this, you will note that the Income Generation working party has been established to maximise the opportunities for raising funds through use of your Parish facilities.

As can be seen above your Councillors are kept extremely busy and, bearing in mind that they are all volunteers, they commit a lot of their time to maintain and improve Council services for the Parish residents. If you can bring experience or expertise to these activities, or can simply volunteer a few hours to help out at events, please let the Parish Clerk know.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr John Parker on his appointment as a Councillor, filling the vacancy for Bricket Wood East. I know that all the Councillors and our hard-working staff wish him all the very best while with the Council.

Cllr Mick Freeman

Leisure Committee highlights – Chair: Cllr Bill Pryce

- New gates and a reinforced concrete slab at Greenwood Park to facilitate the movement of heavy vehicles, e.g. Council tractors and fairground vehicles
- Problems exist universally with litter, and monitoring is underway at Woodbury Field
- Third year of successful applications for the 'Green Flag' award for Greenwood Park
- Wi-Fi installed at Greenwood Park Pavilion
- 'Portable Youth Shelter' trial – see page 3
- Enhanced children's equipment installed – see page 3



Buildings Committee highlights – Chair: Cllr David Brannen

- Defibrillators – see page 3
- Ongoing discussion with Greenwood Park Lawn Tennis Club to push forward the approved plans to improve the facilities for all users. Largely grant funded, this long-awaited extension will enlarge the tennis club area and upgrade cricket and football facilities
- Consideration of a tea room within Greenwood Park

Trees & Woodlands Committee highlights – Chair: Cllr John Bell

- Information boards and information leaflets – see this page
- Tree safety audits on all Parish-owned property
- Completion of a major phase of the Woodland Management Scheme in Blackgreen Wood
- Improved access from Park Street Lane via the new bridge to Blackgreen Wood
- Installation of rustic seats in Blackgreen Wood
- Hedge-laying scheme in Greenwood Park
- Supporting volunteer groups on projects in St Julians and Blackgreen Woods



Planning Committee highlights – Chair: Cllr Mick Freeman

- Planning objections raised over inappropriate developments, including: the Sainsbury/Three Hammers pub convenience store; the extension of the Chiswell Green dental surgery; the conversion of a bungalow in Oakwood Road into a private medical centre; and an infill garden development to the rear of 44–52 Bucknalls Drive
- Continued pressure on District Council for speedy enforcement of the illegal extensions of the Traveller site at Woodview Lodge Bricket Wood and Chiswell Green Lane
- Instrumental in saving and replacing trees in Bricket Wood – see page 3
- Ongoing attempts to meet with developers of proposed large projects; including with Icen Projects regarding 16 large homes on the Lye Lane 'golf course' site, make good the land contamination and provide a community forest
- Awaiting a decision on the appeal to build homes on the HSBC Training Centre site in Smug Oak Lane
- Supported Harperbury Hospital development for housing with concerns regarding the capacity of Harper Lane Bridge. Unsuccessful bid submitted for s106 funds toward local Parish sports facilities. Free School rejected by Minister for Education
- Petition regarding the proposed Rail Freight Terminal was heard by County Council, which is considering alternative uses



If you go down to the woods ...

New leaflets to guide you around St Julians Wood in Greenwood Park and Blackgreen Wood in Bricket Wood have been produced by your Parish Council. They provide information about what you can expect to discover in the woods and will guide you around the various footpaths. We are particularly proud of the new path we have opened up through Blackgreen Wood providing easy access from Park Street Lane and Lye Lane in Bricket Wood. The leaflets will be available from both Parish Centres and local shops.



Park Street mural

Your Parish Council has selected a design for a mural on the wall of the Park Street Recreation Ground toilets. It encapsulates the leisure and sport activities nearby and will brighten the dull blank wall. The design has been sent to the District Council for approval and will be sent to the local residents for consultation.

Protected trees in Bricket Wood to be replaced

Trees that have died in an area covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) between Oakwood Road and Ashridge Drive in Bricket Wood will have to be replaced once felled, following representations by your Parish Council.

We had objected to an application to fell two trees and reduce the crowns on three others, as it related to an area adjoining part of a semi-ancient wooded copse devastated by previous illegal felling. Cllr Mick Freeman, Planning Committee Chair, addressed the District Council Planning Referrals meeting. He commented: "The replacement of the felled trees will ensure that the wooded area is maintained and that gardens in Ashridge Drive do not suffer any more flooding than they do already following the previous loss of so many mature trees."

We were also instrumental in getting a TPO placed on a group of oaks and hornbeams at the junction of West Riding and Mount Pleasant Lane where a number of oaks had been felled.



Playgrounds update

A presentation has been made to local District Councillors to persuade them to allocate funds for the new 'Super Net' at Greenwood Park. We proposed that it be paid for by the recovery of Section 106 money – accrued from developments in the Parish – at no cost to your Parish Council.

Equipment in the six children's play areas that we own and manage will continue to be enhanced via our 'rolling replacement' programme. Installation of a pyramid net and a slide, climbing net and activity item at Cherry Hill is almost complete. At Woodbury Field the see saw and slide are being removed owing to corrosion. Installation of a new slide and 'snooker wall' should be completed before the school holidays.

See 'Council Projects': www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Congratulations

Cllr Dorothy Kerry presented a bouquet of flowers on behalf of St Stephen Parish Council to Ron and Maureen Pugh in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary. Ron and Maureen married in Frogmore and have lived all their married life in Bricket Wood where they raised their two daughters. Many congratulations!



New defibrillators installed

The two new defibrillators awarded to your Parish Council by the British Heart Foundation have now been installed at the Parish Centre, Bricket Wood, and at Park Street Recreation Ground, ensuring that the whole community has access to a portable, battery-powered and easy-to-use defibrillator around the clock.

Cllr Mick Freeman (pictured with Cllr Nicholas Tyndale), Parish Council Chairman, commented: "The speed at which aid can be given to someone who has had a cardiac arrest is such an important factor in their survival and the installation of these two defibrillators means that wherever you are in the Parish they are freely available to use in an emergency."

Park Wood – a valuable community asset

Last year Park Wood and Scrubbs Wood were registered as Assets of Community Value, but recently owners of the land, CP Holdings, have erected barbed wire around much of Park Wood, preventing access by local residents. This appears to have been a reaction to an application to the County Council for the paths through the wood to be made into Public Rights of Way (ROW).

The ROW application must be supported by evidence forms and to date more than 30 forms have been completed, attesting to the use of the wood for more than 20 years. To support this application, please contact Jim White, who is coordinating the evidence gathering (01727 866747 or jim.white142@gmail.com)



Two (will) come along at once

As reported last year, your Parish Council worked alongside the Bricket Wood Residents Association and the County Council's Passenger Transport Service to achieve agreement between the County and Highways England (HE) for substantial improvements to both A405 bus stops opposite the Black Boy pub. The works were scheduled to take place last November; the allocation of HE funding has been delayed, but we are hopeful that the work will happen in the current financial year.

Chill out at Woodbury Field

Acting on feedback from our local Scout group, your Parish Council is considering a six-month trial of a mobile youth shelter at Woodbury Field. We will take advice from our Neighbourhood Police Constable before siting the shelter in a visible location near the multi-use games area. The shelter will be on loan from the District Council; after the trial we will have the option to buy and keep it. Similar shelters have been trialled and retained in other St Albans locations.

Finished exams?

16th... 18th... 21st birthday?

Have your party at one of our venues

We offer two spacious centres including a large sports hall that can accommodate in excess of 300 people, a range of smaller halls, and outdoor sports and leisure facilities. Both venues, in Chiswell Green and Bricket Wood, offer free car parking, wifi, tables and chairs, and a kitchen.



REDUCED RATES: Spring and Summer 2016 savings of up to 50%
depending on venue – quote reference 'Summer special'.
Enquiries/booking: **Mrs Gill Rix, 01727 874867**

Dates for your diary

Main Parish Council Meetings

16 June, 21 July, 15 September, Parish Centre, 7.30pm

Parish Council Events

11–12 Jun: **St Stephen Parish Festival**,
Parish Centre – see front page

24 Jun: **Parish in Bloom** closing date for entries –
see front page

25 Jun and 30 Jul, 10am–1pm: **Woodland Volunteer Days**

25–27 Jul: **Crafts in the Park**, Greenwood Park –
see front page

22 Sep: **Parish in Bloom Awards Evening**, Greenwood Park

13 Nov: **Remembrance Day Service**, War Memorial, Park Street

4 Dec: **Carol Concert**, Greenwood Park

Other Local Events

Mondays, 4pm, and Wednesdays, 10am–noon: **Book Swap**,
BW URC, 01923 673638

5 Jun, 10am–2pm: **Summer Craft & Boot Sale**, PS Residents
Association, PS Recreation Ground, 01727 768127/
07748770417

28 Jun, 8pm: **'Famous People of the Chilterns'**, BW Society,
BW URC, £2, 01923 279870

9 Jul, 10am: **Guided Butterfly Walk**, Parish Centre,
07768 154324

10 Jul, 2–7pm: **Salsa Mish Charity Event in Aid of MacMillan
Cancer Support**, Greenwood Park

12–14 Aug: **Fairground**, Greenwood Park

4 Sep, 2–4.30pm: **Tea in the Park & Doggy Fun Day**, Hearing
Dogs for Deaf People, Greenwood Park

17 Sep, 10am: **Charity Jumble Sale**, St Barts Church Hall,
01727 873672

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St Stephen Parish Councillors



Cllr John Bell
Chiswell Green Councillor
01727 831280



Cllr Wendy Berriman
Bricket Wood Councillor
01923 673355



Cllr David Brannen
Bricket Wood Councillor
01923 662423



Cllr Michael Freeman
Park Street Councillor
01727 873543



Cllr Ian Getley
Park Street Councillor
01727 872507



Cllr Karen Hurford
Chiswell Green Councillor
07710 860337



Cllr Martin Doyle
Chiswell Green Councillor
01727 859676



Cllr Dorothy Kerry
Bricket Wood Councillor
01923 663352



Cllr John Parker
Bricket Wood Councillor
01923 677054



Cllr Bill Pryce
Park Street Councillor
01727 873181



Cllr Nicholas Tyndale
Park Street Councillor
01727 872647



Cllr Eileen Whittaker
Park Street Councillor
01727 873710

A summary of the 2015/16 accounts will be
available on our website from 30 June:

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

A hard copy is available from the Parish Council Office.

St Stephen Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings

Main Council and Committee meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the St Stephen Parish Centre in Station Road, Bricket Wood. Times and dates are displayed on the Parish Noticeboards. Residents are welcome to attend the meetings.

The Parish Office

First floor, St Stephen Parish Centre,
Station Road, Bricket Wood,
St Albans, AL2 3PJ

Tel: 01923 681443 Fax: 01923 681338

Email: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Open daily from 9.00am to 5.00pm or by
prior appointment. Contact either:
Juliet Pienaar, Clerk, or Carol Hardy, Deputy Clerk

