



Doddinghurst Parish Council



Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)
Church Lane, Doddinghurst,
Brentwood, Essex CM15 0NJ

Website: www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk

Telephone 01277 824245

e-mail: clerk@doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk

Introduction

By the time you read this the beautiful summer we have enjoyed will be a memory, and we will be well back into the football season, and the lead up to Christmas!

Children's Play Area

During November the installation of new play equipment in the Children's Play Area is planned to take place. As well as replacing the oldest play equipment a new 30m zip wire and outdoor gym equipment is to be installed near the play park.

The Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £20,000 from Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund towards the cost of the project which will approach £100,000 overall. The Council has saved money for this renewal work over the past 4 years and a competitive tender has been held to select a contractor from 4 bidders.

Jim Smith

Jim has sadly passed away after fighting illness for a number of years. Recognised as a stalwart councillor in the past Jim dedicated his recent time and energy into wildlife protection and his missives in this magazine will be missed by many. RIP Jim.

Road Works Ahead

Poor rural road quality has characterised the last few years but recently there have been signs of improvements. Mounnessing Lane and the Doddinghurst Road from Hall Lane to Hatch Road are among many scheduled for improvement works in the next 15 months and potholes are being repaired at last. However if you weave past a pothole and mutter about it then act by going to: www.essex.gov.uk and registering the fault on their road defect (pothole) reporting site. It now does result in action!

Parish Room

If you are starting a new business, or need a bit more space for an event, don't forget about the Parish Room we have for hire! It is located in the heart of the Village at the side of the Village Hall, and is suitable for small groups (up to 25 people).

It can be hired for morning, afternoon or evening sessions, at a cost of £10 a session (this averages £3.30 per hour!). It also offers tea & coffee facilities and tables and chairs are provided for use. If you would like further details please contact the Parish Office.

Funding Challenges Facing Doddinghurst Parish Council

Due to the cost reduction programme of Brentwood Borough Council, it is likely that the Parish Council's discretionary grant of £13,700 will be withdrawn/ heavily reduced over the next three years. This could result in an increase to the precept on an average property, Band D, of £6 per year. The Parish Council would welcome feedback and comments from residents on the impact this annual increase may have on you.

Please call or email the Parish Council at:

clerk@doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Action Teams

Brentwood Borough Council, Neighbourhood Action Teams have been busy, and hopefully you have seen the results of their hard work around the Village.

They sent a team to deal with the maintenance of grass verges, hedges, and road/street signs. Along with overhanging branches particularly along Church Lane.

If there is anything you notice in the Village that could benefit with some attention from one of the NAT's, no matter how small, then please get in touch with the Parish Office so that the details can be added to the schedule

Maintenance is done on a quarterly basis, and we get 2/3 days of their time, so it is a perfect opportunity to improve our community. We really need your help and input to keep our Village looking beautiful!

Superfast Broadband

Hugely important for the future of the village are two new green cabinets bringing optical fibre into Doddinghurst. From 2015 broadband speeds up to 20Mbits/s should be possible and will enable a quantum leap in connection speeds - but you will have to apply for it from your ISP.

War Memorial Dedication

Residents of Doddinghurst came together on September 6th at All Saints' Church for the dedication of the Village war memorial. There was standing room only in the Church!

A copy of the commemoration leaflet is available to view on the Parish Council Website

Congratulations must go to the people of Doddinghurst for their donations to the project and the superb work of the Memorial committee in raising the funds necessary.

Traveller Incursion.

As many of you will be aware, the Village experienced a Traveller incursion on Peartree Field, on the evening of 28th July 2014. Thanks must be given to the Brentwood BC Environmental Officers who supported the Council superbly in removing the group as swiftly as possible.

A 24 hour order to move was served and expired on Wednesday 30th July. Then a Court Order giving 24 hours' notice to quit was issued and served on Thursday 31st July. The Travellers left of their own volition about noon on Friday 1st August 2014.

The Parish Council have cleared up the field and have secured the gateway, purchasing new locks. Borough Cllr Parker kindly fabricated a new security post free of charge for the gateway as the original was "lost" from the site.

The travellers left rubbish on Peartree Field, which could not be cleared up by Brentwood Council until the site access was securely available. To the consternation of some residents this caused a delay in grass cutting and rubbish removal because a new lock had to be purchased and new security post fabricated, but better this than risk another incursion.

Allotments

The allotment season has been a very productive one this year, with our plots flourishing. We have welcomed a few new tenants this year, and all our plots are currently taken. We have a healthy waiting list which is now not too long! Anybody interested in becoming an allotment holder should contact the Parish Office on 01277 824245. Remember, our villagers get priority!

Village Flower Tubs

A Penultimate a word of thanks to all the volunteers who help keep the village planters looking beautiful all year round. Due to their help, and that of the councillors who grow and plant the flowers, we manage to maintain the displays at virtually no cost to the village.

Parish Council Meeting Dates

Our busy Parish Council meet at least monthly and welcome members of the public to attend. The remaining meetings for the 14/15 financial year will be held:

- Nov 6th – Full Council
- Nov 19th – Finance & Resources
- **Dec 4th – Christmas Buffet**
- Jan 15th – Full Council
- Feb 18th – General Purposes
- March 5th – Full Council.

For further information contact us in the Parish Office.

Parish Council Office

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

Doddinghurst Parish Council

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