

The Bulletin

September 2019

The Acton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 07

Dear Resident

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

Following the Parish Council election in May we now have 4 new councillors. As well as welcoming new councillors Carol Dyer, Brian Grimsey, Teresa Farley and Graham Round on to the Council I would also like to thank former councillors Peter Edwards, Trudy Fisher, Lisa Franks, Jonathan Mathews and Will Shropshire for all their hard work over the last 4-years. Thanks also to Nick Antill, Christine Johnson and Margaret Maybury who continue to serve on the Council. Please note that the Council still has one vacancy (see page 3).

The Parish Council has been busy in recent weeks responding to an important planning application which seeks to build 100 homes on land south of Tamage Road. Councillors were encouraged by the attendance of 92 members of the public at the Parish Council meeting dated 24 July called specifically to determine this application. Residents spoke passionately about the cumulative impact that this development, if approved, will have on local infrastructure. The Parish Council recommended the application be refused.

The Parish Council's next challenge is to respond to the Draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (see page 2). The Planning Authority published this consultation document on 22 July and is inviting public comment until 30 September. The Draft Joint Plan will guide the growth strategy for Babergh and Mid Suffolk through to 2036. Although the document is long and technical another way to get to grips with it is to attend one of a number of exhibitions at which Local Authority Officers will be available to answer questions. I encourage you all to get involved in this important public consultation.

The Parish Council is delighted to note that our convenience store is now offering a post office service. Please encourage our local store owner by taking advantage of this new community service.

Paul Chaplin, Chairman, Acton Parish Council

Councillors: Nick Antill, Paul Chaplin (Chairman), Carol Dyer, Teresa Farley, Brian Grimsey, Christine Johnson, Margaret Maybury and Graham Round

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>

School Governor Opportunity at Acton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

We are looking for individuals from a diverse background to join the successful governing body. Governors have 3 key priorities:

- to set the strategic direction of the school
- to hold senior leaders to account
- to be accountable for the finance of the school

No specific qualifications or experience are needed, but an ability to interpret data and ask challenging questions is advantageous. Training opportunities would be available on appointment. A governor can make a really important contribution to a child's life, whilst developing personal and professional skills at the same time. If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the role and how to apply, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/governorsuffolk. Alternatively, you can call 01473 263972 or email: governance@suffolk.gov.uk.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (Draft Joint Plan)

This important document will guide the strategy for the growth of Babergh and Mid Suffolk through to 2036. The Parish Council has already begun to consider the policies and proposals within the document and will finalise its response at its meeting on Monday 16 September.

The Parish Council has already determined that it will oppose the expansion of the Acton Settlement Boundary (to include the development site south of Tamage Road) and will also challenge Acton's designation as a Core Village capable of further development.

The public should also respond to Draft Joint Plan proposals and are invited to attend drop-in exhibitions at which District Council Officers will answer questions. The closest exhibition is at Lavenham Village Hall (3.30pm to 7.00pm) on Wednesday 14 August. Details of other exhibitions can be found on the Parish Council website. The public consultation closes on 30 September 2019.

The Parish Council is aware that many Acton residents received template letters to assist with a response to a **planning application to build 100 homes south of Tamage Road**. Feedback suggests that some residents believe the letters to have been sent by the Parish Council. This is to confirm that this was not the case. Please see the Parish Council's website for our response to this application.

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

Parish Council vacancy

Following the Parish Council elections in May there remains one vacancy on the Council. If you would like to help maintain, support and enhance your community and wish to be considered for co-option onto the Council please contact the Clerk. The Parish Council usually meets once every two months.

Regular visitors to Lime Tree Green will have noticed the addition of two new picnic benches. We hope that these new facilities will enhance your visit. Responding to demand, the Parish Council will shortly be installing a new litter bin at the bottom of the village hall field.

Benches and bins**Wildlife area continues to flourish**

The Parish Council is grateful to all the volunteers who faithfully maintain the wildlife area on Barrow Hill. The team is working hard to improve accessibility and signage and there is evidence that clearance of some low level scrub is encouraging the return of fauna and flora that have not been seen within the wildlife area for some time. If you would like to join the team of volunteers working in this area please contact the Clerk.

The Acton Community Speedwatch Team is yet to get off the ground. In order for matters to progress the Team needs a Co-ordinator. If you are concerned about the speed of vehicles travelling through Acton and would be willing to lead a small group of speedwatch volunteers please contact the Clerk for further details.

**Wanted!
Speedwatch
Co-ordinator****Parish Council meetings**

Parish Council meetings are planned as follows:
Bi-monthly meeting – 16 September 2019 at 7:45pm
Bi-monthly meeting – 18 November 2019 at 7:45pm
Bi-monthly meeting – 20 January 2020 at 7:45pm

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

Sudbury Newstalk Do you have a relative, friend, neighbour or colleague who is registered blind or visually impaired? The volunteer team at Sudbury Newstalk records a fortnightly local Newspaper digest, and bi-monthly Magazine, which are distributed free to listeners throughout the area. The recordings are on USB sticks (posted to recipients' home) and listeners are provided with a USB player free of charge. To learn more and to listen to the latest edition of the magazine, visit www.sudburynewstalk.co.uk



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

Acton Garden Club meets at the Village Hall at 7:30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further information please telephone Sara on 01787 310683.

Is it time to cut your hedge? Can householders with hedges or growth bordering the pavement please ensure that they are cut back to the property's boundary line. Growth should not encroach over the pavement. Those who use mobility scooters, pushchairs or who require support to use the footway rely on the goodwill of householders to ensure their safe and unhindered passage along the pavement. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Is there a pothole that needs repairing or a street light not working?
Report it at <http://acton.onesuffolk.net/parish-council-news>