

The Bulletin

September 2018

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 05

Dear Resident

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

Let me begin by congratulating the organisers of The Acton Open Gardens which took place on 9 and 10 June. Fortunately, the event came before the heat and lack of rain had a chance to bite. The gardens were a credit to the homeowners and it seemed to me that the event was a great success, bringing many visitors to the village. Thank you to all involved.

In marked contrast to the excellent community spirit which gave birth to the Open Gardens weekend, I am sad to report on what appears to be the systematic poisoning of the lime trees in Jennens Way. A recent inspection by local tree experts found drill holes in the two trees currently causing concern and a discarded carton which is believed to have contained the poison. The outcome is that at least one of the lime trees along Jennens Way will need to be taken down.

Can I draw your attention to the Community Speedwatch article on page 3. Dave Ashworth, our local organiser, has made huge progress with this initiative in recent months. All that is required now is to expand his team of local volunteers. Please do contact Dave if you feel you can help. A very small time commitment each month will pay a huge community dividend.

Another matter requiring your input is the Acton Infrastructure Investment Plan referred to on page 4. The purpose of the infrastructure plan is to identify and prioritise capital projects that will enhance the lives of local residents. These might include provision, or improvement, of passenger transport, library, health, leisure and community facilities. Perhaps you feel that additional pre-school and primary school places at our local school are required. While nothing is going to happen overnight, the first step towards improving our local facilities is to ensure that the plan reflects your priorities.

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>

Maintenance of Edna's Drift

Edna's Drift (the unofficial name by which the path connecting the High Street and Lambert Drive has become known) is a gateway to our primary school and much of our local community.

Unfortunately, the pathway, which is currently maintained by Babergh District Council, has become badly neglected.

The Parish Council feels that the poor condition of Edna's Drift reflects badly on the local community and has determined that unless the standard of District Council maintenance improves, it will seek permission to take over maintenance of this strategic and important pathway.

The things we do ... The Parish Council uses part of its precept (typically 5%) to support organisations that work to improve the lives of Acton residents. In 2018/19, the Parish Council will be providing the following financial support:

St Nicholas Hospice	£350.00	Acton Playing Fields Assoc.	£300.00
Sudbury 1 st Responders	£200.00	Suffolk Accident Rescue	£200.00
Sudbury CAB	£200.00	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	£150.00
Community Action Suffolk	£150.00	Kernos Centre	£100.00
Sudbury Newstalk	£100.00	Rural Coffee Caravan	£100.00
Woods Around Town	£100.00	Go Start	£100.00
Eden Rose Coppice Trust	£100.00	Headway Suffolk	£100.00

Malicious damage to trees in Jennens Way

In recent years, a number of protected lime trees in Jennens Way have died. Concerned that two more trees were deteriorating at an alarming rate, the Parish Council met with local tree experts to see if it was possible to identify why this was happening. Councillors were horrified to find that the two trees under review had been drilled and seemingly poisoned. This serious offence has been reported to the police and local residents are asked to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity targeted at these historic and beautiful trees.

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

Babergh Ward boundary review	<p>In response to Babergh District Council's wish to reduce the number of councillors from 43 to 32, the Boundary Commission has recommended the reconfiguration of many Ward boundaries. One notable outcome is that, from May 2019, Acton will be part of a newly configured Long Melford Ward served by two District Councillors.</p>
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<p>Good news! Suffolk constabulary have now agreed that our Community Speedwatch team can monitor the speed of cars at a number of points along the High Street and Waldingfield Road. If you are able and willing to join the Acton Speedwatch team please contact Dave Ashworth on 01787 377752 or at daveo_ashworth@hotmail.com</p>	Community Speedwatch needs you!
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Is it time to cut your hedge?	<p>Can householders with hedges bordering the pavement please ensure that they are cut back to the property's boundary line. Those needing to use mobility scooters and pushchairs rely on the goodwill of householders to ensure their safe and unhindered passage along the pavement. Thank you for your assistance with this.</p>
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<p>The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the closed churchyard at All Saints, Acton. Following a recent inspection an application has been made to the local authority to remove a weeping ash and to reduce the crown and side limbs of a large horse chestnut tree.</p>	Work to protected trees in churchyard
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Parish Council meetings	<p>Parish Council meetings are planned as follows: Bi-monthly meeting – 17 September 2018 Bi-monthly meeting – 19 November 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>
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Members of the public are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and can participate during public question time
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Could you be a village hall trustee?

Acton village hall is an important community asset providing residents with a wonderful space for many different groups and activities. As one of its trustees is about to move out of the area a vacancy has arisen.

Trustees attend approximately six meetings per annum and provide oversight and direction for the day-to-day management of the village hall. If you are interested in helping your local community by becoming a village hall trustee please contact Susan Chaplin on 01787 310003.

Regular activities at Acton Village Hall (weekly unless indicated)

Monday	Zumba	6:30pm – 7:15pm
	Scouts	7:30pm – 9:00pm
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
	Games Club	2:00pm – 4:00pm, monthly, 3 rd Weds
	Beavers	5:45pm – 7:00pm
Thursday	Chair-based exercise	10:15am – 11:15am
	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	Baby Ballet	9:00am – 12:00pm
	Baby Ballet	9:00am – 12:00pm

Community Infrastructure

The Parish Council is in the process of drawing up an Infrastructure Investment plan. It is doing this in order to audit the facilities available to Acton residents and to identify any shortcomings which might be funded by the District Council from monies generated by the contributions of housing developers to the Community Infrastructure Levy. Acton residents are invited to comment on local facilities that are either currently lacking or needing to be replaced or improved. Please forward your comments to the Clerk by post or to actonparishcouncil@gmail.com by 30 September 2018.

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

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