



# Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

March 2015, Edition 4

## Welcome from the New Chairman



Hi, my name is Allan Walker and on 5th January I was elected Chairman of the Parish Council. I am a retired architect who has been living in the village for some 40 years, living in and renovating the same house on Coggeshall Road (I must finish it!). My two grown up kids have been born, brought up here and went to St Andrews, Honeywood Community School and Colchester Sixth Form College. I joined the Parish Council as I wanted to make a difference and being elected as Chairman is a privilege.

Firstly, let me pay tribute to Nigel Fitch as he leaves the Council for a well-earned rest. For the past 15 years as Chairman, and some 5 years before that, Nigel has given great service and dedication to Marks Tey and the Parish Council. He, and his fellow Councillors, have developed the extensive Village Hall and playing fields that we have to enjoy. He has fought on the community's behalf on many issues not least on improvement of the A120. We all owe Nigel a debt of thanks for all of the time and energy he has freely committed to the community.



Moving forward there are a number of challenges facing the Council and our community that will take community energy to address:

- We need to refocus on maximising the use of the Village Hall and ensuring that the extensive facilities are cost effective and meet the needs of the hirers.
- Things are hotting up upon the A120 replacement debate and it is important to contribute to this and also to ensure that improvement of the safety and environment of the existing road is not forgotten for the many years until hopefully a replacement is chosen and usable.
- Similarly the committed improvement of the A12 to 3 lane standard will clearly put pressure on Marks Tey and we need to be part of this debate. The Parish Council has formed an A12/A120 Working Group to do just that.
- The possibilities of 15,000 new houses around Marks Tey (there are currently approx. 2,000 existing properties in the village) in Colchester Borough Council's draft Local Plan presents substantial threats but also opportunities for the community and we must make ourselves ready for these, together with the similar pressures towards us from Braintree District Council. The Parish Council has decided to promote a Neighbourhood Planning process for the community to decide what we would like our village to become.
- We need to find ways to increase community involvement, particularly in the young along with ways to provide information to supplement the quarterly Newsletter, so that we find out what you are thinking and that you find out about things like this from the Council and not just the press.
- The Parish Council has few powers and is administered by Councillors who give their time for free so we must ensure that it knows, and has the ability to act on, Parishioners' and the community's interests, and uses the time and skills freely given to maximum efficiency. We have another two people interested in becoming Councillors to fill the current vacancy and the one that will be created when Nigel goes, but we need a through flow of people and ideas to keep the Council fresh and tuned. Come and help us.
- We need to protect, administer and enhance the Parish accounts and assets so that these can aid what the Parish Council delivers to the community.

Cllr Allan Walker

**For regular updates on the work that the Parish Council is undertaking, please look at our website [www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish](http://www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish) or come to a meeting and ask us directly!**

## Marks Tey Parish Council is supporting and working with Haven Gateway to promote much needed improvement work on the A120



The A120 is the key route corridor linking Stansted Airport in the west to Harwich Port in the east. Yet many sections of the road are of a low standard with heavy congestion, high accident risk and above all, poor journey reliability. As things stand, there are no plans for any major investment in the route. The Highways Agency, which is responsible for its management, is currently working on a Route Strategy for all the Trunk Roads in the Country. We need to ensure the needs of the A120 are fully reflected in this Strategy and then backed by Government investment when funding is allocated.

**What can you do?** A website has been set up - [www.a120.co.uk](http://www.a120.co.uk) – that outlines the campaign so far and is asking for supporters to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Transport asking for government support. Please consider sending your own letter (there is a template on the website) to help with this campaign.

### A12/A120 Working Party

In order to emphasise the effect of these roads on the people of Marks Tey Parish, Councillors are having meetings with Essex Police Traffic Section and the Highways Agency. Re-surfacing works and parking restrictions to Old London Road are likely to start in February and resurfacing of the whole of the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey and some improvement of the footpaths is being considered for 2015/16. Questions about Government support for improvement were also put to the Secretary for Transport when he visited Colchester in January. Updates from this working party can be found on the Parish Council website.

### New Kitchen for the Parish Hall

The Parish Council recently applied for funding from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund to install a fully fitted kitchen for the Recreation Hall, therefore improving the hall facilities for parishioners to enjoy. The Fund awarded £2500 for this project and the work was undertaken 'in-house' by the Parish Council staff. This new kitchen now means that both of the large halls can cater for parties and events and therefore increase revenue to subsidise the parish precept.

### Colchester and Braintree Draft Local Plan Process

Draft Local Plans are being prepared by both Colchester Borough Council and Braintree District Councils. Both have issued a 'Call for Sites' which has had a number of landowners around Marks Tey putting their land forward for residential development in the 2018 - 2023 phase. Details of each can be found at:

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/15278/Issues-and-Options-Consultation-16-January--27-February>  
<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/localplanscope>

This may offer both opportunities and threats for Marks Tey and the Parish Council has agreed to work on a Neighbourhood Plan to allow the people of Marks Tey to plan what their village should become. The Parish Council will sponsor and support this and will shortly be calling for people to run the process. This will be your chance to get involved.

In addition, the Parish Council is to invite Gateway120 and West Developments, two organisations wanting to develop on different sides of the village to present their proposals to the Parish Council. Look at the website to find out when these presentations will be held.

### North East Essex Health Forum – Keep in touch with what's happening on our health scene

All run from 2-4pm. Free. No booking necessary

#### February 2015

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – PCC Offices, Turner Road, Colchester

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Sam's Hall, CVST, Rosemary Road, Clacton

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Central Church, Main Road, Dovercourt

#### April 2015

**7<sup>th</sup>** – Sam's Hall, CVST, Rosemary Road, Clacton

**8<sup>th</sup>** – Central Church, Main Road, Dovercourt

**13<sup>th</sup>** – PCC Offices, Turner Road, Colchester

#### June 2015

**1<sup>st</sup>** – PCC Offices, Turner Road, Colchester

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – Sam's Hall, CVST, Rosemary Road, Clacton

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Central Church, Main Road Dovercourt

### Priti Patel MP – 'Meet Your MP' – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014

Our MP, Priti Patel held a 'Meet your MP' session at the Village Hall. We were only given a weeks' notice and immediately posted the event on the website. About 17 people attended together with Cllr Allan Walker and Borough Councilor Elizabeth Blundell. Questions ranged from the A120 and A12, train services, and the new pub licensing arrangements. The Parish Council are liaising to ensure 2 further sessions in 2015 and again dated will be put on the website when fixed.

## Message from Colchester Borough Council to homes with oil tanks

### Caring for your oil tank...the MUST knows

If you have a domestic oil storage tank it's your responsibility to keep it safe. Oil leaks can cause damage to property and the environment. Prolonged exposure to vapours could cause harm to health. It could cost you thousands of pounds and take months or years to clean up an oil spillage and there is a risk of prosecutions and fines. So, why take the risk? To prevent problems from occurring make sure your whole system is regularly checked and serviced by professionally qualified engineers.

#### Top tips:

- **Check your tank – regularly** Are there any visible leaks or stains? Are there any cracks or damage to the tank, pipes, sight gauges or the support system? Is your tank old or in poor condition? If any of these apply, get advice from a qualified and experienced engineer as soon as possible. If a repair or replacement is required, do not attempt to do this yourself.
- **Give it room** Make sure your oil storage tank has space and cut back any plants which are growing near or over the tank, as they could damage it.
- **Be safe** Make sure that any deliveries of oil can be made safely and supervise them whenever possible. Do what you can to prevent vandalism or theft, but do not make any changes that would affect how your system works.
- **Be prepared** Check your insurance cover! Some policies will only cover you for the cost of replacing lost oil, not for any clean up. Most companies will not cover you at all if a leak is caused by lack of maintenance. Know what to do in an emergency. Don't wait for a problem to occur! Read advice on our web page as mentioned below. Keep a copy of emergency telephone numbers handy - or obtain a sticker for your tank from the Environment Agency by calling 03708 506 506.

#### In the event of a leak

Contact your insurance company **immediately** if a spill does occur. If your insurance policy does not cover you, you will need to employ your own accredited spill company.

#### How Colchester Borough Council can help

Get advice and read the Essex Contaminated Land Consortium's Domestic Heating Oil Care Guide at [www.colchester.gov.uk/youroiltank](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/youroiltank). We cannot clean up any oil that is spilt, or undertake any repairs for you but we may be able to help you find someone to clean up the oil to the correct standards.

## Mobile Library Services

Essex County Council mobile libraries carry a wide range of books and other items, but if you can't find a particular title you can reserve a copy. All mobile libraries are wheelchair-accessible

**Feb: 12, 26    Mar: 12, 26    Apr: 9, 23    May: 7, 21**

**The mobile library visits St Andrews School, 13.20 – 14.10 and Leyfield, 16.40 – 17.15**

For more details or help please phone The Answers People on 0845 603 7628.

## Recycling boxes and bags

Marks Tey Parish Office has available to parishioners the following recycling items:

### Glass and Cans Green Boxes, Food caddies, Clear plastic recycling bags

These can be collected from the parish office at the hall but it is advisable to call first on 01206 213250 to ensure that stock is available.

## Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services. You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2015 we want to make the batter matter and raise £40,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £20,000 from the suppers. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury. Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email [fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk) or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)

## Contact us

### Parish Councillors

[www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish](http://www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish)

Allan Walker (Chairman)	71 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	211424
Malcolm Bailey	47 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1NE	212341
Danny Cooper	The Gatehouse, 1 Francis Court, Marks Tey, CO6 1FR	212050
Martin Cowan	Poplar Nurseries, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1HR	210374
Juliet English	Willow Croft, Wilsons Lane, Marks Tey	213250
Nigel Fitch	Marks Tey Radio, London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1BE	210285
Dave Johnson	2 Brickwork Cottages, Church Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1LN	211652
Rachael Moore (Vice Chair and Staffing Committee Chair)	36 North Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1EG	210025
Dave Wrenn	23a Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LL	212320
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

### Office Staff

Parish Clerk	Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	213250
Gill Sargeant	Hall Bookings Manager	213250

**Address:** Marks Tey Parish Office, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ  
**Email:** [Parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk](mailto:Parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk) [Bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk](mailto:Bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk)

## Parish Council meeting dates 2015 – all meetings are at 7.30pm

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend

**Annual Assembly**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

13<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2015

### Full Council

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December

### Planning and General Committee

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
No meeting  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December

### What does the Parish Council do?

Parish Councils are the closest level of democratic government to the community they represent. They are statutory bodies and subject to statutory requirements; they only have the powers or functions vested in them by Acts of Parliament. Parish Councils raise their money from the local community through the Council Precept and this is used to improve facilities and services for the community. Marks Tey Parish Council is responsible for Bus shelters, a number of Litter Bins, Public Seats, Public Rights of Way, Owned Parks, Playgrounds, Public Toilets, and the Village Sign within the Parish.

**Would you like to hire one of the Parish Halls or Playing Field for a family event, society gathering or business meeting? Please contact Gill at the Parish Office.**