

# The Bulletin

Autumn 2017

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 02

Dear Resident

Welcome to the second issue of *The Bulletin*, the Acton Parish Council newsletter. Having taken over as Chairman of the Parish Council in May 2017 this is my first opportunity to write about some of the issues facing our community.

Planning issues have dominated the recent work of the Council. The long awaited outline application to build 1,050 dwellings with other industrial, commercial and recreational buildings at Chilton Woods was considered in June. The Parish Council recommended refusal of this application pending clarification about how the County Council propose to prevent the Sudbury Road – Melford Road route becoming a rat-run to the A134.

An outline application to build up to 100 houses on the field behind the allotments and conservation area on Barrow Hill attracted nearly 60 members of the public to our July meeting. This application, if successful, will have a significant impact on village life. Please see page 2 for further details of the Parish Council's response.

It seems that property developers are homing in on this area confident of being able to exploit the fact that Babergh and Mid Suffolk have not been able to maintain and 5-year land supply for residential development.

On a more positive note, the Acton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association have been successful in attracting additional members for their Management Committee. The village hall is a valuable community asset and, as you can see on the back page, it is used by many of our local clubs and societies. The hall is available for birthday parties and other celebrations. It is your hall. If you can, please use it.

Paul Chaplin, Chairman

Councillors: Nick Antill, Paul Chaplin (Chairman), Peter Edwards, Trudy Fisher, Lisa Franks, Christine Johnson, Margaret Maybury, Jonathan Matthews and Will Shropshire

Clerk: Paul MacLachlan actonparishcouncil@gmail.com 07958 932480

Councillors' contact details can be obtained from the Clerk or from the Parish Council website at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/councillors>

**Community opposed to proposed residential development**

Nearly 60 residents attended the Parish Council meeting on 17 July to convey their thoughts about plans to build up to 100 dwellings on land adjacent to the allotments and conservation area on Barrow Hill. Public session lasted over 45 minutes during which time it was clear that the overwhelming view of residents was that the plans should be refused.

An earlier application to develop this site was turned down by the Planning Authority and, according to the current draft Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) dated May 2016, the site is deemed inappropriate for development being poorly related to the settlement and its services.

The Parish Council has recommended that the application be refused arguing that such a development, close to the heart of the community, threatens to undermine Acton's sense of community and place. The Parish Council has also commented that the housing need identified by the developer has already been addressed by other local applications, notably the 1,150 dwellings proposed at Chilton Woods. Other reasons for recommending refusal touch on traffic flow, the impact on dwellings (including listed buildings) near the proposed High Street junction and the developer's flawed perception of community need.

Read the Council's response in full at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/planning/>

**The things we do ...** The conservation area on Barrow Hill is maintained by the Parish Council. In doing this we are fortunate to be supported by enthusiastic local volunteers, Stuart Ricketts and Colin Muddiman, who undertake most of the work. Over the last few months Stuart and Colin have focussed on improving the footpaths throughout the site and removing the old man's beard that has been choking the ground and trees. Over the next six months it is intended to cut back some of the scrub and brambles and to widen some of the narrower paths through the site. If you would like to assist with this work please contact the Clerk.

**For more information about the work of your Parish Council visit the website at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/acton-parish-council>**

<b>Managing our open spaces</b>	<p>Most of the Open spaces in Acton are managed by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council. One notable exception is the play area at Lime Tree Green where work to trim the hedge between the play area and the school and to cut back the brambles, nettles and bushes between Lime Tree Green and Jennens Way has been commissioned by the Parish Council.</p>
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<p>Following considerable damage to the village hall over a prolonged period, the Parish Council has called upon Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, to provide greater support for community policing. Susan Chaplin, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, commented that the village hall is a valuable community asset and vandalism results in less money being available for hall and playing field improvements.</p>	<p><b>Support sought for fight against low level vandalism</b></p>
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<b>New safety surface installed</b>	<p>The safety surface under the play area swings at Lime Tree Green has been extended and replaced in order to comply with current safety regulations. Unfortunately, the work, costing £7,175, was hampered when intruders broke into the secured site and tipped cement powder and stones over the newly laid wetpour surface. Although the safety surface has been made good, this incident does highlight further the issue of local, low level vandalism.</p>
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<p>Parish Council meetings are planned as follows:</p> <p>Bi-monthly meeting – 11 September 2017          Bi-monthly meeting – 13 November 2017          Bi-monthly meeting – 15 January 2018</p> <p>These meetings are held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:45pm. A full list of 2017/18 meetings is available on the Parish Council website.</p>	<p><b>Parish Council meetings</b></p>
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<p><b>Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and can participate during public question time</b></p>
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**Award recognises 50 years of service to the Parish**

In May this year, the Parish Council unanimously awarded Christine Johnson the title of Honorary Freewoman of the Parish of Acton in recognition of her long and eminent service to the parish. County Cllr Colin Spence presented Cllr Johnson with a scroll to commemorate the award and spoke in praise of Christine's outstanding contribution to the parish over 50 years.

Cllr Spence commented that Christine's local knowledge was second to none and her willingness to share that information with him had been immensely helpful over many years.

**Regular activities at Acton Village Hall (weekly unless indicated)**

Monday	First Dance	2:00pm – 4:00pm
	WSC Yoga	10:15am – 11:45am, term time only
Tuesday	Karate	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday	Drop-in Group	10:00am – 12:00am, monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Weds
	Pilates	10:45am – 11:45am
	Beavers	5:45pm to 7:00pm
Thursday	Football	5:00pm to 6:00pm
	Hoopers	6:00pm to 7:00pm and 7:00pm to 8:00pm
	Garden Club	7:30pm – 9:00pm, monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs
Friday	Creative Stitch	9:30am to 12:30pm
Saturday	Boot Camp	8:00am – 9:00am
	Football	9:00am to 10:00am
	Baby Ballet	9:00am – 10:45am

**For further information or to book your event at Acton Village Hall contact the Bookings Manager on 07531 786443 or at [actonvillagehall@aol.com](mailto:actonvillagehall@aol.com)**

**Is there a pothole that needs repairing or a street light not working?  
Go to <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council-news> to find out how  
to report it**