

## Ampfield Recreation Ground

When the Ampfield Recreation Ground (ARG) was purchased some 12 years ago, the sports pavilion on the site was in very poor condition and had to be removed. The vision was to build a new pavilion, however finding sufficient funding for such a project has been a lengthy business.



Now, thanks to local infrastructure funding from the developments at Morleys Green and Broadgate Farm, we are in a position to seriously develop plans to build the new pavilion. If all goes well, it is hoped that it will be completed in 2017.

Cricket has been played at Ampfield for over 100 years but the current team facilities are inadequate and in need of improvement. In addition, the provision of a suitable pavilion will contribute to the development of other sports activities in the parish.

As part of the new pavilion project, improvements in car parking arrangements will be considered. In addition, the playground may have to be moved. As we develop these plans we will ensure that all parishioners are kept informed.

We are looking at the possibility of installing new sports facilities at the Recreation Ground and ideas would be warmly welcomed, so please contact us at [clerk@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampfield.org.uk).

## Introducing Our New Parish Councillor

### Julie Trotter – co-opted to Council in July 2015

I have lived in Ampfield for 25 years and my late husband, Martin, and I have always been fully involved in village life. We both firmly believed in giving something back to the community in which we chose to settle and we started the Village Market in September 2000 in order to bring the scattered residents and groups together on a regular basis. The Market continues to be a great success and has raised over £17,000 for Village Hall funds since it began. I am also Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, run a successful weekly art class in the Hall and have also played an active role in various parish groups, for example The Friends of Chapel Wood. I was a teacher in Hampshire schools for 15 years, but since 1990 I have pursued a more independent career, becoming a photographer and botanical artist based in a studio in Broughton.

Ampfield and the surrounding countryside are very important to me and I enjoy walking and being outdoors. I am keen to preserve and protect the local rural character as much as possible, although I do believe that some change and new development are important for parish life to evolve and prosper. I have good local knowledge and I hope that being a member of the Parish Council will enable me to contribute further to parish life in a positive and beneficial way.

### 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](mailto:clerk@ampfield.org.uk)

Web Site: [www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk)

## Newsletter Autumn 2015



Ampfield Parish  
Council

An update on what's going on in our parish

## Allotments Available in Ampfield

An exciting opportunity for those parishioners who would like a little bit of extra land to grow produce, such as vegetables, soft fruits and flowers! This is a brand new project being overseen by Ampfield Parish Council and will be set in the heart of the village adjacent to the Morleys Green development. Ampfield Parish Council would like to offer you the chance to rent an allotment and become a member of Ampfield Allotment Holders Association (AAHA).



### Key Features of the Allotments

- \* Free parking
- \* Toilet
- \* Mains electricity
- \* Secure store
- \* Tea/Coffee making facilities
- \* Rabbit proof fencing
- \* Secure environment

### The offer of allotments is open to Ampfield parishioners only.

It is hoped that 20 allotment plots will be available for use from February 2016. Each plot will be around ¼ size of a standard allotment at 2.5 rods or 65m<sup>2</sup>. The plot rental will be £30 per annum. Parishioners can apply for double plots (5 rods or 130m<sup>2</sup>) at a rental of £60 per annum. There will be a deposit for the plot, store and gate keys which will be refundable.

As you can see from the plan above, the allotments will be situated adjacent to the new housing development. Because of this location there will be some constraints on allotment usage, for example no sheds or structures are allowed and no un-cleared rubbish to be left on site.

The latest terms and conditions are on our website: [www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk) (under the 'allotments' link)

*Continued overleaf*



## Allotments Available in Ampfield (continued)

It is intended that the amenity will be self-funding and managed by the allotment holders, as part of the planned Ampfield Allotment Holders Association.

These will be the first public allotments in Ampfield and we expect it to be a bit of a learning curve. However, we hope we can get them all occupied within a year and generating a satisfying source of natural fresh produce!

If you like the idea of being an allotment holder and would like to register an interest in renting an allotment, then e-mail Doreen Matthews, our parish clerk, at [clerk@ampfield.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampfield.org.uk). Please ensure that you include your name, postal address and e-mail address.

Your e-mail will be followed up with an information pack which includes an application form. More details will also be posted on our website [www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk)

***We look forward to hearing from you!***

## Village Hall News

The work to extend and refurbish Ampfield Village Hall was successfully completed at the end of August. The improvements were funded from the Morleys Green development and topped up with a generous grant from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC). Village Hall committee members then worked hard to decorate the entire hall in time for the grand opening ceremony, which was held on 3rd September.



The facilities now include a large, beautifully equipped kitchen, a light and airy annexe with a sunny patio area, a committee room and two new toilets. The new layout provides versatile rooms ideal for all family occasions and group activities. Externally the front access now has a tarmac surface and a large car park has been added to the side of the building.

The Hall is currently owned by the Women's Institute (WI) and leased to the Village Hall Management Committee until 2103. Your parish council is currently purchasing the

freehold of the Hall from the WI in order to secure its future as a community asset. This is proving to be a long process and at this time is not concluded. However, we will keep you informed of progress via our web site.

## Affordable Housing in Ampfield

Six houses on the Ampfield Morleys Green development are being marketed under a Shared Ownership scheme by Hyde New Homes. The selection of two and three bedroom houses have living space of up to 1031 sq.ft, with gardens and terraces, as well as two parking spaces. Each home comes with an open plan kitchen and dining area with full gloss kitchen units, separate living room and family bathroom.

Two bedroom houses are priced from £108,000 for a 40% share (full market value £270,000) and three bedroom houses start from £128,000 for a 40% share (full market value £320,000). To be considered eligible for the homes at Morleys Green, applicants must live or work in the Parish of Ampfield or have strong family connections with the area. At the time of writing one house is under offer.

In addition there are six rented houses also managed by Hyde New Homes which will be available from the end of October; priority will be given to people with a connection to the parish.

For more information or to register your interest, call: 0845 606 1221 or email: [info@hydenewhomes.co.uk](mailto:info@hydenewhomes.co.uk)

There will also be affordable homes available at the Broadgate Farm development. Once details are available we will let you know via the Parish web site: [www.ampfield.org.uk](http://www.ampfield.org.uk)

## Planning Update

So far this year we have considered and responded to the Planning Authority on just under 60 Planning Applications. These range in complexity from the simple and straight forward minor extension or tree pruning, to the complex, and sometimes controversial, multi-unit applications. We are always conscious that we are not professional planners and thus, whilst we can bring a good standard of local knowledge as to what would be suitable, our views might not be shared by the Officers of TVBC. However we enjoy a good working relationship with the Local Authority Planners and are prepared to invest and engage specialist consultants when we feel it is appropriate.

### Ampfield Hill Gypsy and Traveller Planning Application

The application for a Gypsy and Traveller site on Ampfield Hill in 2013 was a case in point. Although this application was returned by TVBC as 'Invalid', the Parish Council decided to continue to employ an ecology specialist (EPR). In the spring of 2014 we asked them to conduct a Great Crested Newt (GCN) survey on the land adjacent to the application site. Thus when a similar (but not identical) application was made earlier this year we were able to release that data, which included the conclusion that GCN were present on the site. GCN are a European protected species and development can only be undertaken in their habitat where it can be shown either no damage to the newts will occur or it can be mitigated. Even then, development can only proceed if there are strong reasons for not considering alternative sites. Our response, including the specialist reports, ran to nearly 60 pages. Such complex applications require significant expenditure by the parish and considerable effort by the Parish Council.



Broadgate Farm



Morleys Green

At the time of writing we are still awaiting the Planning Officer's recommendation, which will be taken to the Southern Area Planning Committee for a decision and then possibly the Planning Control Committee of TVBC. If these deliberations lead to a refusal, the applicant can appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, who would then make the final decision.

### Other Developments

Work on the two major developments in the Parish, namely Broadgate Farm and Morleys Green, has been progressing apace. Both are of high quality design and set the standard in terms of construction. The developers, English Developments (Broadgate Farm) and Perbury (Morleys Green), have made significant £106 contributions (developer's financial support to infrastructure) including highways, recreational facilities, and in the case of Morleys Green, the Village Hall and a new village green. Both developers have also made funds available which go a considerable way to support the building of a new pavilion at the Recreation Ground. It is envisaged Morleys Green will be completed by the end of this year and Broadgate Farm towards the end of 2016.

*The Parish Council have been informed by Ampfield Golf Club that they will be holding a firework display from around 7.30pm on 5<sup>th</sup> November, so if you have animals which might be affected please be aware. We are grateful when local organisations inform us of such events, particularly at this time of the year, so that we can alert the parish via our web site and help to minimise the possible distress of nearby animals.*

