

- Our visit to Rungis went extremely well. Their town is beautiful, much more compact than ours – but they do have their own police station – with real police people working there. They also benefit from the business tax levied on the market and neighbouring Business Park to manage services the District Council here oversee.

The market viewed at 4 a.m. was huge – the size of Monaco and had its own restaurants to serve the 12,000 workers on site.

The hospitality and friendliness of the people and their excitement at the prospect of twinning was infectious- in fact the teacher from Forest Hall School and the Head are looking into partnership working and possible exchanges already.

Sue Belo has designed a survey we will be putting out on the website with some information to assist Parishioners to give us a view on proceeding with the twinning concept or “marriage” as the Rungis Councillors phrased it. We shall also be putting a link and the write up in the village magazine.

Our representatives from the Business Forum, Peter and Martin certainly saw the opportunities that could be developed for small and medium size businesses.

If we proceed the next step would be to set up a project group to move the process, partnership and exchange forward. It is envisaged we would grant a small budget to the group (approx. £750.00 per annum for admin fees etc.)

- Local Plan- Comments are needed by September 5th. The draft plan can be viewed at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/draftplan2017. There are also a number of consultation sessions listed which you may be interested in attending.

I was surprised to see the inclusion of the land east of Cambridge Road (B1383) and west of High Lane included in the residential site allocations list- as we were not warned this was a possible inclusion by the District.

- A number of local roads will be closed at points from 3/8/17 whilst water main replacement works are undertaken and may continue to be in force for up to 18 mths. These are in the Bentfield Road area – please check exact dates and roads on <http://roadworks.org/>.

- Some of the Neighbourhood Development Team attended the Healthier Future Event in Dunmow – we had some lively debate and made the point that Uttlesford and the CCG need to address the requirements of developing populations in respect of health needs and promotion of healthy living by ensuring funding from developers and using it to match the needs of the community.

The issue was also raised re the pharmacy in Lower Street and the need for this 2 tier village separated by Chapel Hill to have a dispensing chemist in the South of the village. The Director of Provider Partnerships, Alison Gilbert will be looking at the issues we raised and hopefully helping us attain this service in Lower Street. (She is also a member of the Sustainable Transformation Plan for Herts and W. Essex) Ray Woodcock has also sent a copy of his representation on this issue to all Parish Councillors- I would invite a show of hands to illustrate the support/or not for a dispensing pharmacy in Lower Street.

- Lower Street Car Park – the new Car Park Order will be in place on August 1st with new signage in place which will be clearer for users. Enforcement of on street TRO for parking along the entrance on the yellow lines will also be in place. The Parish Council will be formally requesting a crossing at the entrance.

The Parish Council have now had sight of the notes and actions taken to date on the issues that have been raised. We are not at liberty to share this as ongoing work /discussions are still being pursued.

- A Parishioner requested clarification as to why S106 monies from the Forest Hall Development were being used in relation to the Crafton Green Development resolution. The response was as follows:

As time is of the essence to get the project back on course to especially provide the library facility and enable more parishioners to access the council office; the decision was taken to use the S106 money to ensure we could respond to the third party within a given time.

The Parish Council has resolved to establish a committed fund up to the £200k level to finance approved projects to the benefit of residents at Forest Hall Park.

Our solicitors are dealing with all aspects at issue relating to the project, including any liabilities; and when the legal processes are finalised the Parish Council will make a statement to our parishioners to account for action taken.

- The Memorial Gardens – The pathways, edging/ reshaping, floodlighting around the memorial are now complete and looking good and our thanks go to Honour and Son for their conscientious work.
The War Memorial Restoration Appeal has pledged totally £1,200 including an offer from our newly established estate agents (Russell's) of £500. We need to raise £5,500 to re-establish the names of our war veterans on the memorial and continue our work in the grounds. We will look for grants but please also encourage donations where you can.