

The Bulletin



December 2018

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 06

Dear Resident

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

May I first of all congratulate and thank Mukunthan Thurairajah (Muku), of Acton Convenience Store, who won the best business in the community award at the Stars of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Awards evening on Thursday 18 October. The store lies at the heart of our community and we are grateful to Muku and his team for all their hard work on our behalf.

Continuing the winning theme, let me also congratulate Acton Cricket Club. Excellent performances over the summer led to them winning the Sunday League for the first time in their history. Well done.

You may recall that in our last issue we highlighted concerns about the poor standard of maintenance at Edna's Way (the path connecting the High Street and Lambeth Drive). Although not the Parish Council's responsibility, councillors feel that the condition of Edna's Way reflects badly on the local community. The Parish Council is therefore investigating a scheme of planting for this area and would like to hear from any members of the community who would be interested in helping to tend and maintain this area once established. Please convey your interest to the Clerk.

As you may be aware, there are parish council elections in May next year. While we have had a fairly settled Council over the last two terms, the indication is that some councillors, having served now for many years, will not be seeking re-election. If you feel you may be interested in serving on the Council why not come along to our meeting on Monday 21 January to get a sense of what is involved.

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>



Parish Council elections

Parish Councils throughout England will hold elections on Thursday 2 May 2019. Elections are held every 4 years. As this is likely to be the last Parish Council newsletter before nominations close on 3 April 2019 please note the qualification criteria for those wishing to stand for election as a Parish Councillor. You must be:

- be at least 18 years old;
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union; and,
- meet at least one of the following four qualifications:
 - a. you are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards.
 - b. you have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.
 - c. your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area.
 - d. you have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

Further information about standing for election is available from The Electoral Commission's online document *Parish and community council elections in England and Wales, Guidance for candidates*. Nearer the election, information will also be available from Babergh District Council.

The things we do ... although Acton residents have their domestic rubbish collected by the District Council, the Parish Council arranges, and pays for, the emptying of general and dog waste bins located in public spaces around the parish. Because the Parish Council wants Acton to be a place its residents can be proud of, it also contracts for a weekly pick of litter from local streets and hedgerows

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



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Your Parish Council

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Regular checks maintain standards

Parish Councillors undertake weekly inspections of the equipment at Lime Tree Green. These are supplemented by quarterly professional inspections. Councillors have recently arranged for the replacement of a climbing rope and the reinstatement of the footings under the talk tubes. Work to replace the safety surface under the carousel will commence in the next few weeks.

Although not organised by the Parish Council we are pleased to advertise the 2019 Acton litter pick which will take place on Saturday 9 March under the watchful eye of District Councillor Margaret Maybury. Starting at 10:00am on the Queensway green, volunteers will be provided with high-viz jackets, litter pickers and collection bags. Please put the date in your diary and come along.

**2019
community
litter pick – a
date for your
diary**

Improving our local environment

If you have walked down Jennens Way recently you will have noticed that hedges along the full length of the path have been trimmed and that the basal and epicormic growth around our precious lime trees has been cut back. The area within Lime Tree Green bordering Jennens Way has also been tidied up. Our thanks go to Suffolk Tree Services and Wayne Hickford for their excellent work.

The Parish Council has 40 allotment plots on Barrow Hill. There are currently two plots available and applications from interested Acton residents will be welcomed. Please contact the Clerk for further details.

**Allotment
tenancies still
available**

Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings are planned as follows:
Bi-monthly meeting – 21 January 2019
Bi-monthly meeting – 18 March 2019
Meetings are held in the Village Hall and commencing at 7:45pm.

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

**Acton Infrastructure Plan – where are we now?**

The community infrastructure project suggestions received to date by the Parish Council include provision of outdoor adult fitness equipment at Lime Tree Green, refurbishment of the kitchen and installation of acoustic boarding around the main meeting room at the village hall and better footpath signage around the parish. If you have any further suggestions please forward them to the Clerk by 31 December as it is proposed to bring a first draft of the Infrastructure Plan to the Parish Council meeting on 21 January 2019. The next round of bidding for District Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) monies will be between 1 May and 31 May 2019.

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	4:00pm – 5:30pm
	Hoopers	6:00pm to 7:00pm
	Garden Club	7:30pm – 9:00pm, monthly, 2 nd Thurs
Friday	Creative Stitch	9:30am - 12:30pm
Saturday	Baby Ballet	9:00am – 12:00pm

Could you help to create a Neighbourhood Plan for Acton?

A neighbourhood plan is a document, written by the local community, which sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area. It is a powerful tool to ensure the community gets the right types of development in the right place.

District and Parish Councillor Margaret Maybury has offered to act as a point of contact for any Acton residents willing to assist with the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Acton. If you would like more information and you are willing to work with others to produce a plan tailored to Acton's needs please contact Cllr Maybury at mmaybury106@aol.com

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

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