

**Sheila Beeton writes -**

### **CROWN STREET - PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Residents on the east side of the village responded superbly at very short notice to our further questionnaire about our recent parking proposals. This survey was required by Colchester Borough Council as a condition for moving to the next stage of the process. There was a good response rate, with 88 per cent in favour, enough to secure approval from the borough council, which will undertake the statutory consultation later this year. In response to concerns about a possible increase in traffic speeds down Castle Hill, we have submitted an application to Essex County Council for a new vehicle-activated sign on the approach to Coopers Lane. The proposals, intended to reduce congestion in Crown Street, involve parking restrictions: around the bend approaching Coopers Lane, on the greensward area, around the junctions with Southfields, Forge Street and Parsons Field and into Manningtree Road. We continue to investigate possible sites for additional parking and if anyone knows of or owns land that might be suitable, please contact me.

### **PARISH ASSEMBLY, OPEN SESSION**

Each year parish councils are required to hold two special meetings. One is the annual meeting, when the Chair and other representatives are elected for the next year. The second is the annual parish assembly, which is an opportunity for the Chair to present the council's annual report. This year both meetings will be held on Monday 8 May. The annual meeting, at 6pm in the Assembly Rooms, will be followed at 7.45pm by the assembly. As well as the annual report, we will have an informal session, with refreshments, to enable village organisations and residents to raise any issues of concern. We will also be updating residents with proposals for a ditch mapping project with Essex County Council. We are seeking volunteers to help with aspects of this project.

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