



West Hallam

Parish Council

Newsletter to Residents

Issue 29 - Spring 2018



A Message from the Chairman

Councillor Carol Hart

Dear Residents,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. Hopefully you will find the information interesting and informative.

As is pointed out in the article on the budget we have not asked for an increase in precept this year. We are always careful with our spending and we feel that we did not need to raise any extra income this year. I

hope residents feel that they get value for money in the Parish.



We are always looking at what we can do to make sure we keep West Hallam as a lovely place to live and generally I think we have great community spirit, but one thing recently really did upset me, a couple of weeks ago late one afternoon some mindless morons decided to empty the dog litter bin around the play area at Beech Lane. They smeared excrement on the play equipment and on the new zip wire which has only just been installed. This incident for some reason was not reported until 11 am the next day and because it was reported to Erewash Borough Council they immediately sent their Pride in Erewash team out to clear it up. They did report it to the Parish Clerk as it is our responsibility and we decided that because of a possible health hazard that the area should be deep cleaned.

Why don't these idiots realise that not only was it a dangerous health hazard but it also cost the Parish Council money to deep clean the

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

area and indirectly the cost goes back to our residents. It is such a shame as the new equipment which the Friends of Beech Lane Group, working with the Parish Council, are providing is nearly completed. The area looks so much better with new equipment and the new zip wire and then this happens. It is very disheartening for all involved.

We have still not definitely decided on what we are going to do to commemorate the First World War anniversary but a bench and/or some extra flower planters have been suggested. Depending on cost both options could be delivered. We have had one or two people asking that we clean the War Memorial up ready for the anniversary. It is difficult and it does look as though it could do with a good clean, but unfortunately we have been told by the experts that we should not have it cleaned too often as it will affect the marble. We are working with Reverend Gill Turner-Callis to reduce the foliage around the memorial as some of the bushes are in the vicarage garden. If we cut some of the shrubbery back it might keep the memorial cleaner. We will seek advice again but we do not want to damage the structure by cleaning too often.

Something else that has been raised by residents is the state of some of the grass verges around the village and estate. Unfortunately many choose to park on the verges and in some ways it does keep the traffic flowing freely but with all of the rain, snow and ice it has meant that many verges are very soft and now look to be a real mess. Derbyshire County Council and or Erewash Borough Council, depending on which verges, are reluctant to do anything at the moment as even if they fill the ruts with top soil and re-seed if cars park on the areas straight away we are back to square one. Hopefully once the weather improves and the ground hardens some work can be done to get the verges back in better condition.

As is mentioned later in this newsletter residents are always welcome to contact the Parish Council or better still attend the Parish Council meetings. We have an open session at every meeting, 7 pm until 7.30 pm when you can come and discuss anything with us. We welcome your feedback as to how we manage to deliver our parish services and we are always willing to listen if you have any suggestions that could improve our area.

Carol Hart
Chairman

Some Good News on Council Tax

There was good news for residents last month when the Parish Council agreed to freeze it's precept (the part of your Council Tax that comes directly to the Parish Council) for 2018/19.

The Parish Council was very keen to peg costs, despite a further reduction in grant received from the Borough Council. This does not however mean that there will be any reduction in services by your Parish Council. On the contrary, the Parish Council is planning to maintain standards for the things that it does - such as mowing and hedge cutting on recreation grounds, safely maintaining play equipment, etc and employing part-time litter pickers to help keep our parish open spaces, streets and verges clear of litter.

Please note that whilst the parish precept has been frozen, increases by Erewash Borough Council (equivalent to around 10p per week on a Band D property, after a six year freeze) and by Derbyshire County Council, the police and the fire and rescue services means that there will be some increase in Council Tax bills in the coming year.

Annual Parish Meeting - Monday 14 May 2018

All parishes, whether or not they have a parish council, hold a meeting once a year to discuss the affairs of the parish. It is an opportunity for the Parish Council to report on what it's been up to during the year, for borough and county councillors and village organisations to submit reports, and for villagers to raise any concerns they may have.

West Hallam's Annual Parish Meeting for 2018 will take place in the Powtrell Pavilion, Beech Lane Recreation Ground on Monday 14 May 2018 commencing at 6.30pm. The formal notice/agenda will be displayed on Parish notice boards and available on the Parish Council's website nearer the time.

All community groups are invited to submit a report to the Annual Parish Meeting. If you represent a group that wishes to do so please contact the Parish Clerk at contact@westhallam-pc.org.uk, indicating whether you want to attend and speak or to submit a written report to be read at the meeting.

Would a small grant help your organisation?

Would a small grant help your organisation or even help set up a new group ?

Your three Borough Councillors - Carol Hart, Barbara Harrison and Bruce Broughton - will have their Community Grant pot allocation in April and Councillor Hart has an additional pot of grant money through Derbyshire County Council.

Please contact any of them if you want some help. Contact details are on the back page.

Hanging Basket Sponsorship

In recent years it has not always been possible to accommodate all requests to sponsor hanging baskets in the village. However, Erewash Borough Council (through which the scheme is operated) now has extra capacity to take on extra baskets so any resident or business wishing to get involved in the scheme this year is welcome to contact our Parish Clerk (details on the back page).

The cost per basket is £95 per year for a 3 year sponsorship agreement or £165 for a one year agreement.

The Sponsor of a basket is recognised with a plaque - or it can read 'In memory of . . . '

Unfortunately the closing date for new applications is **Tuesday 3 April 2018** so you'll need to act quickly to avoid disappointment.

There's more information and a sponsorship form available on the Parish Council's website at <http://www.westhallam-pc.org.uk/page127.html>



Speed Awareness Stickers for Wheeled Bins



It was reported in the last newsletter that the Parish Council had agreed to purchase a supply of stickers which can be used on the side of wheeled bins to provide a reminder, when the bins are out for collection, of the speed limit in a particular area.

These are now available both for 30 mph roads and for use on High Lane where the speed limit is of course 40 mph.

These are now available (free of charge - one sticker per household) from **Brew and Bake** and from **the West Hallam Fryer** in the village on a first come first served basis.

Obviously only a sticker appropriate to your road should be displayed - much as many of us would like to see a 30mph limit on High Lane!

ActionFraud

Report Fraud & Internet Crime

0300 123 2040

How To Protect Your Email Against Criminals

Advice from Action Fraud

Email accounts contain more than just your emails. Email accounts contain a wealth of sensitive information. Criminals can use your email to reset passwords or obtain personal and financial information, such as your bank details, full address or date of birth, leaving you vulnerable to identity theft and fraud.

Secure your email account with two simple steps...

- 1 - Use a strong, separate password
- 2 - Enable two-factor authentication

For more information on how to stay safe on line visit

www.cyberaware.gov.uk

Parish Council Meeting Dates

The Parish Council normally meets on the second Monday of each month, except in August. **The next meeting is on Monday 9 April 2018.**

Meetings are held in the Powtrell Community Pavilion starting at 7 pm. Residents are very welcome to attend, and if there's something you'd like to say to or ask the Parish Council, the public open sessions at the beginning of the meeting provide the opportunity to do so.

If you'd rather raise something on a one-to-one basis then contact details for your Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk are on the back of this newsletter.

In Brief . . .

- **Activities for Young People:** Following the Easter Play Scheme the Parish Council will also be arranging a similar play scheme in the summer (details nearer the time), and also has arranged two 'wheeled activity days' in conjunction with Erewash Borough Council this year, featuring some of their mobile activity equipment. These will be in the Community Centre car park on Friday 10 August and Tuesday 21 August.
- **Changes at Derby Bus Station:** From Sunday 1 April 2018 Derby Bus Station are making some changes to which buses stop in which bays. For service no 11 and the Black Cat service the change is minor - moving from bay 4 to bay 3 - but if you use other services from the bus station you can check whether these are affected on the Trent Barton website at <https://www.trentbarton.co.uk/news-and-media/our-news/article/derbybusstationbaychanges>
- **Litter Picking at The Dales:** The Dales is predominantly privately owned and deployment of one of its litter pickers there is dependent upon an agreement for reimbursement of the costs by the site management. In May 2017 the Council was asked to suspend litter picking at The Dales as the property management company which runs the centre had advised they did not have the funds to pay the Council for the litter picking it provided. In the light of the complaints since the service was suspended, the Clerk was asked to contact the company to get an update on when the litter picking could resume but, at the time of going to press, it has not been possible to elicit a response from them. The Parish Council is continuing to try and progress this
- **Parking on Pavements:** The Parish Council has received complaints about the lack of consideration by some individuals who park their cars on the pavement, particularly on Station Road and at High Lane. Clearly for anyone using a disability scooter or pedestrians with prams or wheelchairs, obstructed pavements are an issue and the Police have been contacted for advice whether there is anything that can be done through the local Community Safety Partnership. Watch this space, but in the meantime the Parish Council urges motorists to park considerately.

Your Parish Councillors



Councillor Carol Hart
Chairman
0115 932 2513



Councillor Darren Adams-Shaw
Vice Chairman
0115 932 3000



Councillor Helena Chapman
0115 932 8645



Councillor Bridget Adams-Shaw
0115 932 3000



Councillor Chris Barnes
0115 930 3240



Councillor Bruce Broughton
0115 932 3531



Councillor Barbara Harrison
0115 932 3000



Councillor Tony Maclean
0115 932 3778



Councillor Celia Stephenson
0115 932 0931

Councillors Carol Hart, Bruce Broughton and Barbara Harrison are also members of Erewash Borough Council representing the West Hallam and Dale Abbey Ward.

Councillor Carol Hart is our local Derbyshire County Councillor



Contact the Parish Council



You can contact the Parish Council by writing to or phoning our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer -

Mrs Kate Sharpe, 25 Wilmslow Drive, Oakwood, Derby, DE21 2HR

Telephone 07986 740189 or e-mail

contact@westhallam-pc.org.uk