

The Bulletin

April 2018

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 04

Dear Resident

Welcome to the Spring 2018 issue of the Acton Parish Council newsletter.

One of the key roles of the Parish Council is to respond to District Council consultations on local planning applications. Some applications are for very small works, others have the capacity to alter significantly the character of the village and its environs. Recently, in line with Parish Council recommendations, the District Council Planning Committee refused permission for further industrial and commercial development on the Acton Place Industrial Estate as there was unlikely to be sufficient local demand and the proposals constituted unsustainable development in the countryside. The Committee also noted the lack of a viable water drainage system and inadequate sustainable transport links to the site.

At the end of March further work was done to the Lime Trees along Jennens Way. Unfortunately, another Lime tree had to be removed. We are concerned that, in recent years, a number of these protected trees have died. We have sought professional advice to discover why this is the case but, to date, no obvious cause has been identified.

I am sad to report a disappointing response to the consultation regarding the provision of teenage facilities within the parish. We received no public feedback at all. While the Council will continue to keep an open mind on this issue, it has no immediate plans to fund additional facilities.

To end on a positive note, the Parish Council is pleased to note the beneficial effect of the Speed Indicator Device which is deployed from time to time along the High Street. Thank you to all who make a conscious effort to drive safely within the village and wider parish.

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>

The 2018 Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Acton Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm on Monday 23 April.

Although the agenda is yet to be finalised it is hoped that the following business will be conducted:

- a presentation about the recently launched Sunday Outings initiative
- a presentation seeking support for an Acton Good Neighbour Scheme
- approval of the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting
- to receive the Chairman's Annual Report
- to receive the District Councillor's report
- to receive the County Councillor's report

Importantly, the Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity to hear from Acton residents, clubs, societies and other stakeholders wishing to report or raise matters of local interest.

Please put the date in your diary and come along.

The things we do ... The Parish Council makes provision for allotments within the parish. There are currently 40 allotment plots on a dedicated site on Barrow Hill. The Parish Council maintains a waiting list for allotments. If you would like to add your name to the waiting list please email the Clerk at actonparishcouncil@gmail.com providing your name, address and phone number.

In an effort to make Jennens Way more accessible to those with limited mobility the Parish Council has widened the barriers at the Vicarage Lane end of Jennens Way. Mobility scooters should now be able to pass through the barriers much more easily.

Thank you - the Parish Council would like to express its thanks to Acton residents, Stuart Ricketts, Colin Muddimer, Peter Bacura and Ted Donovan for their transformative work within the Acton Wildlife Area. They will shortly be constructing new fencing along the allotment boundary.

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

Annual Parish Meeting	<p>You are cordially invited to attend Acton's Annual Parish Meeting which will be held in Acton Village Hall at 7:30pm on Monday 23 April. Details of the meeting agenda will be posted on the Parish Council website and notice boards in early April. Please make every effort to attend.</p>
------------------------------	--

<p>The precept fixed by Acton Parish Council for 2018/19 is £45,000. Good stewardship means that the Parish Council has been able to freeze the precept at 2017/18 levels. Although the sum is paid directly to the Parish Council by Babergh District it is paid by residents of Acton via their Council Tax.</p>	2018/19 Parish Precept
--	-------------------------------

Bushes planted to attract butterflies	<p>10 Buckthorn and 10 Alder Buckthorn bushes, donated by the Butterfly Conservation Trust, have been planted in the Wildlife area on Barrow Hill to encourage the breeding of the Brimstone Butterfly. Local volunteers have already reported sightings. If you have not visited the Wildlife Area recently please take an opportunity to do so.</p>
--	---

<p>As in 2017, key rights of way within the parish will be maintained three times a year rather than twice. The cost to the Parish Council is an additional £353.47. Councillors feel that this represents excellent value and are confident that this additional maintenance will be welcomed by the many regular users of these public footpaths.</p>	Council continues improved maintenance of local rights of way
---	--

Parish Council meetings	<p>Parish Council meetings are planned as follows: Bi-monthly meeting – 21 May 2018 Bi-monthly meeting – 16 July 2018</p> <p>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.</p>
--------------------------------	---

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

Good Neighbour Scheme – could you help?

Many residents benefit hugely from the Good Neighbour Schemes operating in their area. Acton resident, Jen Bacon, is keen to form a local scheme for Acton residents. If you feel you could give some time to befriending, providing transport etc. please contact Jen at jennifer.bacon@live.co.uk

Acton Garden Club – forthcoming meetings

12 April - 'Rare, unusual and beautiful shrubs' by Jim Paine

10 May - 'Biological and non-chemical methods of pest control' by Mike Abel

Final details of garden visits in June and July are yet to be announced.

Meetings at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of the month in Acton Village Hall.

Visitors (£3 per meeting) and new members (£13 per year + £1 per meeting) are always welcome. For further information please phone Sara on 01787 310683

Regular activities at Acton Village Hall (weekly unless indicated)

Monday	First Dance	2:00pm – 4:00pm
	Zumba	6:30pm – 7:15pm
Tuesday	Karate	7:30pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday	Drop-in Group	10:00am – 12:00am, monthly, 2 nd Weds
	Pilates	9:00am – 10:00am and 10:00am – 11:00am
	Beavers	5:45pm - 7:00pm
Thursday	Sweet Pea Drama	3:30pm – 5:30pm
	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 - 12:30pm
Saturday	Boot Camp	8:00am – 9:00am
	Baby Ballet	9:00am – 12:00pm

For further information or to book your event at Acton Village Hall contact the Bookings Manager on 07531 786443 or at actonvillagehall@aol.com

Sunday outings with Go-Start

Sunday Outings run on the 3rd Sunday of every month, usually 11.30am-3.00pm

People are picked up at their home. The destinations for future trips, costing £2 return, are chosen by the people on the outings. Previous trips include Hadleigh Morrisons, Bury St Edmunds Garden Centre and Colchester Asda and town.

Phone Go-Start on 01787 242116 to join an outing

Is there a pothole that needs repairing or a street light not working?

Report it at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council-news>