

The Bulletin



December 2017

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 03

Dear Resident

Since our last newsletter in September, the Council's time has been very largely taken up with planning issues. I refer you to page 2 for brief details of our responses to the Chilton Woods and Acton High Street developments. Approval of the latter application is particularly disappointing.

On a more positive note, the Parish Council submitted an extensive response to the *Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Plan 2014 – 2036 consultation*. The Parish Council has used this opportunity to lobby for:

- sensible limits on the number of new dwellings built within Acton during the period 2014 to 2036;
- the safeguarding and improvement of local infrastructure including public transport, electricity supply, drainage, internet connectivity, teenage recreational facilities, education and healthcare provision;
- the creation of a settlement boundary for Newman's Green;
- the designation of the allotment and wildlife area on Barrow Hill as a Local Green Space;
- withdrawal of sites on Mills Lane and Tamage Road from the District Council's list of acceptable employment and residential development sites.

In addition, the Parish Council has co-ordinated a cross-council request from Acton, Chilton, Great Waldingfield and Long Melford Parish Councils for a *Green Buffer Zone* north of Sudbury in order to constrain its further northern expansion. Full details of our response to these issues can be found on the planning page of our website. These are interesting times and I am sure to be commenting further on these matters in future issues.

May I conclude by wishing you, and all your loved ones, a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Paul Chaplin, Chairman, Acton Parish Council

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>

**Black Wednesday**

On Wednesday 25 October 2017 two significant outline planning applications were approved by Babergh District Council.

Firstly, the Chilton Woods application for up to 1,150 houses and other supporting infrastructure was approved. Given the lack of a 5-year housing supply in Babergh this decision came as no surprise. The Parish Council's main objection to this application was the adverse impact of traffic using Acton Lane as a cut through to the A134. Sadly, the Council's request for improved measures to prevent projected traffic flows of 600 vehicles per hour during peak hours fell on deaf ears.

Secondly, and very disappointingly, outline planning permission was also granted for up to 100 dwellings on land north of Acton High Street. While the Parish Council does not believe that Acton can be exempted from further housing, it believes that this development, seemingly to be accessed by demolishing an existing dwelling on the High Street, is the wrong development in the wrong place. Your Council's response to this application is available on the Parish Council website (Planning page).

The things we do ... the Parish Council is invited to comment on nearly all planning applications relating to properties within Acton. The Parish Council does not decide the outcome of the application but, as statutory consultees, the views of the Parish Council are considered by the Planning Authority when applications are decided.

The Parish Council seeks to preserve that which makes our parish unique and endeavours to ensure that Acton's special character is not spoilt by unsympathetic and selfish developments. Sometimes, finding that fine line between maintaining distinctive and attractive features whilst helping the parish to change and adapt is not an easy task.

In most cases the view of the Parish Council is reflected in the decision of the Planning Authority. Sadly, as with the recent application for up to 100 dwellings on land north of Acton High Street, this is not always the case.

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



Issue 03

Your Parish Council

December 2017

More Community Speedwatch volunteers needed

Acton Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator, Dave Ashworth, is looking to expand the number of local residents willing to offer an hour a month to help monitor the speed of traffic driving through the centre of Acton.

If you feel you can help please contact the Clerk at actonparishcouncil@gmail.com

The playing field adjacent to the village hall is used by a variety of community groups. It is therefore regrettable that users, including our local young people's football club, find the area littered with dog faeces when they turn up to use the field. The Council asks all dog walkers to pick up after their dogs wherever you walk in the parish. Thank you for your co-operation.

**Please pick
up your dog
poo**

Good response to environmental work at Lime Tree Green

During the autumn the Parish Council embarked on a programme of environmental work around Lime Tree Green. The hedge bordering the school was cut back, the canopy of smaller trees was raised and the overgrown area separating Lime Tree Green and Jennens Way was cleared to give a better view from the field through to the path. Feedback from residents suggests that the work has been well received.

Parish Council meetings are planned as follows:
Bi-monthly meeting – 15 January 2018
Bi-monthly meeting – 12 March 2018
Bi-monthly meeting – 21 May 2018
Meetings are held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:45pm unless otherwise indicated. A list of 2018/19 meeting dates is available on the Parish Council website.

**Parish
Council
meetings**

Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and can participate during public question time

**Teenage facilities? How can we help?**

During the autumn it was suggested that, while the parish caters well for its younger children, there are far fewer facilities for our teenagers. The Parish Council would like to follow this up by inviting representations from our local teenagers about the type of recreational facilities that they would like to see provided.

There are two ways to let the Council know your views. They are to:

- email your thoughts to the Clerk at actonparishcouncil@gmail.com
- come to the Village Hall between 11:00am and 12 noon on Saturday 6 January and talk to us in person about your ideas.

If you are aged 13 to 18, or parents of young people in this age bracket, please get in touch. The Parish Council is in a far better position to lobby the District or County Council for improved facilities if it can demonstrate that the request arises from local consultation.

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 nd Weds
	Pilates	10:45am – 11:45am
	Beavers	5:45pm to 7:00pm
Thursday	Hoopers	6:00pm to 7:00pm and 7:00pm to 8:00pm
	Garden Club	7:30pm – 9:00pm, monthly, 2 nd Thurs
Friday	Creative Stitch	9:30am to 12:30pm
Saturday	Boot Camp	8:00am – 9:00am
	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

**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**