

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Chairman's Report – April 2024

In this report, I shall give a brief overview of which parts of Tewin are cared for by the Parish Council (TPC).

The Parish Council actually owns very little land. It owns Village Green 70 which runs alongside Bramfield Road, north of its junction with Queen Hoo Lane. It also owns 100 Year Wood at the top end of Upper Green. Both are covered in trees.

The Parish Council rents Upper Green, Maypond Green and Lower Green from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) on a long term lease at peppercorn rent. TPC is responsible for the greens as if it were the owner but still needs to get permission from HCC for any major works. TPC owns most of the fixtures on the greens.

TPC rents land from a private owner in order to provide an allotment facility.

There are a number of small pieces of registered Common Land within the parish, such as the grass triangle at the roadside end of the church drive. Common land is privately owned but registered "commoners" can have rights such as gathering firewood, grazing animals, etc. Within Tewin, none of the common land has known owners or commoners. It falls to the Parish Council to look after these areas.

Roadside verges are a very mixed bag. They can be privately owned by the roadside property, common land, the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways, owned by Herts County Council (HCC) Estates, owned by Sovereign Housing Association, etc

Most footpaths, bridleways etc are on privately owned land, but HCC effectively owns the topsoil so that it can maintain the surface if necessary.

TPC organises the grass cutting in the parish, but HCC, East Herts Council (EHC) and Sovereign pay for the areas that they are responsible for. TPC keeps the grass and hedges trimmed on footpaths.

Occasionally, the Parish Council takes care of land that it is not responsible for. The small area of land immediately south of the Rose & Crown does not have an owner. It is in a central public area with a footpath running through it, so TPC looks after the trees, and this year, has tidied up the undergrowth.

Every spring, the Parish Council does a Risk Assessment to see what maintenance is required. Most of the outcomes are the responsibility of TPC, but some is pursued with other agencies. A major component of the Risk Assessment is now checking the trees that the Parish Council is responsible for. In the last three years we have spent over £11,000 on tree works.

The Parish Precept for 2024-25 is £38,000. The household charge is circa £44 pa Band D (£88 pa Band H).

My thanks go to the other members of the Parish Council, and to the Parish Clerk for their help and support.

Our two District Councillors, Michael McMullen and Linda Haysey, both retired at last May's elections, and it was sad to hear that Michael died earlier this year. He was a good friend to Tewin, and often seen at village events with his wife Angela. Following recent reviews of the East Hertfordshire Council wards, we now welcome Bob Deering as our District Councillor for the whole Parish.

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Thanks go to our County Councillor Ken Crofton and to volunteers who help the Parish Council throughout the year. All Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and all Council business is decided by a majority vote. Parish Council documentation is on the Tewin Village website.

Keith St Pier, Chairman