



Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

March 2016 Edition

From the Parish Council – What's happening?

Public Committees meetings have been set up so that we can work more effectively, ensure we are giving attention to needs raised by residents, and give individual Councillors more say. Details minutes and dates are available on the website but brief reports will feature in the Newsletter on particular issues:

HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Parking

The Parish Council have been pressing the North Essex Parking Partnership over the parking problems in Marks Tey, namely the congestion and vehicle speeds with the long stay on street parking by the station, the re-imposition of parallel parking by the London Road shops, and commuter parking in Church Road and on the estate. We are seeking traffic calming and additional signage although NEPP say Marks Tey is low priority.

A120 Improvement

Essex County Council have commissioned Jacobs to undertake the feasibility study for the improvement of the A120 and its various possible routes and work will be happening on this during 2016 with a view to a preferred route being available to recommend to Government during 2017. ECC intend to be open about the work they undertake and set up an information exchange system which Marks Tey Parish Council is a party to.

A120 Condition

The Parish Council has also met with Highways England and their maintenance consultants, Amey regarding the state of the carriageway and footpaths along the existing A120. The poor state of the road and footpaths are to be resurfaced in July 2016 and the Parish Council have been arguing for improvement of the width of the footpaths particularly from Ashbury Drive to the Station and for safety improvements to be done now while we await the resurfacing with some success.

More details on all of the above will be put on the website as they become available.

PREMISES COMMITTEE

We are working on the efficient and effective use of our Jubilee Playing Field and the Parish Hall, which are great community assets. If you would like to contribute ideas or would like to join us in the work of the committee, particularly in thinking about possible community events, please contact Martique Freathy, at the Parish Hall, or Cllr Kate Evans, Premises Committee Chair.

Martique has just joined us as our new Premises Manager and Assistant Clerk, as we recently said goodbye to Gill Sargeant, who retired after 10 years doing a wonderful job as our Hall Booking Manager. Martique brings a wealth of experience to the role and we wish her well. We hope to build on the great work of previous years, and to ensure that the Hall and Playing Field work hard to the benefit of our community.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Seeing Green?

Many residents say that our rural nature and closeness to the countryside are things that they really like about living in the village, but whilst we are surrounded by lovely green trees and fields, within most of the village there has been little planting over the years, apart from successfully planting the copse opposite the station. Any future development will likely have to incorporate green areas and planting, but when parts of Marks Tey were developed in the 60's and 70's it wasn't a big part of the design.

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Trees can be successful in softening and calming major highways and roads, consider Remembrance Avenue in Colchester for example.

The Parish Council is therefore looking at bringing more trees to the village but without bringing in the normal associated costs of a "greening project". A starting point in looking for ideas is the verges and main road of the A120 (owned by Highways England), which could benefit from a planting project, which may help tackle the issues with parking and litter.

We are currently engaged with other councils, the Highways Agency and Wildlife Trust to see if there is help for such a projects, but we need your views. What do you think, good or bad? Would you help take care of a sapling? Is there somewhere you believe would benefit from planting? All comments are welcome. Let us know by email to the Parish Clerk or have a conversation with any one of your parish councillors.

The Neighbourhood Plan – Your Village, Your Say

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1668838273332158/>

website link – www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish/neighbourhood-plan/



Our last edition described the Neighbourhood Plan initiative, which is led by the community for the Parish Council. It has a steering group, chaired by Mark Wingate and with Rev. Ian Scott-Thompson as Secretary, which has set up 7 topic groups, with the steering Group meeting every fortnight and working to collect evidence about what our neighbourhood has and doesn't have.

They have distributed an initial questionnaire to residents and some 150 returns are currently being analysed and fed back to the topic Groups. Overall, the progress made so far has been significant:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Busy collecting environmental data around the village, on air and ground pollution, flooding and noise. It is also surveying the village's hedgerows and hopes residents will want to play an active part in this, such as by advising it if they know of a special section of hedgerow or landscape that should be investigated.

For anyone with a particular interest there are courses, available at the Essex Wildlife Trust's website:

www.essexwtrecords.org.uk/survey/Hedgerows. Also do let the Environment group know of your interest.

HERITAGE GROUP

Preparing an 'Historic Characterisation Study' of all listed buildings, monuments and archaeological finds within Marks Tey and Little Tey. It is also been trying to establish, helped by Colchester Borough Council's archaeological advisor Dr. Jess Tipper, if there are any ancient lanes and features within the village's boundary, as Marks Tey stands at the point where two Roman roads converged. The majority of old sites and find spots within the parish are the result of chance discoveries, and so there may well be other archaeological remains still to be found, such as within the valleys of the Roman River and Domsey Brook, as valley locations in particular were very favourable sites for early occupation.

If you have found what you suspect are worked flints, coins, pottery, fossils etc. in your garden or in the village, and would like them identified at no cost, do contact Colchester Museum, which hosts the "Portable Antiquities Scheme" for Essex and the County's finds liaison officer, Ben Paites (01206 506961). The finds will be recorded and returned to you and are added to the County's database, and so can be taken into account when new developments are being assessed. For more information go to

www.cimuseums.org.uk/article/10549/Portable-Antiquities-Scheme.

ECONOMY GROUP

Looking at the village's economy, both now and how it may develop in the future. It is preparing a list of current businesses within the parish. The range and number of businesses has come as quite a surprise. It is important that the Neighbourhood Plan addresses what these businesses need to thrive and develop. The group aims to survey each company, with the number of their employees and their skills and their predictions as to future requirements, the viability of their current premises and the areas where their employees live. This

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will help consider the need for commercial premises alongside future housing developments, and the opportunities for local employment.

INFRASTRUCTURE GROUP

Assessing the current state of the roads, rail and bus links, pavements, pathways, parking, crossings etc. around the village, with the aim of establishing their adequacy and level of use. Once this has been done, it will input villagers' requirements, expectations and concerns into the proposals for the Neighbourhood Plan.

FACILITIES AND WELLBEING GROUP

The focus is local interest groups', the community support arrangements, and the venues required for these. It is visiting the Rural Community Council for Essex and consulting the latest Rural Place Profile for Marks Tey Parish, which will help it to construct the current state of affairs and inform needs within the parish.

Neighbourhood Plan Open Day - 14.00 Sunday 3rd April - Marks Tey Parish Hall

The above and more are being guided by your responses to the questionnaire. Come to the Open Day for feedback on what has been found and the work on the Neighbourhood Plan and give us your views. All welcome!

Scams

We all can easily become the victims of fraudsters who want us to buy faulty or non – existent goods, or pass over our personal and financial details, especially via emails. Do take care if you receive what seem to be suspicious emails, and remember:

- Not to open any enclosure to emails which come from a source you do not recognise or are not expecting
- To use up-to-date anti-virus software
- Have a pop-up blocker running in the background of your web browser
- That public bodies, such as councils, government departments and the police, and also banks, never ask for personal or financial details via e mails.

If you suspect your personal data has been breached, change all your passwords for personal accounts, including your bank accounts. It would be sensible to get your computer checked professionally and make a report to Action Fraud, the national fraud and cyber crime reporting centre, at

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>.

Local Elections – Thursday 5th May 2016

The May elections will involve Marks Tey voting for our Colchester Borough Councillor representatives, for a new Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, and if contested, your Parish Councillors.

Colchester Borough Council has formed the new Ward of Marks Tey and Layer one of 17 Wards in Colchester, where electors will be able to choose 3 new Councillors to represent the new Ward of some 6,737 electors (2,049 or 30% of whom are in Marks Tey and another 1,431 or 21% in Layer de la Haye and 1,203 or 18% in Copford, the rest in the villages between).

Marks Tey Parish Council is also up for election. If more than 11 people put themselves forward as Parish Councillors, residents will also be able to vote at the same time for the people you want to just look after Marks Tey.

All elected posts will be held for the next 4 years until May 2020. If you have not as yet registered to vote, or you want to put yourself forward for the posts you can do so, either by phoning Colchester Borough Council (01206 282820) or downloading the form from its website, at www.colchester.gov.uk/elections.

Superfast Broadband in Marks Tey

Superfast Essex is the company in charge of making the government's Broadband target of 95% of premises by 2017 a reality in Essex. The Parish Council has reviewed



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the current position, and you can view the presentation slides from the meeting on our website or look for more information at www.superfastessex.org.

Within Marks Tey, over 70% of the village currently can access fibre broadband, and compared to many neighbouring villages we are in a good position. However, there are areas, such as Church Lane and North Lane, etc., which currently do not have access. We have asked for timescales regarding the rest of the village, and it was confirmed that the outstanding areas are planned for upgrading between 2016-2019, though specific dates could not be given at this time. Whilst this is great news, we will keep pushing for faster roll out where possible. There is an interactive map where you can search your own postcode and keep up to date on planned works at www.superfastessex.org/maps. The basic site also includes alternative approaches i.e. Satellite Broadband Scheme but this is not something that will be of use to most residents

The superfast Essex team have also introduced an enquiry form online. It is available from the 'contact us' link at the bottom of any page on their website, or from: www.superfastessex.org/getinvolved.

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 the office is open and that stock is available.

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

February 11th and 25th. March 10th and 24th

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.

Council Meetings

Members of the Public are warmly welcomed to join all Council and Committee meetings which are generally held on the second and fourth Mondays in each month (respectively) at the Parish Hall starting at 7.30pm. Next Full Council meetings Monday 14th March, and Monday 11th April – see Noticeboards and website for all 2016 dates – all welcome.

Parish Councillors

Allan Walker (Chairman)	71 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	211424
Malcolm Bailey	47 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1NE	212341
Karen Barker	32 Keable Road, Marks Tey CO6 1XB	210195
Ian Edwards	30 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey CO6 1LU	213793
Juliet English	Willow Croft, Wilsons Lane, Marks Tey	210072
Kate Evans (Vice Chair)	75 Keable Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1XR	210767
Rachael Moore	36 North Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1EG	210025
Susan Moakes-Cooke	41 North Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1EG	212059
John Wood	63 Godmans Lane. Marks Tey CO6 1NQ	212100
Vacancy	Come and join us – contact Clerk or Chairman	213250
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Office Staff

Steve Marriott	Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	213250
Martique Freathy	Premises Manager & Assistant Clerk	213250

Address: Marks Tey Parish Office, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ

Phone: 01206 213250

Email: Parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk Bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk Chairman@marksteyparish.org.uk

Would you like to hire one of the 3 Parish Halls or Playing Fields, all with ample parking, for an event, society gathering or business meeting? Please contact Martique at the Parish Office. Competitive rates and flexible booking arrangements available

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