

A meeting of Croydon Parish Council was held on Wednesday 18 January 2017 in the Reading Room at 7.30pm.

Ms Newland gave retrospective apologies for the December meeting, as she was unwell.

Present: Mr Wheeler, Mr Sole, Mrs Slator, Mr Brown, Mr Barnes, Ms Newland, the Clerk and three members of public.

Minutes: Of the December meeting were amended after an observation from the floor, agreed and signed.

Declarations of Interest: None

Matters Arising and Village Issues:

Queen Adelaide: The gathering in the pub before Christmas was well attended and lively. A promising response for the eventual reopening!

Community Payback Scheme: The PCC is in discussion with the scheme to see what can be offered.

Implementation Group: A working party from the IG visited a display board manufacturer in Peterborough and was impressed with the quality of the products. Council perused the information and looked at the sample before deciding to fund the purchase from the Community Benefit Fund, once the paperwork has been reissued with Council's details on it. The total cost of the boards is £1,514.40. All in favour. Cheque to be raised once correct paperwork is received.

The grabbers and hoops are available from Amazon - Clerk is willing to place the order and pay for the goods, as long as she can be reimbursed at the following meeting, because the cost is quite substantial.

Communications Survey: The report has been finalised and is reproduced in full below.

Croydon Information Survey - Summary Findings & Recommendations

Introduction:

Following the publication of the Community Led Plan for Croydon an Implementation Group (IG) was formed with the remit of working with the Parish Council (PC) to realise as many as possible of the community's wishes. Better communication within the village was one area identified as needing improvement. In response, an Information Survey was compiled to establish how many households wish to receive village information and alerts, also what are the favoured methods of distribution of this information. The survey form was distributed to every household in April 2016 and return rate was close to 65% with only one household replying that they did not wish to receive information on parish matters and alerts.

Current communication methods with Croydon households

To date, communications with Croydon residents have been primarily via Leaflet drops, Posters, notices in the Benefice magazine, Notice boards, the Village Website and through some users of Facebook. The analysis which follows highlights the key strengths and weaknesses of these current methods and it is believed that the findings of this study provide an opportunity for significant improvements.

Communication preferences:

Households were asked to state their preferred methods for receiving village information and alerts.

E-mail	84%
Leaflet drops	41%
Facebook	24%
Village website	21%
Benefice magazine	11%
All other methods	Each less than 6%

Combining the stated first and second preferences results in the table shown alongside. All other methods including Notice boards, Twitter, word of mouth etc each received less than 6% support. The following sections of this report deal in turn with the most popular of these methods indicating key strengths and weaknesses and offering recommendations for improvement.

Emails:

Virtually all responding households (98%) reported having access to emails (only one household does not). In terms of viewing frequency, 87% view their emails daily and an additional 9% weekly with the remaining 2% viewing them monthly. 91% of households said that they would be prepared to nominate an email address for receiving parish communications and alerts. Assurances will need to be given that a blind copy list only will be used so that addresses are not revealed, that the list will only be used by village organisations for village matters, that the list will not be passed on to non-village organisations or individuals.

Recommendation 1: That the IG request email addresses from those who wish to be contacted in this way while at the same time giving the above assurances.

Recommendation 2: That the IG gathers and maintains this list for a 6 month trial period while discussions with the PC take place about data protection and future maintenance.

Facebook & Twitter:

After emails Facebook was the next most used form of electronic communication, with 56% of households being current users. Nonetheless, the IG has concluded that while Facebook is a useful method to spread news, both inside and outside the village, about upcoming events etc – indeed postings have already been made under Croydon Cambs – it is, nonetheless, in essence an open system so this method is not thought to be suitable for some types of village matters and alerts. Twitter is currently used by 19% of respondents and therefore is not widely enough used to be an effective method.

Recommendation 3: That village organisations and residents be informed that the Facebook page Croydon Cambs can be used for advertising Croydon Village events to the wider world.

Village Website:

83% of responding households know of the existence of the village website (Croydon-village.co.uk). Of those who do know, currently none view the website weekly though 18% view monthly and a further 53% view quarterly; 27% never look at it. For the future, 80% said they would be Very Likely or Likely (24% and 56% respectively) to use the website for information, though it is known from the Community Plan that this requires the information to be current.

Recommendation 4: The IG and PC jointly should explore ways to enable the website to be updated in a timely manner. This might require some funding in two parts comprising an initial up-front cost and later running costs.

Benefice Magazine:

The Benefice Magazine, which is church based, is received by 80% of responding households and this figure is likely to rise to 95% with the addition of 8 more households who expressed a wish to begin receiving it. The publication already covers information on what's on in the five local parishes so this is an effective way of reaching most households though only for news appropriate to a monthly publication.

Recommendation 5: That the IG informs the PCC of the 8 households wishing to begin receiving the magazine.

Recommendation 6: That PCC consider ways to improve the timeliness of delivery to outlying recipients.

Leaflet drops:

As already noted, after emails, leaflet drops are the second most popular method for receiving notices and information, however, the obvious difficulty with this method is the burden of delivering to every household. With this difficulty in mind discussions have taken place with the Benefice Magazine distribution rep for Croydon and, helpfully, she has expressed a willingness to insert loose-leaf A5 flyers into the magazine, though any inserts would need to be handed over at least one week before the end of any month.

Recommendation 7: That the IG offers a list of all households receiving the magazine to village organisations to enable leaflets to be more efficiently distributed.

Village Notice boards:

Village notice boards are not favoured for time-limited information. Nevertheless, 10% of households reported that they look on a weekly basis, a further 11% monthly, and a further 31% quarterly; 48% never look. This does, however, mean that 52% look at least quarterly so for more permanent information the notice board appears to retain some value though it is not an effective way of reaching most people for information of a short term nature.

Welcome pack for new arrivals:

Some discussion has already taken place within the IG about how to keep any email lists or distribution lists updated. Discussion centred on a Welcome Pack for new arrivals and it transpired that there is already a Church based Welcome Pack and also an Information Section on the Village Website though both need updating.

Recommendation 8: That the IG works with the PC and the PCC towards the production of an introductory Welcome Pack which may well then direct new arrivals to information on, for example, the Village Website.

Overall Conclusion:

The IG believes there is the opportunity to significantly improve the effectiveness of communication with households in Croydon through the adoption and completion of the above recommendations.

These will result in:

- A blind copy e-mail address list which will reach over 90% of responding households (about 60% of all households), and hopefully even more over time.
- The Benefice Magazine being distributed to 95% responding households (over 60% of all households) and improvements to the speed of distribution.
- The possibility to include A5 leaflets in the magazine and thereby reduce the effort required for distribution.
- Improvements to the currency of the information available on the village website.
- A welcome pack for all newly arriving householders which will help new arrivals to access information and will also ensure that all householder lists are kept up to date.

For further information or comments please use:

Preferred method e-mail croydonvillagecambs@gmail.com

OR

Telephone 01223-208939

Sustainability: The IG has secured the loan of an infra-red camera from SCDC for the weekend of 3 February. Please contact a member of the IG if you would like to make an appointment to have your house checked.

Housing: Discussions on one site are on-going and another site at the west end of the village has been put forward and is being investigated.

Reading Room Improvements: A keycase has been fitted to the wall of the Reading Room, the code for which will be passed to people hiring the premises. The ground underneath is very muddy, so Mr Brown will put a paving slab there to prevent the transfer of mud into the Reading Room, and also fix the guttering on the rear of the building..

Clopton Close Parking: Cllr Smith has made enquiries about this issue and at present, the legal aspect is being looked into. As soon as anything has been established, Cllr Smith will present her findings to Council.

Hedges: Landowners have been approached and hopefully the offending foliage will be removed. Mr Brown would be happy to cut the hedge if required. Clerk to pass the information on.

The meeting received the verbal report from Cllr Smith:-

Housing Land Supplies: If the Inspector accepts the SCDC and Cambridge City Council Local plan as it is, there is sufficient land for the projected housing in it. At the moment, the Planning Department is under pressure not to take applications to appeal because of the cost involved. Some applications which might not normally be approved, are being accepted. In spite of this, only 400 houses were built in 2016 instead of the required 600.

Fly-tipping: Much worse than it used to be, and so the fines have been increased. There is a robust enforcement team who go through the rubbish to try and ascertain its origin, for prosecution purposes.

Devolved Authority: The Mayoral Election in May will cost the taxpayer a great deal, as will the whole system and its associated staff. The shortlisting for candidates is currently taking place, although Heidi Allen is not included in this. Business leaders feel positive about the change.

Chief Executive: SCDC is about to interview for a new Chief Executive, who will be paid £125,000 a year, although they need to find ways to save money.

City Deal: A Chief Executive is starting on Monday, although there has been no consultation on the appointment. A damning report has just been released, although it was prepared 11 weeks earlier! The problem is that there are no dedicated staff on the City Deal, all admin staff are borrowed from Councils. New ideas are definitely needed.

Cambridge Access Study: There are too many cars in Cambridge and the rise in the Park and Ride price has exacerbated the problem. Suggestions to alleviate the problem have been congestion charges, work based parking levies and residents restrictions, none of which were felt to be good ideas. Some people have to drive to work as there is no public transport where they live. The latest idea is to have a clean air zone. A busway to link Cambourne to Cambridge is under consideration, but is facing a lot of criticism due to the proposed route. It is suggested that a Park and Ride, which would be twice as big as the one at Trumpington, is established at Madingly Mulch, which no-one wants. Preferred and more sensible site is Scotland Farm.

Clerk thanked Cllr Smith for her report and she left the meeting.

Report to the Parishes from Cllrs Kindersley and Smith (previously circulated)

Multi Agency Surgeries: Despite the poor attendance at these surgeries we have persuaded the council to keep them going for another couple of months in the hope that they will be found to be useful. Unfortunately we have had to reduce the time from 1 hour to 30 mins but they will still start at 9.30am at the Eco Hub on the first Monday of the month. If you have issues about housing, policing or anything else which we can help with do please drop in to tell us about them. We will also try and arrange some for evenings following feedback. However - anything that can't wait - please just call or e-mail.

Kick Start: The District Council has offered to pair with Forward Gamlingay to run a trial of an initiative called Kick Start. This is targeted at young people aged from 16 to 19 who are experiencing difficulty in getting to college or work. The council is willing to purchase a number of scooters which can be hired for £30 per week for as long as they are required. Forward Gamlingay will pay the £500 cost of training the driver to very high standards and of equipping them with all the required safety gear. Please contact us if you would like to know more.

Education in Gamlingay: Both Sebastian and Bridget have enjoyed visiting GVC in the past few months and have appreciated being able to talk at length to the Headteacher, James Birkett; the staff and many of the children. It's fantastic that school has achieved so much success in the past year and we share Mr Birkett's excitement and optimism for the future. As many of you will know, the school benefits from exceptional facilities including a cookery room, resistant materials lab, art facilities, computer suites to name but a few. Now that the consultation on education in Gamlingay is at an end and Stratton Education Trust and Cam Academy Trust have published the results it's time to think about what this new provision is going to look like.

As you may know the plan is to merge both schools at the end of this academic year and for a new Primary School to emerge, called Gamlingay Village College. Initially this new school will be split between the 2 school sites but it will eventually just be situated on the current GVC site. This is undoubtedly the most sensible solution as the school is in very good condition, has safe off road parking, space for expansion and better facilities.

Next year will be a transition year with current year 7 pupils able to remain at GVC but current year 6 pupils transferring to either Potton or Comberton depending on their own parental choice. In future years the new school will take pupils from reception to year 6 which is the normal primary age range. Further details about the proposals and secondary education choices are available on the schools' websites.

What we want to ensure now is that the new school is not just going to be a run of the mill primary but that it will be something special. The fact that GVC has fantastic facilities already in place is

a tremendous opportunity for this to be a 'super primary' offering way and above what other schools offer. What we do not want to see is GVC being refurbished to make it suitable for younger children with the specialist equipment being taken out. There is no reason why the new school cannot benefit hugely from art studios, cookery rooms, IT suites and specialist science facilities.

You may have read about the new University Technical Schools which the government has been promoting throughout the country. These are highly equipped school catering for ages 14 to 18 with strong links to business and industry and which prepare their students for the sorts of jobs that the new emerging economies, particularly in this region, require. This means programmers, lab technicians, bio-engineers etc. There is an acknowledged 'skills gap' in our region between the skills which employers want and the skills school leavers actually have. The younger a child is when they are made aware of all these exciting new job opportunities the more likely they are to make choices which will prepare them for this modern world of work. So the new GVC will be in a marvellous position to foster links with local businesses and employers and, thanks to the existing facilities, to give pupils a truly 21st century education.

We are hoping to work with all the partners involved in the process to make sure that GVC is a 'super primary' and is an exemplar for what the future of primary education can and should be.

Forward Gamlingay sponsor careers support at Stratton Upper School: You may recall that Forward Gamlingay received some money from the Station Rd development specifically for helping young people into work. They have used some of this money to run a mentoring programme in the youth club and are now going to further develop this work in conjunction with Stratton Upper School. The proposal is for FG to sponsor a Careers Carousel at the school, benefitting not just Gamlingay pupils but all post 16 students to introduce them to a wide variety of employment opportunities, some of which they may not be aware of, and to link them with local employers. It is hoped that a similar project can also be run at Gamlingay Village College. There is good evidence that introducing children at a younger age to exciting job opportunities has very positive outcomes. FG hope that Gamlingay Businesses can be encouraged to help with this work. If you are a local business and would like to learn more about supporting children through careers events, offering work experience or apprenticeships, please contact Bridget.

The Wheatsheaf: Several residents have asked for further information on the current state of play at the Wheatsheaf. You might know that is currently registered as an Asset of Community Value which introduces restrictions when a property is up for sale – giving the local community, for example, the opportunity to fundraise to buy a local pub. The Wheatsheaf is currently for sale. Where a pub is sold "as a going concern" the sale is exempt from any delay, and it is therefore not necessary (albeit encouraged) to notify the District Council. As the Council was notified it did ask the acting solicitors as to the intention of the sale: they did not rule out any option, meaning that it may still be sold as a going concern or, equally, another business property. The rules around pubs as ACVs mean that planning restrictions are tougher nowadays: any change of use whether to another type of business or to a domestic property would be subject to a planning application.

New Integrated Urgent Care Service: The Cambs & Peterborough CCG has now written to set out why Gamlingay residents cannot yet access some elements of the new service. The CCG receives its funding based on an allocation for patients registered at GP practices within the CCG boundary. The current contract only covers patients who are registered at a GP practice covered by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG.

Anyone registered at a GP practice outside Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is not able to take advantage of this pilot. Although the current situation is that the service only covers patients registered with a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG GP practice, the working group will be looking at this issue over the coming weeks. The operational group will look into the issue and undertake modelling to assess the number of people within the Cambridgeshire local authority border who are currently outside the FRS service catchment. They expect to have this work completed by the end of March 2017 and to be able to make a decision after this.

So. For Gamlingay residents the CCG writes "In the meantime, I would like to reassure you that the Bedfordshire 111 service would still be able to deal with a mental health call. When a patient calls 111 their needs are assessed by a Health Adviser, supported by Clinical Advisers, who will then direct the patient to the most appropriate service. Local Mental Health services available in Bedfordshire include a Crisis Team which is accessible 24 hours a day. The 111 service is set up to ensure that the patient is directed to the right service for their needs without delay. I understand that this will be

frustrating to patients living in the Gamlingay area, and I would like to apologise for the confusion around access to the service.”

Application to build houses on Land South of West Rd: Following a relentless campaign over the Christmas period by councillors and residents this application for housing has now been postponed until the February meeting of South Cambs Planning Committee. The original proposal for it to be decided on 11th January meant that the members of the committee would only have a matter of hours to consider the feedback from our Parish Council. Please let Bridget know if you would like to be added to the WRAG (West Road Action Group) mailing list so that you can be kept abreast of further developments. We would encourage everyone who is concerned about this application by Trinity College, Cambridge via Endurance Estates to write to South Cambs as a matter of urgency but also to attend the planning meeting which will be on 1st February at Cambourne. The original application was rejected unanimously by the committee and it is hard to see what has changed enough for this decision to be overturned - but planning decisions are often surprising so we must keep the pressure up.

Power Cuts: Do you or someone you know need extra support during a power cut? Although power cuts don't happen very often when they do they can be worrying. UK Power Networks is the electricity network and it provides a 'Priority Services Register' for people who might need extra help in a power cut. Older people, families with very young children, and people with specific medical conditions are among the many people who are eligible to register for free support. You can find more details and register by visiting ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or calling 0800 169 9970.

Trail Bike Nuisance: Trail bike riding can be loads of fun. However, when it's taking place at a location or at times which cause nuisance it's not fun for local residents. There has been a concern about use of the Quarry at the Heath (in Central Beds) by trail bikes. Central Beds advises anyone still concerned about this to report these incidents when they occur via 101 to Beds Police or via the dedicated email address opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk providing as many details as possible such as dates, times, descriptions, registration numbers etc. There is an operation currently running specifically targeting trail bikes in Bedfordshire and therefore reports are vital to highlight precisely where issues are occurring so that action can be targeted to specific locations.

International Women's Day: The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is working with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to create an event for International Women's Day on the 8th March 2017. The theme of the event will be around bringing communities together with a particular focus on keeping you and your community safe.

The event will be designed around what women tell us are the issues of greatest concern to them and that they would like to learn more about. So please get in touch and let us know what issues affect you and your local community. What information would empower you to make a change and what areas would you like more information about to increase your understanding of these issues and what you could help do to resolve them?

Themes could include domestic abuse, cyber security, safeguarding children and adults, inequality and community cohesion. We want as many communities as possible from all walks of life to get involved in not only helping us plan the event but to encourage as many women as possible to attend.

If you have any suggestions or would like to be a part of the event, please contact the Engagement Officer, Sarah Morgan - sarah.morgan@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Highways & Gritting: We all know how the budget for roads and footways is under pressure. However, we also want them to be safe so please continue to report highway issues. You can check the CCC website anytime to see if a problem you are concerned about has already been reported; if it has not you can log it directly. By reporting faults, a compelling picture builds up. Or just google Cambridgeshire Report a Fault and follow the links.

We have reported a number of road faults where an old repair patch has developed ruts along the seams. County Highways has a budget specifically for this type of job –the 'crack sealing budget'. However, the pot ran out in November and no more crack sealing repairs can take place until the new financial year starting in April. However please still report faults, as explained above, because it is that compelling picture which helps to make the case that the current programme is not meeting need.

The County Council voted in December to reverse several budget cuts including the cuts to winter gritting. However – don't get too excited – even before this cut CCC was only gritting 40% of the Cambridgeshire roads network. By the time you read this all ten of the additional gritters have been delivered to depots across the county, fitted up and in action. BUT please bear in mind that if a road was not gritted at all last year it will not be in the 40% we intend to grit from now on.

Many communities have installed salt bins - anyone can stop and spread the grit therein - you don't need permission nor special training - just be sensible!

Streetlighting: Following the decision taken by Cambridgeshire County Council Full Council to overturn the policy to switch off street lighting across the County between 2am and 6am and dim by 60% at all other times, all the changes have been made by Balfour Beatty and the former settings of the 33,500 lights affected have been restored. All areas impacted across the County are now being lit throughout the night and with a brighter light output.

Bus Gates in Cambridge: A warning! The rising bollards in Cambridge have been replaced with new camera technology. So if you cross the point you will be fined. There is clear signage showing the operating times of the bus gates at each location. Other signs have also been placed on the approaches to the bus gates, indicating a route that drivers can take to avoid the enforcement cameras.

East West Rail: There has been a lot in the press recently about the proposed East-West link and the options under consideration for connecting Cambridge to Oxford via Sandy – with some options coming very close to the Gamlingay Division Parishes. Rail use in Cambridgeshire has increased by around 106% since 2001/02 and Cambridge has been the busiest station in the East of England since 2008/09. Strong growth at Waterbeach Station emphasises the need to at least maintain stopping patterns when Cambridge North opens, and to ensure that if development at Waterbeach Barracks takes place, that a new station serves the existing village as well or better than the current station. So that's all good...

But - and this is a big But. Residents have queried the possibility of a re-opened Gamlingay Station. Although we think this is unlikely for various land ownership/routing reasons it is also extremely undesirable. Firstly because the new rail link should actually link the new developments in the area which basically would mean along the A428 corridor. Secondly – where you build a new station you open up the area to massive development pressure and so a new Gamlingay Station would open the village up to at least 10s of thousands of new homes. It would be a high price to pay.

And finally.....rubbish: We have been asked about the green waste collected by South Cambs: is it recycled or does it go into landfill; and we thought you might be interested.

Your green bin with kitchen and garden waste is processed at the composting plant at Waterbeach. This plant processes the material to specific standards to produce a compost product that is sold to local farmers, bagged and sold at the Household Recycling Centres and given away to the public at the Waterbeach site.

Material is tipped at the Reception Bay where reject materials (such as buckets and metal rods) will be removed. On occasions, if a particular load has been heavily contaminated (i.e. plastic bags, nappies etc.) by householders then it will be necessary for these loads to be processed with the normal household waste through the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) plant. However, this accounts for less than 1% of the bins.

It is then shredded and put into large clumps to be sterilised after which it is then placed on a pad where it composts naturally and becomes more stable. The final step is to screen the material to separate out the fines fraction which will become the compost product. The larger fraction is sent to other processors, where the material is mixed and processed further to produce a compost.

In summary, apart from material rejected at the front end, which is not suitable for composting and treated through the MBT, all organic materials collected from households green waste collections is diverted from landfill. This amounts to around 99% of all collected green waste.

Correspondence:

New Tree Service: SCDC is proposing to offer a competitive service to Parish Councils to assist with tree health & safety audit processes. There would be a cost involved, but whether the scheme is instigated will depend on the level of interest from parishes.

Community Awards: Council decided to nominate the Implementation Group in the SCDC Community Awards. Mr Ralph was present at the meeting and was able to check that the details on the form were correct. Clerk will e-mail the form to SCDC after the meeting, in order to meet the deadline.

Gritting Routes: Have been reinstated, following a particularly icy few days.

Defibrillator: It has again been suggested that Council looks into acquiring a defibrillator to put on the exterior of the Reading Room. Cllr Smith send a photo of the AED in Gamlingay.

Register of Electors: January alterations to the Electoral Register were circulated to all Councilors.

Finance:

Precept: Clerk had previously circulated the balance in the nominal accounts for Councilors to consider a possible precept before meeting to discuss it. After some discussion, the following figures were agreed:-

Insurance	£400
Rent	£130
Clerk	£1200
Subs	£50
Cemetery/Village	£600
Street Furniture	£400
Website	£80
Grasscutting	£500

It was resolved to set the precept at £3360-00. Clerk to action. All in favour.

Bank Statement: Had not arrived.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 22 February 2017 in the Reading Room, starting at 7.30pm.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed

Date