

TewinParishCouncil

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Tewin Parish Council - Chairman's Report 2013-14

This past year began with success for our long campaign to get Upper Green Road and Orchard Road re-surfaced. We also cleared ditches, which reduced the flooding at Lousehole Bottom on the road to Hertford, but we are still waiting for Highways to finish the job by clearing a road gulley. We re-surfaced Footpath 11 above 100 Year Wood to make it passable in wet weather.

Two disabled parking bays were installed at the car park on Upper Green. The CIC had a successful year in hiring out the Upper Green Pavilion, and arrangements have been made to provide extra storage space.

We have supported a campaign which appears to have achieved the go-ahead for the installation of super fast broadband on the Bull's Green exchange serving Tewin Wood.

Friends of Tewin donated the permanent Christmas tree that we planted on Lower Green.

Hopefully the major building works at Sevenacres, the old Tewin Garage, and Grass Warren will be completed this year, and we can turn our attention to repairing the damaged verges etc. We successfully campaigned for the new section of road at Grass Warren, which we hope will make life easier for the local residents. We are still involved in discussions about the dead conifers, the unsafe wall, and the flooding at the Sevenacres site.

We have been successful in getting Section 106 monies from the Sevenacres development allocated to providing a new footway between the village and Upper Green. The downside is that it can only be done as an official Highways project. Thank you to all residents who responded to a recent public consultation on the plans for this project. We are also hoping to get a permanent repair to the kerb along the north side of Lower Green, but we may have to do some temporary work in the meantime.

The hole on the south side of Lower Green also needs a permanent repair and we are waiting on Highways to agree to repair the broken gulley pipe which is the cause of the recurring problem.

Consultation on the draft of the new District Plan is currently underway. There are a number of stages to go through yet, but if there are no upsets, Tewin will become a Group 2 village with the existing village boundary, which basically means that there is much less scope for house building over the life of this plan to 2031.

For 2014-15, the parish precept will be £28000. This is spread over a few more houses this year, with the net result that the parish portion of the Council Tax for a Band D house will be £34.69, an increase of 82 pence, or 2.4%, over the previous year. The precept is our only regular source of income. We are not like a District Council, which can freeze its Council Tax but increase charges elsewhere. We currently receive payments under the New Homes Bonus, but they are not guaranteed.

Finally, thank you to the my fellow Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk, our District Councillors, our new County Councillor and our MP, for their help and support through the year. Also a thank you on behalf of parishioners to all the volunteers who run the various village institutions and societies, that help make Tewin a great place to live. Welcome to new residents, and I would encourage everybody to join in with the community. Even with modern busy lives, there are various events in the village where you can help just for a day. You get to meet new people and it is great fun.

Other Items of Interest

388 Bus Route

Herts County Council has advised Tewin Parish Council that the 388 bus will not be able to operate a hail and ride bus stop on Upper Green Road between Harwood and Godfries Close. This is because it is not deemed safe for the bus to stop as the road is bendy and the visibility is impaired for both oncoming traffic and traffic behind the bus.

New Police Initiative – Community Drive Safe

Drive Safe is a new initiative on speed monitoring in villages whereby residents are trained in using smiley face speed awareness equipment. The Parish Council would be grateful to hear from anybody who would like to volunteer to assist us using this equipment. Please contact the Clerk on 01438-798969 if you are interested.

Superfast Broadband

Herts County Council has received formal confirmation that they have been successful in their funding bid to upgrade the Bulls Green exchange which covers Tewin Wood and Datchworth. More information on the next stage and timescales is expected in May. Tewin Parish Council would like to thank everyone for their support by providing us with your letters and emails, and registrations to support the bid.

Flag Pole

Tewin Parish Council would like to apologise for the lack of St Patricks Day flag recently. This was because the halyard had been unhooked and pulled to the top of the flagpole where it got stuck. We would like to thank the local farmer for taking the time to retrieve the halyard.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday 12th May 2014 at 7.45pm at Tewin Memorial Hall. Please see website for future dates.

Agenda: Please notify the Clerk at least one week before the meeting if you wish to suggest items for discussion at the meeting. The agenda is published on the Notice Board outside Tewin Stores 3 working days before the meeting. *All Parishioners are welcome to attend and can make comments at the start of the meeting.*

Minutes: These are displayed at Tewin Stores and Tewin Memorial Hall and on the website www.tewinvillage.co.uk. The minutes are not published until approved and signed at the subsequent meeting.

East Herts District Councillors - North Ward:

Cllr Michael McMullen Tel: 01920-463430

East Herts District Councillors - South Ward:

Cllr Linda Haysey Tel 01992-582151

Herts County Councillor: Cllr Ken Crofton Tel: 01438 869650

Tewin Parish Council
Summary of Income and Expenditure for the Year 2013/2014

<i>Income</i>	£
Precept	27955
Grass Cutting (HCC, EHC, Riversmead)	3906
Interest	76
Allotment Rent	315
New Homes Bonus	2944
Taylor Wimpey Donation	6000
Other Income incl Donations (Xmas tree)	1145
Parish Paths Partnership P3 Grant	1000
Total	43,341
<i>Expenditure</i>	£
Administration	13594
Grass Cutting (HCC,EHC, Riversmead)	3906
Parish Grass Cutting	3324
Parish Paths	2144
Disabled Car Park Spaces & Storage Planning permission	4404
Playground Inspection, Lower Green Electricity	85
Contingency Fund (Church Green tree removal, Upper Green hedge works)	260
Allotments	357
Xmas Tree	1032
R&M (Lousehole Bottom ditch clearance, Graffiti removal, PAT Testing, electrical works Lower Green, flag etc)	1060
Parish News	150
Loan Repayment	5834
Total Expenditure	36150
Total Income less expenditure	+7191