



# Headbourne Worthy Village News

Summer 2019

News and Information from your local Parish Council

## Annual Parish Meeting - Chair's Review



### Executive Summary of the Annual Review, April 2019. Cllr Claire Welland, Chair.

#### Introductions

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council is made up of seven councillors and a Clerk. Our councillors are currently:

- Cllr David Barrow
- Cllr Christine Clarke-Smith
- Cllr Claire Duncan
- Cllr Gimma Macpherson
- Cllr Jane Rutter
- Cllr Giles Vigor-Robertson
- Cllr Claire Welland

**Clerk & RFO:** Our clerk, Jill Judge resigned and our new clerk, Belinda Baker started working with us in January after a handover. The Parish Council is very grateful to Jill for all her efforts on our behalf, and we welcome Belinda to the role.

#### Finances: Precept

This financial year, the Parish Council's precept (the money requested from residents via the Council Tax) was £8,765. For the following financial year, the Parish Council has requested a precept of £8,805.

#### Grants Given

This financial year, a total of £600 in grant funding was awarded as follows:

- £400 was awarded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Winchester (The Worthies) Scout group towards new heating at Pax Hall.
- £200 was awarded to Citizens' Advice.

#### Planning Applications

This year, the Parish Council considered fourteen planning applications. Of these, two involved additional residences on the original plot of land, four

involved modifications or extensions to existing buildings, two involved work on protected trees, and one was a conversion to a holiday let. Causing some debate locally was the new car park to St Swithun's Church which was permitted after going to Planning Committee. Twelve of the planning applications were permitted, one was refused, and one was withdrawn.

#### Ongoing Events & Projects:

##### The Play Area at The Dell

Headbourne Worthy can now boast its own children's play area. In the past year Winchester City Council have provided a mixed-use bin, meanwhile the Parish Council has arranged for regular grass-cutting and maintenance. At the February meeting of the Parish Council, it was resolved to invest £25,000 into upgrading this play area. Residents have been looking at options with this budget in mind, and the Parish Council will be guided by their views. Councillors are very excited at the prospect of significant improvement to this community resource.

##### Council Tax in The Dell

A resident approached the Parish Council to query their council tax charge: despite being on the electoral roll for Headbourne Worthy they were being charged Council Tax for Kings Worthy which is a higher amount. The Parish

Continued...

New seat at The Dell play area, looking up towards the area set aside for the new play equipment.



**To contact your Parish Council, visit [www.headbourneworthy.org.uk](http://www.headbourneworthy.org.uk)**

or contact the Parish Clerk, Belinda Baker, email [clerk@headbourneworthy.org.uk](mailto:clerk@headbourneworthy.org.uk)

Edited and Produced by Cllr Jane Rutter, tel: 01962 884981 or 07766 431244

# Parish Council Annual Review - continued

Council is keen to ensure that not only are residents charged the appropriate Council Tax, but also that a refund is given for years when an overpayment was made.

## Notice-boards

The Parish Council has historically maintained three noticeboards in the village: at Taylor's Corner, and the corner of Nations Hill and Springvale Road, and at the corner of Bedfield Lane and Springvale Road. The noticeboards have all been renewed or refurbished during the past few years.

As Kings Barton lies within Headbourne Worthy parish, councillors requested that CALA Homes installed a noticeboard for community use within the development. This was installed in September 2018 and is used regularly by the Parish Council and residents.

## Litter Pick

Every year, volunteers turn up to pick up litter in the parish, and this year was no exception. Christine & Bevis Clarke-Smith hosted again, sending us off with a hot drink and a biscuit. This year a contingent from Kings Barton also participated collecting litter from the new estate. As always, it is alongside the roads through the village that the most litter is left – mostly thrown from passing cars. Please make a note of the number plate if you see anybody doing this and pass the information to the police or the Parish Clerk.

## Bus Stops & Shelters

The bus stop at Worthy Down that has been progressing for some time has now been installed, and residents are now able to use it. The Parish Council remains uncertain as to the responsibility for

maintenance. The Clerk is progressing this issue with Skanska.

## Maintenance

An area of overgrown scrub-land at the top of Nations Hill was identified by some residents and the Site Manager at Kings Worthy Primary School as requiring urgent attention. The Parish Council engaged with the company that provides the Lengthsman service to cut back the vegetation.

The Worthys Conservation Volunteers have offered their services to renovate the two areas of wildflower planting in Headbourne Worthy: one at the corner of Nations Hill and Springvale Road, and the other at the junction of Bedfield Lane and Springvale Road. The Parish Council is hopeful that the assistance provided by the group will be of significant benefit. The Worthys Conservation Volunteers are particularly in need of new volunteers to help with their worthwhile efforts across the Worthy parishes. Please get in touch with them at [enquiries@worthysconservationvolunteers.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@worthysconservationvolunteers.org.uk) for more information.

## Community Emergency Action Plan

With regard to flooding, the Chair has been meeting occasionally with other local Parish Councillors, Cllr Jackie Porter from HCC, as well as HCC staff working on flood prevention strategies. A consultation event took place last Autumn to explain to residents the work undertaken so far.

While these discussions continue, the Parish Council is using the Lengthsman to keep the culverts, drains and gullies clear where Down Farm Lane meets Springvale Road. However, the throughflow contains not just

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## City Councillor re-elected

Jane Rutter was re-elected in the May elections for Winchester City Council to represent the Worthys, which includes Headbourne Worthy and Kings Barton. She rejoins colleagues Jackie Porter and Malcolm Prince as one of our three local representatives at the District level. Jane is also on Headbourne Worthy Parish Council and edits this parish newsletter.

*Pictured: Jane Rutter with Tory Finch of the Kings Barton Residents' Association in Winchester Avenue. Jane is now the Chair of the Kings Barton Forum.*



# Parish Council Annual Review - continued

water but also dirt and vegetation. The current arrangement is not as effective as it could be.

The Parish Council is informed by the Environment Agency of groundwater levels. These updates can be obtained from the Environment Agency – any resident can opt in to receiving them. For more information please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk>.

Cllr David Barrow has spent some time updating the Parish Council's Emergency Plan which will be coming to the Parish Council for review.

Homes at Kings Barton showing a lovely new cycle path - currently going nowhere - in the foreground.



## Kings Barton

Development on the Kings Barton site continues. As well as the 17 homes developed by Bargate Homes at Barton Farm off Andover Road, approximately 180 residences on the Cala Homes site are now occupied. An active Residents' Association meets regularly, and often are present at Parish Council meetings for updates.

## **Winchester 10k - your comments please**

The popular Winchester 10k road race took place on Sunday 24 February this year. The first runners set off from central Winchester at 8:30am towards Kings Worthy along Worthy Road, turning into Bedfield Lane, then left again onto Well House Lane, before turning onto Andover Road to head back to the city centre.

During the race, a temporary road closure was in place from 8am to 10:30am, impacting residents of London Road, Bedfield Lane, Well House Lane, School Lane, Down Farm Lane, and all of Kings Barton. Challenging Events is the company that runs the Winchester 10k, and they say on their website that 'the roads were closed on a rolling basis, so that the roads were closed for the minimum amount of time for the residents whilst at the same time ensuring that our runners had the best experience'. After intervention from the Parish Council, some local homes received a letter informing them of the closures. However the Parish Council is aware of anecdotal accounts of residents who were uninformed

## Village Design Statement & Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council grows ever more aware of the need to define what makes Headbourne Worthy a special place: we look at lots of planning applications over the year, and we sometimes struggle to articulate why a particular scheme does or doesn't fit. One of the ways in which we can formalise this is to engage in a Village Design Statement process. This needs a group of residents, supported by the Parish Council to begin the work. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Clerk.

Headbourne Worthy is considering working in partnership with neighbouring Kings Worthy to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a supplementary planning document to the Local Plan adopted by Winchester City Council. The development of the plan takes some years, but has many benefits to the parish. If you would like to become involved please get in touch.

## **Can you help?**

In seeking to reduce costs for residents, this newsletter is delivered by volunteers. Would you be happy to deliver to the homes in your street? Please get in touch with our Clerk if you can help.

## **Conclusion**

Headbourne Worthy faces some significant challenges: not only as the traffic levels increase due to the building at Kings Barton, but also with the more unpredictable weather patterns. The Parish Council must rise to meet these challenges, using our influence and our budget where we can to improve the lives of our residents.

*Cllr Claire Welland, Chair*

of the road closure and were unable to access their homes for several hours.

Challenging Events are already planning for the 2020 event, and the Parish Council would like to ensure that full consultation takes place to ensure that participants are kept safe and residents have appropriate access to their homes. Therefore if you have some input for our discussions with Challenging Events please get in touch.



# Village Lengthsman - News and progress

It's that time of year again when we ask all Headbourne Worthy residents to check the hedges and trees growing in their properties alongside the roads and pavements. Please make sure that your verdant foliage is not overhanging the pavement and that, where your property borders the public footway, the yardstick of a tall father being able to push a twin buggy along the pavement past your property while also walking his dog is entirely do-able!

We have a Lengthsman who sends a team of two men every ten weeks. Unfortunately there is so much that needs doing in the summer to clear the banks and verges, to say nothing of strimming the nettles and clearing gutters and (where possible) drains, that at this time of year it is mostly catch-up work that gets done. The team have promised they will bring their chipper next time so that the thinned-out branches and dead wood can be chipped and returned to the hedgerows as mulch (see the picture below of a typical overgrown hedgerow requiring



attention). However, we really need all villagers to act as the eyes of the parish regarding public footpaths, cycle tracks and pavements - or anything else that needs attention. Please let our Parish Clerk, Belinda, know where work is particularly needed. The Lengthsman's team is next due on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

*Cllr Gimma Macpherson*

## Action Fraud Alert

An increase in malicious calls and voice-mails are being reported about Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) stating that as a result of non-payment prosecution etc will follow which can be avoided by using bank transfer or paying by itune vouchers! There often follows threats of immediate arrest, sending bailiffs or even deportation with dates being quoted as too long ago for paperwork to have been retained.

A genuine case would be notified by HMRC by post with a reference number to quote and the advice is:

1. Always question unsolicited requests and contact the company or in this case HMRC separately by phone using a trusted number
2. No legitimate company would ask for payment using itune vouchers!
3. Do not be rushed or pressured into making a decision. No genuine bank or organisation such as HMRC would force you to make an 'on the spot' financial transaction
4. Report 'phishing' attempts to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040

*Margaret Filley, Neighbourhood Watch Volunteer:  
m.filley310@btinternet.com*

## Parish Website

Headbourne Worthy Parish Councillors are hoping to promote their website as a community resource for the village. We want to know about your events and news and we will post them up either as articles, messages or as links to your websites. If everything is in one place, even if it is just pointer information, then it will be easy to find out more about what is going on in the village. All new events are even tweeted out (you can follow #HWorthy\_PC). So let me know about that village fete, that fundraising activity or that band playing and we then can all get to know about it.

Send the information to [clerk@headbourneworthy.org.uk](mailto:clerk@headbourneworthy.org.uk) and I will let you know when it is posted.

*Belinda Baker*

*Clerk to Headbourne Worthy Parish Council.  
07770 406607*