



# Doddinghurst Parish Council



Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)  
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## Local Council Elections May 2012

Not only will this year see borough and county council elections, it is also election year for Doddinghurst Parish Council as our current councillors come to the end of their four year term of office.

Have you ever wondered what the role of a parish councillor entails or do you feel you would like to have a voice in the way Doddinghurst is shaped for the future?

As long as you are over 18 and live within three miles of the parish boundary or have a business based in the parish you are eligible. Parish councillors come from all walks of life, but what they tend to have in common is an interest in local issues and knowledge of their community.

We would strongly encourage anyone interested to have an informal chat with the Clerk and discover the difference that you can make.

Alternatively, please feel free to come along to a parish council meeting and see for yourself what goes on.

The amount of time you would have to allocate is about two hours a week altogether, to attend the monthly parish council meeting - but it is unpaid. There are also various other committees that you can serve on, such as planning or general purposes. However, the amount of time spent on parish council business is left down to the individual. Although we like to think that the more you put in, the more you get out!

For more details please call Roger Blake on 01277 824245.

**Diamond Jubilee  
Celebrations - 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012**

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council is providing the residents of Doddinghurst with another family day to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June is the date for your diaries, and the only things you will need to bring is sunscreen (we hope the weather will be kind to us!), and a picnic. However, if that seems like too much of an effort "Bert the Butcher" will be selling cooked food from a barbecue and the Village Hall bar will be open for the sale of drinks and sandwiches. If you are still hungry after all that, the WI will be selling cream teas in the afternoon. Entertainment is totally free and a dedicated group of councillors have worked extremely hard to make sure this encompasses all tastes and ages. There will be a Pageant performed by the pupils of Doddinghurst Junior School and a Brass Band to get everyone in a patriotic frame of mind playing traditional tunes that everyone will want to sing along with.

The younger members of the community can burn off some energy on Phil's Inflatables or the go karts and there is a climbing wall, archery and bungee run for the older athletes! Gilbert Giggles the magician - who was such a hit at the Family Fun Day in 2009 - makes a welcome return, as does the wonderful circus skills entertainer Jebbs Christie. Everyone is encouraged to try their hand at stilt walking, diablos, wave boards etc.

Please do come along and support this event. The feedback received after the 2009 Fun Day was extremely positive and encouraged the council to go ahead and plan a celebration for the Diamond Jubilee. It really is a marvellous opportunity for the whole community to come together and celebrate.

**New Bus Shelter**

This has now been installed at the top of Doddinghurst Road and it is hoped will provide shelter to those waiting for the 261 for many years to come.

## **2012/13 Precept for Doddinghurst**

The Parish Council has approved a 2% increase in village precept for 2012/13, which amounts to an increase of just 6p a month for the average household. The Council has not taken the decision lightly and it follows a freeze on precept last year and a 50% cut in Borough Council Grant, losing the Parish almost £14,000 over the past 5 years. On top of that has been an increase of over 8% in the CPI in the past two years and since the Council's budget is very small in comparison with district and Council councils there is little scope for any long term savings on operational costs with current commitments. Over the past 3 years the Parish Council has helped local community groups with over £110,000 in grants to help renovate important village venues and keep key organisations in operation.

## **Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Plan**

Funding to enable this activity to commence in earnest has now been released to the

Parish Council by Brentwood Borough Council.

Initial activity will be to:

- Identify and agree the area to be covered by the Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Plan. Doddinghurst has a boundary with Blackmore that travels up the middle of Outings Lane but the people on this road and in places such as Spillbutters are very much users of the village facilities.

- Understand the Brentwood Local Plan elements that affect Doddinghurst. This plan is still in preparation and is not due for publication until August 2012.

- Involve Residents, Community organisations, Businesses and landowners through a series of open meetings, workshops and advertising.

The Parish Council is responsible for the plan but it is subject to a formal planning inspectorate review and a public referendum in which the majority of those voting have to be in favour before it can be adopted.

## Highways Defects

To notify ECC about a pothole or any other highway problem residents are being encouraged to use the online reporting system at [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk). On their Home page there is a section entitled "Do It Online" which is where the Highways Defects Reporting system is located. When using the online system you are provided with a logging number and confirmation via email that the defect has been reported. An inspector is sent by ECC Highways to look at the problem who will then categorise it for priority. Having a logging number means that you are able to keep track of the defect and subsequent repair work. For emergencies please continue to telephone Highways directly on 0845 603 7631.

**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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## Doddinghurst Parish Council

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