

## Chairman's Report - Full Council 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

- The Clerk and myself met with 2 officers from the Rural Housing Enablement team to look at any possible developments that could promote the provision of affordable housing and to utilise the remaining monies from the fund available for the reprovision of social housing as a result of the sale of the Fullers Alms Houses (approx. £800k). Walpole Farm are providing some social housing, and consideration and communication of the scheme will be discussed with the current developers for Elms Farm and 14 Cambridge Rd – the team are eager for the Parish Council to also support the UDC lobby for social rents to be applied at 50% of the open market rate (not 80%- as proposed by the developers). The Parish Council will be promoting this debate both with the developers for provision and UDC on appropriate rents.

Ruth will update further as this is also an agenda item.

- As Chair of the Parish Council I attended the liaison meeting with Parish Councils chaired by Dawn French CEO of UDC. The meeting was reasonably well attended by Parish Council representatives and their Clerks- with some localities also supported by their District Councillors. On the agenda was the proposal for more police and community support officers – with the offer of potential fifty percent of recruitment, training and deployment costs – even funding for running and maintaining a motor vehicle – there is also the option of joining up with adjacent parishes and splitting the 50% costs. I have emailed our support in principle and have asked for an item to be on the F&GP agenda to debate this.

We were also asked to consider if we still wanted to continue to buy into the green waste collection service (beyond 2020) now that so many people use the kerbside collection for green waste.

The West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group also repeated their presentation of the Healthier Futures work that has been undertaken.

The UDC Code of Conduct was also discussed – this is a more accessible document than the previous edition and it would promote a consistent understanding and ethic if this was adopted by the Parish Council, in my view.

The meetings will now be a regular feature probably six monthly and it would be useful to have some items on the agenda from us at the coal face of local government!

- We have now received the Housing Needs Survey to support the work of the Neighbourhood Development Group- unfortunately the numbers of returns were low, although considered average in terms of this type of survey and mostly completed by residents in the South and at Forest Hall Park – so well done to them!
- Our comments have been sent in on the Local Plan proposals in relation to Regulation 19 (along with those from the Neighbourhood Plan Team) – a copy of this is on our website
- The Parish Council continues its dialogue with UDC and the developers at Walpole Farm to ensure the location/design and capacity of the SUDs would alleviate any risk of flooding in the area.

- Duncan Smith and one of his colleagues, from Stansted Airport (MAG), are coming to the next Full Council meeting to talk to us about helicopters and their use of the airport. They had been asked to go and talk to Birchanger PC so contacted us to ask if we would like them to come here too.
- The Skate Park Jam, on 3 September, organised by Trevor Lloyd was successful – with lots of activity captured on camera and featured in the Link. Thanks to Trevor for his work on this