



Doddinghurst Parish Council



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Renewal of Quality Parish Council Status

Doddinghurst Parish Council has recently submitted a Portfolio of Evidence in a bid to gain renewal of our quality parish council status for another four years. This award certifies that we achieve the highest standards in looking after our village for the benefit of all its residents. One of the things we have to effectively demonstrate is the use of various means of communication to let the public know not only what is happening at "grass roots" level here in Doddinghurst but also what is happening at district and county council level, hence the notice boards and this quarterly newsletter in the Link magazine. Another good way of finding out what is happening or likely to happen is to attend a parish council meeting, and these are held on the first Thursday of the month in the Parish Room.

Parish Council Elections May 2012

Next May the Parish Councils' four year term of office will come to an end. We are very keen to encourage younger members of the community to come forward and take an active role in shaping the future of our village. There is not a huge amount of commitment involved, just a few hours a month to attend meetings. Sadly, these days people are reluctant to become councillors and give something back to their community. Please don't think that they are populated solely with the type of characters depicted in The Vicar of Dibley! With the advent of the Big Society and Localism there has never been a better chance to play a part in the future of Doddinghurst. Contact the Parish Office for more details if you are interested.

Policing in Brentwood

The Chief Constable of Essex recently announced changes to the operating hours of police stations in the County. This is being done to provide value for money and to keep as many police officers working in neighbourhood policing as possible. Brentwood is one of 16 proposed stations that will offer a front counter service from 12 noon to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. There will be nine core stations that remain open to the public between 8a.m. and midnight 7 days a week. These stations are Basildon, Grays, Harlow, Southend, Chelmsford, Clacton, Rayleigh, Colchester and Braintree.

The new national non-emergency telephone number is **101**. Anyone in Essex who wishes to contact the force can dial 101 from anywhere in Essex and will be put through to Essex Police's switchboard. The previous non-emergency number 0300 333 4444 can still be used for the next 18 months and 999 is still the number to be used for emergencies.

Policing in Brentwood

Essex Police are also proposing to introduce a Crime and Incident Management Bureau (CIMB) which will provide an enhanced service for anyone reporting a crime or anti-social behaviour incident.

December 2011 Parish Council Meeting

The December meeting of the Parish Council will be at St Margaret's Hall on the 1st December 2011. The meeting is from 20.00 to 21.00 and will be followed by a buffet that anyone from the Village is welcome to attend.

The Queen's 2012 Diamond Jubilee

The Parish Council will be hosting a village day on Sunday 3rd June 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - more on this topic in later editions.

Return of Village PCSO

We are pleased to report that our PCSO Dave Creckendon has now returned to duty.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is seeking your help and support in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan for Doddinghurst.

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out what exists at present and what should be provided in the village over the next 10 years in the way of any new development, preferred building styles and areas of improvement.

It will consider the needs of the community as a whole, including all residential, social and business requirements e.g. buildings, telecommunications, transport, schools, medical and community needs and recommend what needs to be kept, what is lacking and what should be improved.

The work is being financially supported by central government and the principal authority for Doddinghurst, Brentwood Borough Council. It is expected to take up to 2 years to complete.

You may have read about “Localism” and about the new Planning Framework for the UK. The government is anxious to kick start the building of low cost housing in England by reducing planning red tape and is providing financial incentives to County and District Councils to build more houses. Brentwood is currently working on its new local plan that will last until 2030. The Neighbourhood Plan for Doddinghurst will form part of that document “set” which will determine what development happens here.

The work will not happen without the Doddinghurst community supporting the project. It is your opportunity to define the future of your village. **We need at least 10 volunteers.** There are some 150,000 items of data to capture, collate and be analysed before conclusions can be developed.

If you are willing to help please contact Roger Blake on 01277 822499 or email to: clerk@doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk

Highways Rangers

ECC recently informed us that funding has been allocated to provide the Highways Rangers service again this year. If you don't know what they do then here is a brief outline: cleaning and minor repairs to road signs and street furniture; re-instatement of posts and bollards; trimming of vegetation; ad-hoc grass cutting and strimming; removal of weeds and vegetation from pavements; removal of illegal signs and fly posting. If you are aware of any works locally which fall under the above categories then please contact the Parish Office with details. If the service is well utilised then ECC will be less likely to withdraw it in future.

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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For more information about the Council and the Village.

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