

Dog Walking in Ampfield Public Spaces

In June the Parish Council reviewed the results of the winter trial which for the first time allowed dog walking on the Recreation Ground. We also considered requests received from dog owners to continue the practice. Council concluded that dog owners had found great benefit in this change and also no significant problems had arisen regarding fouling. Consequently, we decided to allow dog walking all year round. We are pleased to report that during the summer months there were also no problems.

Dog walking is now available throughout the year in all three public spaces managed by the Parish Council: the Recreation Ground, the Village Green and Chapel Wood. We hope that all dog owners will enjoy this amenity.

Highways & Byways

During the winter months we usually experience an increase in road and pavement problems. Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) are working under significantly reduced budgets and getting problems fixed can seem like an uphill task. If you do encounter a highway problem in the parish, then the first thing to do is report it. Don't assume that somebody else already has. The best way to do this is to use the Council's web sites.

Both HCC and TVBC have useful web sites, but for highways, probably the best first port of call is the HCC site at www.hants.gov.uk. The home page has a range of service entry points, the one to click on is 'Transport and Roads' and then 'Report Road and Paving Problems'. Here you will find links to report many highways related problems, including Potholes, Bad Paving, Flooding & Drainage, etc. with maps allowing you to pinpoint the exact location of the problem. Also included is a link to report Rights of Way problems - see the Lengthsman item below.

The advantage of using the site is that it provides a means of tracking your problem and the Council's speed of response (or lack of it!). Importantly it also increases the visibility of the problem and the resolution to others within and outside the Council. So next time you notice a problem, please log on and give it a go!

Despite the budget constraints, the HCC funded Lengthsman programme is continuing for another year. Ampfield Parish Council welcome our continued membership of this scheme, which gives us a free resource (8 person days/annum) to complete highways small works as prioritised by the parish. This year the contract has been awarded to Premier Grounds & Garden Maintenance, where Lee Ebury will be looking after Ampfield.

The company are very experienced in Lengthsman highways support across Hampshire and also undertake work on footpaths. We have a small but important footpath network in our parish. So if you are a walker or rambler and become aware of a footpath problem (e.g. overgrowing vegetation, broken stiles or finger posts) then again, the best way to report these is by using the HCC web site mentioned above.

How do I get in touch with Ampfield Parish Council?

Contact: Clerk to the Council: Doreen Matthews, Blue Haze, Ampfield Hill, Romsey, SO51 9BD

Tel: 01794 368 437

Email: clerk@ampfield.org.uk

Web Site: www.ampfield.org.uk

Newsletter Autumn 2017



Ampfield Parish
Council

An update on what's going on in our parish

A New Pavilion for Ampfield Recreation Ground



Subject to some finishing touches, the new pavilion is completed, though unfortunately it was not in time to catch the end of the cricket season. The old pavilion, which was in a very poor state of repair, was removed in 2004. It is pictured overleaf, to give you a 'before and after' perspective.

It was a busy and exciting time as the new building took shape and was fitted out. Recent changes to Building Regulations meant that electrically powered heating and showers could not be installed as originally planned, but instead a propane gas system had to be used. This resulted in additional cost and caused delays though, in the longer term, running costs should be reduced.

Ampfield and North Baddesley Cricket Club have paid for the construction of a picket fence, which forms a garden area in front of the pavilion and have provided tables & chairs to be installed there. These can be used by members of public when cricket is not being played.

The Parish Council and the Cricket Club are delighted with the new pavilion which will be a great community asset.

New Pavilion for Ampfield Recreation Ground (continued)



The Old Pavilion



The New Pavilion Verandah

The planning permission, which was granted in 2005, requires the creation of a car park along the northern edge of the recreation ground; this area is currently occupied by the playground. A new playground will be installed in the north-east corner of the recreation ground once the remaining wooden changing pavilion has been removed and the ground re-instated.

The new pavilion also requires its own sewerage treatment facilities, as these are currently provided by the White Horse. A project to install such a plant will start very soon.

Ampfield Parish Council wishes to thank Test Valley Borough Council, who provided a grant towards building costs. The remainder of the funding is coming from contractual contributions made by developers who have built in the parish, primarily Perbury and English Homes the developers of Morleys Green and Broadgate Farm respectively.

Could You Be a Village Agent?

Many parishes in Hampshire have an active Village Agent scheme. The programme, managed by Age Concern, provides training and support for volunteers who would like to do something to actively help the aged and infirm in their community. The role is primarily to act as an information supplier, signposting folks to information on things like care services, company at meal times, transport for shopping and medical appointments, finding reputable tradespeople and getting help around the home.

Ampfield currently doesn't have an active scheme. However, given the age demographic across the parish, we thought it worthwhile to publicise the programme, in case there are any parishioners who would be interested in giving some of their time to the scheme.

The role would be to work as a volunteer with Age Concern, not the Parish Council. However we would be interested in trying to support the efforts of a Village Agent if the programme were to become active in Ampfield. So if you are interested, in the first instance, contact Age Concern at :-

<http://www.ageconcernhampshire.org.uk/our-services/village-agent>

Ampfield Village Hall

It has been a busy time in the Village Hall. Due to the success of the weekly Café and IT Support Service, we were awarded a grant from TVBC for £903 towards the cost of a new laptop and a broadband update providing Hall users with a superfast service. We also received a grant from TVBC for £347 to cover the cost of upgrading our wall lights to LED technology.

Volunteers have worked hard to create an extended patio outside the Hall annexe. A new flower bed will complete the project, which will provide an attractive outside seating area for the Market customers and Hall hirers. Recent successful fundraising events have included a Quiz and Pantomime.

A Village Design Statement for Ampfield



Aerial View of the Upper Hocombe Settlements

The process of revising the 17 year-old village design statement (VDS) has continued throughout the summer. Using the results of the questionnaire and the new landscape characteristics survey, the VDS team wrote the initial draft of the revised document which was then sent to the planning officers at Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) for their review.

After discussions with the planning officers the first draft received provisional approval. There followed a period of public consultation, which included an exhibition at the Ampfield village hall during two days in November.

The exhibition comprised a photographic display which set out the background story of the VDS and its conclusions. Also available for inspection were the first draft of the VDS, the proposed planning guidance

notes, the results of the questionnaire, the landscape characteristics survey and copies of the minutes of all of the group's meetings. The whole message was reinforced by a VDS slideshow (video projection) that played throughout the proceedings.

Both exhibition days were well attended, with close to 70 people turning up. We felt this was a good response, particularly as each of the five geographical Ampfield regions were represented.

An important part of the exercise was to obtain parishioners' comments on the draft VDS and response forms were available for this purpose. From the comments we received, it was evident that there was widespread agreement and support for the issues raised in the revised draft. There is clearly a desire to avoid development in the green spaces in the parish, for example the village green at Morleys and the recreation ground.

All feedback of this nature is good to know as, once we have the evidence, we can include it in the final document. Further notes relating to the VDS, including the slideshow are available on the Ampfield Parish Council website www.ampfield.org.uk

The next stage is to consider the information we obtained from the exhibitions and agree the final wording of the VDS, together with the supporting photographs and maps. The completed document will then be presented to Ampfield Parish Council for their review and formal endorsement. Once this has been received, the final draft will be completed and passed to the officers at TVBC. They will then undertake their own six-week period of consultation.

Following the TVBC formal period of consultation, any last proposed amendments will be reviewed and agreed. The resulting complete text will be formally given to TVBC with a request that it is adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. It will then take its place alongside the Adopted (Borough) Local Plan in the planning framework.

The Ampfield VDS team is most grateful for all the contributions and support it has received during this important exercise. It is particularly appreciative of the kind help and guidance it has received from the planning officers at the borough. The original VDS was an excellent piece of work and the revised edition will seek to emulate that for the future period.



The VDS Exhibition in the Village Hall