

## **Draft Annual Parish Meeting Report – 2018**

The last year has seen the developments at Cambridge Rd, Walpole Farm and Elms Farm start to take shape. These have brought significant highways and flooding issues that have been urgent priority agenda items for the Council – culminating in a multi -agency meeting to look at the issues of flooding with developers, the Environment Agency, Essex Highways and the Lead Local Flood Authority, with an outcome that the EA will ensure all possible outcomes, including natural flood management options, are explored with our flood group before the publication of the final report in the Summer of this year. The maintenance issues raised e.g. blocked gullies and sluice gate are being followed up by Essex Highways and the Environment Agency. Thanks must go to our Flood group members and those parishioners who regularly clear the trash screen and culvert.

The Parish Council has registered a number of complaints with Essex Highways in respect of the scheduling of emergency utility works and road closures as there seemed to be no planning on the impact of the number of closures occurring at the same time. Meanwhile we are still chasing the safety audit to be undertaken on the roundabout at the bottom of Chapel Hill and the installation of the pedestrian crossing on Cambridge Rd (at the time of writing scheduled for February 2018). There is no firm progress on the Lower Street crossing, or any follow up on our request for a strategic review of the highway network.

We have set up a project group of interested parties from the Business Forum and the Parish Council to steer the work and outcomes of the partnership with Rungis in France, to promote cultural and educational exchange, as well as promoting business opportunities between our communities. We hope to cement a long term relationship with a formal twinning ceremony both here in Stansted and in Rungis (hopefully in late spring/early summer this year). A copy of the Charter is displayed in the Foyer and we have a short introduction to our counterparts in Rungis to share with you now.

We are working with Uttlesford Council for Voluntary Service to support and promote the good work and practice of our Youth Club provision, which is jointly funded with UDC, to ensure we continue to provide an efficient, effective and safe service in times of changing policy and practice in the care and support of young people. Thank you to Linda Barnes for her invaluable work with our young people. The Day Centre is now under new management and a new cook has started. Thank you to Julie for her years of hard work in promoting the centre.

Unfortunately the Pharmacy at Castle Maltings lost the appeal to provide a service in the South of the village. The Parish Council will continue to support this provision and has communicated to the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group that there is an urgent need for a review of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for West Essex – as population numbers have changed dramatically and Stansted is becoming the meat in the sandwich between Elsenham and East Herts.

UDC are proposing to 50% fund the recruitment of a PCSO to clusters of villages. Elsenham are in principle agreeing to part fund @25% of the remaining cost and we await the response of Henham. The agreement is for the first year only at this stage and we will review the outcomes before deciding on future funding for future years.

By the time you read this report, work on our new community building at Crafton Green will have recommenced and we look forward to opening the doors to our new library, offices and meeting rooms later in 2018. One legal issue remains which precludes further discussion on the topic.

This year will be the centenary of the end of World War 1 and we hope to mark this occasion with a special Remembrance Service in the Memorial Gardens, with the names of those who served re-engraved on the memorial. Thank you to staff and sponsors for enabling the refurbishments in the garden and to the memorial possible.

The Parish Council are also working with the landowner at Elms Farm, and it is hoped that the allotments will be available to rent later this year. Interested parishioners should contact the office. Forest Hall Open space is now the responsibility of the Parish Council and contracts have been proposed for the grass cutting etc.

Thank you to our office staff and Clerk for their work in keeping the infrastructure of the parish ticking over and our staff who work to keep the external environment clean, tidy and well maintained. We are very lucky to have such a committed and conscientious group. Thank you too to my fellow councillors.