



Doddinghurst Parish Council

Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)

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Introduction

By the time you read this the snow and ice should be in the past and the prospect of spring will be on the horizon. The Parish Council will continue working hard in all weathers to keep Doddinghurst a pleasant place to reside in 2013 and beyond.

ECC Highways

Elsewhere in the Link the Chairman's letter to residents has been published which details all the things that the Parish Council have been involved with during the past year. One of the major issues we have to deal with is complaints from residents regarding the state of the roads in and around the village. It has been some years since the responsibility for maintenance and repairs was passed from Brentwood Borough Council to Essex County Council and

ECC Highways (cont'd/...)

continual cutbacks in funding have led to less inspectors and repair crews which in turn means that potholes and other road defects take longer to be repaired. I know of three people that have damaged their wheels/tyres on the pothole near Howes Farm on the Doddinghurst Road. (It happened to someone I know on Christmas Eve and the pothole is still there!) It is very frustrating for us as a parish council to be continually reporting these sort of dangerous issues to Essex Highways and for them not to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. The Parish Council are now working with County Councillors to get rural areas treated as more of a priority and less of an afterthought! For further information please see www.essex.gov.uk.

Neighbourhood Plan

Doddinghurst is in the process of creating its very own Village Plan which is aimed at shaping the village and it's amenities for the next twenty years.

The plan is being developed alongside the plan for Brentwood, and should enable to village to respond to Government demands for extra housing and to control unwanted or unsightly developments. As part of this process Parish Councillors and volunteers are carrying out a survey to gauge the general architectural style of the village and to find out what we, as locals, need and want for Doddinghurst and it's facilities.

The survey is now in progress, and if you live within the Doddinghurst parish boundary, there is a good chance that someone will have given you a white survey form for completion. Don't worry if you haven't had one yet though, because the weather has delayed our volunteers, and

Neighbourhood Plan cont'd/...

there is a lot for them to do. You will have your chance to tell us about your needs, opinions and hopes for the village before the end of March at the latest. The original plan was for volunteers to talk to householders and fill in the forms on the doorstep, but this proved to be too chilly for all concerned, so now we are relying on householders to complete the form and return it to us or wait for it to be collected.

All the volunteers have large photo-id badges, and are happy to chat about the survey to anyone that spots them around the village.

The survey comes in two parts. A pink form which the volunteers use to describe the appearance of each street, house by house, and the white form for the household.

The Police are fully aware of what is happening and the

Neighbourhood Plan cont'd/...

names of all the volunteers are listed in the Parish Office , so please keep vigilant for intruders. If you have any doubts about who you are speaking to then please don't hesitate to ask to see their id badge.

We would like to thank everyone that has already returned their forms. Also, if you haven't yet returned your forms please could you do so as soon as possible. Your co-operation in helping to shape the future of Doddinghurst is very much appreciated.

This is a very important project for all of us that live and work in the Village and the more co-operation we have from the residents the better it will be.

(Many thanks to Peter Fisk for the above article.)

Grass Verges

As mentioned in the Chairman's letter here is another plea to motorists in the Village to avoid driving and parking on the grass verges. Owing to the weather having been so wet recently (and even as I type this, the rain is bucketing down in sheets outside the Parish Office!) the verges are extremely soft and unable to take the weight of a vehicle without damage being done to it. We want to keep Doddinghurst an attractive rural village and would ask for your co-operation in achieving this.

Monthly Meetings

We would like to see more residents attending the monthly meetings, which are held on the first Thursday of the month. There is a question slot during the meeting when residents are encouraged to voice their thoughts and opinions about anything of concern. The meetings start at 8pm so hope to see you soon!

Allotments

We are now well into the renewal period for the allotment tenancies and for those of you that may not be aware, Doddinghurst residents receive priority on the waiting list.

A full plot costs £60 for the year and a half plot is £30. Some parishes have waiting lists of 10 years or more, but ours is generally not longer than a year.

If you are interested in “growing your own” then please contact the Parish Office for further details.

For further information on any of the items in this newsletter please note our office opening times are Tues, Weds and Thurs mornings 9.30 – 12.30. An answerphone service is available outside these hours.

Parish Council Office

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See the Website: www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk
For more information about the Council and the Village.

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