

TEWIN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

April 2017

One of the main functions of the Parish Council is maintaining the fabric of the village. To this end, we have undertaken the significant expense of installing granite kerbstones along the northern edge of Lower Green, to protect the edge of the Green and to enhance the Conservation Area. Also following discussions with the Parish Council, Greene King have protected the green triangle in front of the Plume of Feathers by installing a wooden surround.

The Parish Council owns the Pavilion on Upper Green which has been successfully run by the volunteers of the Community Interest Company. We have obtained planning permission to extend the front of the Pavilion to provide much needed extra space. We are now looking into costings and funding.

The new East Herts District Plan continues to progress. Following the recent consultation exercise, the plan now goes before the Planning Inspector. Only factual corrections have been made at this stage. It is still being proposed that Tewin will be a Group 2 Village, only allowing infilling within the existing Village Development Boundary around the Lower Green area. There may be different opinions as to what are the essential characteristics of a village, but the Parish Council believes that if you keep adding 10% more houses every ten years or so, then eventually those essential characteristics will be lost.

House building places a burden on the village and its residents. Sevenacres and its residents are part of the village now, but the development has been ongoing since 2007 and there are still outstanding problems. Last year, the Sevenacres Resident's Association were disappointed that I had not mentioned that they were still trying to get various problems fixed by the builders. Well this year I can make amends, and say that they are still trying to get some problems fixed. For instance, if you buy in a road of new houses, you don't expect to find out that Thames Water has not adopted parts of the sewer system.

One of the benefits of living in Tewin, is the many organisations run by volunteers. In particular this year, we mention the Drivesafe Team, who go out two or three times a month to set up a portable roadside speed indicator to make drivers aware of the speed that they are driving. This helps to make Tewin a safer place. The Drivesafe Team have also provided the justification for a permanent flashing speed sign and applied for funding on behalf of the Council. They need more volunteers, and can be contacted by email at drivesafe.tewin@gmail.com

The Parish Council is one of the organisations that has given a grant to the Tewin Community Bus project, which is currently running a minibus service to Hertford and Welwyn Garden City each Saturday.

It is also worth mentioning that Tewin is not about to become part of Welwyn Hatfield. Current talk of boundary changes only applies to the constituency boundary for MPs. Tewin remains part of East Herts District Council. Current headlines about brown bin collections only apply to Welwyn Hatfield. The continued delivery of the Welwyn Hatfield Council magazine to local addresses is the fault of the systems used by the commercial company that handles the delivery.

Thank you for the help and support from the other members of the Parish Council, our two District Councillors and our County Councillor. And we all appreciate the efficient work of our Parish Clerk.

A special thank you to the parishioner who provided funds to buy a new Christmas tree on Lower Green after some vandal decided to drive at and over the original.

The Parish Precept for 2017-18 is £29,500. All Councillors are unpaid volunteers and all Council business is decided by a majority vote.

Keith St Pier
Chairman
Tewin Parish Council

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PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

The next Parish Council meeting is the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.45pm at Tewin Memorial Hall.

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, Tewin Memorial Hall and on the website www.tewinvillage.co.uk. The minutes are not published until approved and signed at the subsequent meeting.

Meeting Dates and Newsletters: These are published on the website www.tewinvillage.co.uk

Queries :

Chairman, Keith St Pier Tel: 01438-717551

Clerk, Caroline McFarlane Tel: 01438-798969 E-mail - tewinparishclerk@btinternet.com

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

Police Community Team: **01707-354192** - For non-emergency purposes

Herts Highways Fault Line: **0300 1234047** or www.hertfordshire.gov.uk - For fault reporting.

East Herts District Council: **01279-655261** or www.eastherts.gov.uk - For reporting smoke & noise nuisance, flytipping, fly posting, dead animals on the road, stray dogs, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, Environmental Services, Environmental Health, Pest Control, Waste Services, Planning, Tree Preservation Orders, Parking Warden for parking offences.