



The Parish Pump

The Croxley Green Parish Council's House Magazine

Spring/Summer 2017

Issue No.47

Inside this issue:

New to the Council	2
Annual Reports	3 - 10
Events — Dates for Your Diary	5
Budget 2017/18	6 - 7
The Hazel Seeley Award	10
Allotments	11
Updates	12 - 16
Neighbourhood Plan	13

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views or policy of the Parish Council.

COUNCILLORS

Dickinsons Ward

David Bains	441480
Dudley Edmunds	721214
Jeremy Hollands (Vice Chairman)	077625 69054
Jussie Kaur	07494 416116
Chris Mitchell	775642
Robert Ridley	778638
Mark Saxon (Chairman)	774318
David Wynne-Jones	251905

Durrants Ward

Kenneth Baldwin	225460
Nigel Cole	578710
Andrew Gallagher	896366
Andy Hobbs	777099
Sarah Linhart	07932 673300
David Montague	225456
Cliff Vassiliou	07714 286089
Derek Wallington	773210

From the Chairman

At the Council's Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was held on 11 May 2017, Cllr Mark Saxon was elected Chairman for the year 2017/18. **He writes:**



Cllr Mark Saxon

"I am delighted and honoured to have been elected for a second time to be Chairman of the Croxley Green Parish Council. The last time I was Chairman was in 2007 and it seems a long time ago and a lot has changed.

I would like of course to thank my predecessor, Chris Mitchell for all of the hard work he's put into the Council over the last 4 years.

Let us make no mistake, Croxley Green Parish Council is here to stay and long may it be so. This fact was borne out during the last Annual Parish Meeting when we received (from you) unanimous and

overwhelming support for our activities.

I'm not a member of any political party nor support many of the policies from any of the mainstream, but what I do support and wish to encourage is the community vision, support and ideals that your Parish Council embodies.

Your Councillors are all volunteers, make time out of their busy schedules to try and deliver services, events and support to ensure that our community is one we are proud of, that flourishes and grows.

But you need to play your part! Our website advertises the many council funded or other organised events that need to be supported by your presence and there's always local information being published in MyCroxley and other newsletters.

I often hear the phrase 'We didn't know this was on, where was it advertised?' When I ask, 'Where do you look for local events?' the truth is many of you don't. MyCroxley goes from letter box to recycling, the Parish Noticeboards go unnoticed and the library gets unvisited.

Look people of Croxley Green, if you love living here then you gotta do

something to give back. The Revels and Croxfest Committee are always asking for more volunteers, The Scouts, Cubs and other youth groups are always looking for new leaders. YES I KNOW WE ARE ALL BUSY, but that is not an excuse.

Our website has details of most of the local community organisations and I'm sure there's something within the Parish that suits most people.

My own personal vision is one where the majority of our community give up some of their time for the benefit, well being and support of Croxley.

As the annoying Meerkat says 'Simples!!'

Cllr Mark Saxon
Chairman

New Chairmen

At the AGM on 11 May, Cllr Mark Saxon was appointed Chairman for 2017/18 and Cllr Jeremy Hollands as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Dudley Edmunds was appointed Chairman of the E&A Committee and Cllr Nigel Cole as Vice Chairman; Cllr Andrew Gallagher was appointed Chairman of the P&D Committee with Cllr Chris Mitchell as Vice-Chairman.

New to the Council

New Admin Assistant

On 5 September 2016, Ryan Bennett joined the Parish Council as Administrative Assistant. Ryan, who lives locally in Croxley Green, has a BA Hons in history, is a keen writer and a fully qualified Football Association referee. He enjoys music and is an enthusiastic guitar player.



Ryan Bennett

Whilst at the University of Gloucestershire, Ryan completed an internship with a local political party in Gloucester which gave him a wide range of experience and insight into the running of a local government office including attending meetings, preparation of minutes and dealing with members of the public.

New Councillors

In May 2015 twelve Parish Councillors were nominated for election, and were elected unopposed, leaving four vacancies. These were filled by co-option in June 2015. Towards the end of last year four Councillors resigned and the resulting casual vacancies were filled by co-option in January and February 2017.

Cllr Frank Brand and Cllr Amanda Greenman, who were both elected in 2015, resigned because they had moved away from the parish and we are very grateful for their efforts over the years in support of the Council and the wider community. Cllr Viral Kataria and Cllr Ian Taft, who were both co-opted in 2016, resigned for personal and family reasons and we

are thankful for their valuable contributions during their comparatively brief terms of office.

A number of candidates put their names forward for co-option. It is a gruelling process as each candidate has to submit a personal resume explaining why they wish to be co-opted and then attend a public meeting to introduce themselves. After that each vacancy is filled in turn by the councillors present voting for the candidate they prefer. If one candidate receives over half the votes, they are elected and the process continues for the next vacancy with the remaining candidates. If no one gets more than half, then the lowest scoring candidate is eliminated (for this vacancy) and the councillors vote again. And so on, until someone does get more than half the votes. This means it is, in effect, a long drawn out process in which some people are repeatedly unsuccessful, in a public meeting. We are grateful to all those who put their names forward and particularly thank those who put their names forward but were not selected this time.

The four successful candidates were:

Cllr Nigel Cole
Cllr Sarah Linhart
Cllr David Montague
Cllr Derek (Del) Wallington

Cllr Nigel Cole

Nigel Cole is a professional accountant who has recently (2015) moved to Croxley Green, joining other members of his family who live locally. He spent his career in various senior finance roles in small and medium sized enterprises which took him to exotic places including Hong Kong, St Albans, Singapore, Docklands, Switzerland, the USA and Slough. He was motivated to become a Parish Councillor by his experience in volunteering for a number of charities over the last forty years, where he has seen how committed individuals can work together for the common good. As a local beekeeper and an enthusiastic, if fumbling, gardener [his words!] he is interested in conserving our environment for future generations. While acknowledging that nothing is immutable and change

is inevitable; we need always to seek to protect what is important and good.

Cllr Sarah Linhart

Sarah Linhart has lived in Croxley Green for most of her life and she went to the now defunct Durrants School in Croxley. After her education she chose a career in sales, working her way up to the position of European Sales Manager for an IT company based on the Croxley Business Park but after a while the jetting around Europe on an expense account lost its appeal so she started a second career in IT. She has two children, three cats and a hamster. She has a keen interest in politics but always tries to take a pragmatic view to any idea put her way. It is her firm belief that a parish council can be a powerful force for good and offer an insight into the area that no other level of government can.



Cllr David Montague

Cllr David Montague

David Montague has a BSc in Biochemistry and gained a Doctorate in 1981 from the University of Sussex and the WHO National Institute of Biological Standards, London. After doing research he joined Amersham International and had positions of increasing responsibility within the Company as it evolved from Amersham through to Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, part of Johnson and Johnson.

He ran a large R&D departments and led global teams to deliver over 40 new diagnostic products in the diagnosis of Infectious disease,

Annual Reports

Thyroid disease, Myocardial Infarction and the treatment of infertility. When he retired in July 2016 he was the Director and Global Project Leader responsible for assay development.

David has been a resident of Croxley Green since 1984 and his three children attended Yorke Mead School where his wife was chair of Governors for several years and he built carnival floats, helped run many events including the Yorke Mead Firework display. He has been running the display since 1998. He also ran the firework display on the Green for the Croxley Millennium celebrations and helped the team building "Big Ben".

David has led the team that organises the Rickmansworth Festival for the last 16 years and grown it from its early beginnings to the large community event it is now. He is currently Chairman of Rickmansworth Waterways Trust, the charity based at Batchworth Lock.

When he retired he decided to become more involved in the community that he had spent the majority of his life in and was very grateful to be co-opted onto the Parish Council early in 2017.

Cllr Derek (Del) Wallington



Cllr Derek Wallington

Derek (Del) Wallington, has been a resident in Croxley Green since

1998. He is one of the newest Councillors to become part of a very dedicated group of volunteer Councillors, who pride themselves to work together for the good of Croxley Green and their residents.

Derek is a member of the Planning and Development Committee, and will make it his quest to put Croxley Green and the community at the forefront of any decisions that he may be asked to make.

Derek sees himself to be one of the older or mature Councillors, so he would like to represent their views and wishes to make himself available to them whenever requested and take issues forward for them.

Derek will also make every effort to make himself available to volunteer to help at any of our community's functions.

In the road where he lives he has organised with, at the moment ten neighbour's, a sun flower growing competition and in August they meet up at one of the houses to present a small cup to the winner with the tallest sunflower. It is a fun thing with lots of banter and he believes helps neighbours to communicate and be more a part of the community.

So what he would like to do if possible is to organise a sunflower contest for the tallest sun flower grown in Croxley Green, either by each road taking part individually, then the winner for the tallest sunflower in the road will be put forward to the tallest grown in Croxley Green—more on page 12.

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 27 April 2017

The following reports are those delivered to the meeting by the Chairmen of Council and Committees, or a Councillor on their behalf, prior to the Annual General Meeting on 11 May when changes took place—see front page for details.

Chairman's Report

Thank you all for coming. As I have said every year I have done this, I believe that Croxley Green is a very special place to live, work and play.

It is down to the many organisations

and people who make things happen. Also we are on the edge of the greatest city in the world, surrounded by green belt and near Watford FC.

The Parish Council supports many organisations, mainly through one-off help on projects and also to organise events and provide services to improve our village and community.

I am going to run through them;

- Who we are and
- What we do
- The events
- Grants

Who we are

We are 16 councillors. All volunteers and we do not get any allowances or expense for the work we do.

At the moment we have 10 elected and 6 co-opted councillors. All people who give up their spare time for the good of Croxley Green.

By elected I mean stood for election. There was not a poll in 2015 as there were not more standing than the number of seats. The rest were co-opted. They have applied to be Councillors and are then elected by the existing ones.

Please make yourselves known *[the Cllrs stand up]* and I thank you for your time and efforts.

The staff:

Our clerk David Allison and Admin Assistant Ryan Bennett

Two rangers, Senior is Phillip Hinton and James Townley. These two people keep Croxley Green looking great, and we get a lot of compliments from the public. Thankyou.

We also pay for one Police Community Support Officer, and then we have another provided by the Herts police. They help to help keep a feeling of safety and security

We hold Council Meetings each month. We also have committees, the Planning & Development, and the Environment & Amenity. The public are welcome at all these meetings We also have a HR and resources committee which is confidential and a number of working parties for specific projects.

Annual Reports

What do we do

Community Bus for the elderly, I have been told that it is the often the highlight of the week for many. 2165 passenger trips last year.

Annual seaside trip for the elderly. Last year 119 went to Eastbourne.

Rangers work on the second Village Green (Buddleia Walk) and Croxley Hall woods.

Ranger's work with local schools.

Building and installing 45 bird boxes along with Bird Box Trail leaflet/ worksheet.

We distribute 30,000 dog bags free every 6-8 weeks, which would be enough to cover the field of play at Wembley over the course of a year.

Neighbourhood plan, more later.

Strategic business plan working party created.

Installed and maintain three defibrillators. Thank you to the Baptist Church and All Saints Church for hosting one each. The other is outside our office.

Provided financial support for a Citizen's Advice Bureau service in the Library once a month.

Grants to local groups.

Meetings to try and take forward the land transfer, but this will take time.

P&D committee considered 146 planning applications in the year.

Opposed the Ascot Road proposed re-development.

Events

Sponsors of the Revels and Croxfest through a subscription to the Croxley Green Society

Dog show, for the fifth year

Remembrance Day – we booked the Brass band for the procession and also on the Green.

Christmas tree at the Library and the Christmas lights and carol singing.

Second festive market

Fireworks. Still so popular and this year being one of the best

Wassail. Now becoming a tradition.

Raised over £1000 for charity, this year for the scouting and guiding

groups and New hope Trust.

All these events are free to join in with, and they are open for all.

These are the things that contribute towards CG being a community, and making it a great place to be.

Maintenance

As already said, the two excellent rangers who keep the village looking great.

They look after the Green, Stone Orchard, the footpaths in Croxley Green,

Clear many of the litter bins and carry out woodland maintenance in part of Croxley Hall woods and the Buddleia walk.

They also work with Flowers for Croxley, and this brings a lot of colour into the village, and many thanks to them.

Issues that affect us

MLX. Now on back burner due to costs. They have gone very quiet on us, but basically it has gone over £50m over budget.

Neighbourhood Plan - This has now been submitted to TRDC who are going through their own consultation on it. The latest version is on our website. Cllr Gallagher will update this, and many thanks to him for all the work he has put in and to the rest of the working party.

Other issues

I and Cllr Hollands and the Clerk have attended a meeting with the other parishes in TRDC. This is to see what common issues we have and work together, especially in dealing with TRDC.

Land Transfer. We met an officer from TRDC who was very supportive and helpful. However that person has now left and we have been told to go through a long process for each parcel of land.

From a meeting I recently went to addressed by the CEO of NALC, National Association of Local Councils

“The Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government has recently stated that the Parish Sector plays an important role in democracy and local decision making.

“The Prime Minister, in a speech about Brexit, reported that global Britain is made from strong foundations including Parish, Town and Community Councils. This gives a huge opportunity locally now with Brexit, austerity and devolution. The Parish Sector is changing rapidly.

“There are ten thousand Local Councils in England covering 40% of the population with eighty thousand councillors raising £500 million in precepts. A further fifty communities are working towards becoming parishes supported by their Principal Authority, mainly in urban areas.

“Neighbourhood Planning is changing how Parishes are perceived.

“Devolution from Principal Authorities means that local Councils are absorbing local services.

“The journey is not complete; DCLG is working towards a better relationship but are not there yet. But it has greatly improved; 15 years ago there were serious proposals to abolish the Parish Sector. Eric Pickles was giving very different messages. Neighbourhood Planning necessarily means listening to and strengthening local communities.

“NALC needs to continue to work to encourage District Councils to take Parishes seriously and offer better support.

“NALC is pushing to make parish polls more difficult to call as these are vexatious and costly. There was a consultation about this two years ago, and the feedback was to do this.”

Finally

The next few years are going to be very interesting as I do believe that powers will continue to be pushed towards the Parish Councils for many different reasons.

My thanks to our Clerk, Admin Assistant, the rangers, the PCSO's. Also great thanks to the Councillors for their time in attending meetings and making the decisions etc.

Also, great thanks to all the volunteers to who directly help us deliver our services, and to all of you who do something to help Croxley Green.

(cont'd on page 8)

Events & Dates

EVENTS - dates for your diary

- Tuesday, 20 June — Senior Citizen's day trip to Brighton
- Saturday, 24 June—Croxley Revels 1.30-5pm
- June** Saturday, 24 June — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am
- Monday, 26 June—Local Area Forum at Baptist Church, Baldwins Lane at 7.30pm
- July** Saturday, 30 July — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am
- Aug** Wednesday, 2 August 2017 — Classic Cars on The Green 2pm until late
- Saturday, 26 August — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am
- Sept** Saturday, 2 September — Croxfest noon until 8pm
- Sunday, 17 September — Classic Cars on The Green with Carter's Steam Fair 10am-5pm
- Sunday, 24 September 2016—Dog Show in Stones Orchard from 12noon
- Saturday, 30 September — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am
- Oct** Monday, 2 October—Nomination Forms for the "Hazel Seeley Award" available at the Parish Council office or on our website
- Saturday, 28 October — Croxley Great Barn Tour at 11am. Meet in the car park of St Joan of Arc School, Rickmansworth at 10.45am
- Nov** Sunday, 12 November — Remembrance Day with Marching Band
- Tuesday, 21 November — Local Area Forum at Harvey Road School at 7.30pm
- Thursday, 30 November—Xmas tree and lights switch on by the library, Barton Way at 6pm
- Dec** Saturday, 16 December— Festive Market by library, Barton Way, 4pm-7pm

CROXLEY GREEN PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY BUS

DO YOU USE THIS SERVICE?

TO WATFORD TOWN CENTRE - EVERY FRIDAY

1ST JOURNEY

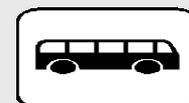
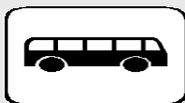
Winton Drive Approach	9.30am
Shaftsbury Court	9.32am
Malvern Way/Barton Way	9.34am
Fuller Way/Barton Way	9.36am
Hanover House	9.37am
Sherborne Way/Baptist Church	9.40am
Return from Watford	12 noon

2ND JOURNEY

Sycamore Approach	10.00am
Valley Walk (Green)	10.01am
Valley Walk/Beechcroft Ave	10.03am
Frankland Rd/Harvey Rd	10.05am
Chalmers Court	10.08am
All Saints Lane (outside church)	10.10am
New Road	10.12am
Return from Watford	12.30pm

3RD JOURNEY

Junction Links Way & Warwick Way	10.30am
Junction Links Way & Dover Way	10.31am
Junction Links Way & Little Green Lane	10.32am
Junction Little Green Lane & Durrants Drive	10.33am
Junction Durrants Drive & Dover Way	10.34am
Kenilworth Drive/Baldwins Lane Footpath	10.36am
Manor Way	10.38am
Grove Court	10.40am
Return from Watford	1.15pm



FREE SERVICE

For the exclusive use of Senior Citizens and persons in sheltered accommodation. You may be required to show proof of eligibility

<u>Finance & Administration</u>		Agreed	<u>103</u>	<u>Groundworks</u>	Budget £
		Budget (£)			
<u>101</u>	<u>General Administration</u>		4001	Salaries & Wages	60,300
			4006	Protective Clothing	500
4001	Salaries & Wages	75,000	4008	Training	500
4007	Courses / Confer- ences	0	4010	Misc Staff Costs	730
4008	Training	500	4012	Water Rates	700
4009	Travel	1,300	4017	Health & Safety	500
4011	Rates	3,100	4018	Refuse Disposal	0
4012	Water Rates	560	4036	Property Maintenance	500
4013	Rent	110	4037	Grounds Maintenance	1,500
4014	Light & Heat	2,800	4038	Maintenance Contracts	2,000
4016	Janitorial	1,400	4041	Equipment Hire	0
4017	Health & Safety	270	4042	Equipment Mainte- nance	1,000
4019	Consultancy Fees	2,700	4046	Equipment Purchased	500
4020	Misc Establishment Costs	400	4051	Vehicle License & Insurance	2,500
4021	Telephone & Fax	1,600	4055	Fuel & Oil - LS08 WCP	1,000
4023	Stationery, Printing & Postage	3,500	4060	Fuel & Oil - Groundworks	840
4025	Insurance	3,900	4070	Maintenance - LS08 WCP	560
4027	Computer Software & IT	2,500	4071	Maintenance - Tractor	1,100
4030	Recruitment Adver- tising	2,500	4072	Maintenance - Ride on Mower	500
4036	Property Maintenance	400		Tfr from Reserves ex equip. maint.	-500
4156	Audit Fees - External	1,000		Tfr from Reserves ex Maintenance con- tracts	-2,000
4157	Audit Fees - Internal	910			
4158	Accountancy Fees	880			
				OverHead Expenditure	72,730
	Balancing figure	0	1061	Agency Income - HCC Mtce	0
	Tfr from Reserves (if required)	-7,000	1062	Agency Income - TRDC Mtce	0
			1080	Miscellaneous Income	0
				Total Income	0
	OverHead Expenditure	98,330		103 Net Expenditure	72,730
1001	Rent Received	10	<u>107</u>	<u>Grants (incl S137)</u>	
1076	Precept	286,944	4200	Chairman's Charity Expenditure	3,000
1080	Miscellaneous Income	0	4260	Community Hall Membership Grant	9,699
1090	Interest Received	6	4711	S137 Grants	1,500
				Glass Doors at All Saints Church	5,000
				Tfr from Reserves	-5,000
	Total Income	286,960		OverHead Expenditure	14,199
	101 Net Expenditure	-188,630			
			1077	Grants Received	0
			1200	Chairmans Charity Income	3,000
4024	Subscriptions/Publications	7,500		Total Income	3,000
4033	Parish Pump Newsletter	2,000		107 Net Expenditure	11,199
4201	Chairman's Discretion Budget	500			
4251	Election Expenses	5,000	<u>150</u>	<u>Community/Village Hall</u>	
4300	Events - Revels on the Green	350		Works	0
				Transfer from reserves	0
	OverHead Expenditure	15,350		OverHead Expenditure	0
1031	Map Income	0		Total Income	0
1051	Advertising Income	1,600		150 Net Expenditure	0
	Total Income	1,600			
	102 Net Expenditure	13,750	<u>199</u>	<u>F & A Capital & Projects</u>	
			4175	Sale of Assets	0
			4823	Tfr to Vehicle Repl Fund	4,000
			4824	Tfr to Equipt Repl Fund	3,000
				Annual Civic Award	200

Annual Reports

Summary (cont'd from page 4)

I hope you support the work that we do for all of you to:

- Provide extra services
- Support events
- Maintain the village to a high standard

By doing this and working together with others, we help keep Croxley Green special and a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Thank you.

Cllr Chris Mitchell
Chairman of the Parish Council
(2013-17)

Environment & Amenity Committee Report

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be the Chairman of this committee. I have been walking through the bluebell woods recently and down the Buddleia Walk and in early Spring it seems totally rural - it's amazing to think that we are only a dozen miles from Piccadilly Circus.

Your committee is dedicated to maintaining this stillness and calm. We owe a great deal to the enthusiasm and initiative of our Senior Ranger Philip Hinton and to our second Ranger James Townley for the truly excellent work they have done in maintaining the Green, Stones Orchard and all the paths and nooks and cranny's which make our village such an environmental paradise.

We can help our Rangers by ensuring that we do not drop litter and by reporting and if possible photographing those selfish people who indulge in fly tipping. Remember to search for any old document with a name and address for the all-important evidence.

Over the last year your Rangers have been building and installing a total of 45 bird boxes which have been placed around Croxley Green. Our Admin Assistant Ryan Bennett has produced a Bird Box Trail leaflet so that you can get out and about around the village and identify the trees and spot as many birds as you can.

We had a very successful dog show in Stones Orchard last September - the number of entrants seems to go up year by year and it is a real community event and this year we raised a magnificent £327 for charity. This year's event is scheduled for September the 24th.

Our Wassailers gave us a lot of pleasure in January and seem to have been remarkably successful in bringing on all blossoms and the crops in this remarkable Spring and the event was very well attended.

The meadow areas which the Rangers so carefully preserve on the Green and Stones orchard are full of the most interesting moths and insects. We had a meeting with Countryside Management Services and Three Rivers District Council regarding a new Management Plan for Stones Orchard but we are still

awaiting draft details from them.

As usual I would like to thank the members of the E and A committee for their time, interest and for the number of topics they bring up for discussion. I look forward to our meeting each month.

This year we were instrumental in the installation of a set of new steps leading down from Buddleia walk to Common Moor Lock. This is a fine example of how we are working for you to open up our village and making its environment more accessible so that it can be enjoyed by all.

This year we reported 16 faults to Hertfordshire Highways which concerned Croxley Green. The vast majority of these were brought to our attention by members of the public and we are always willing to help. So if you see a street light not working, a fallen tree blocking a footpath, a dislodged manhole cover or anything you think is slightly out of the ordinary then get in touch with the office and they will be able to take it up for you.

Also, if you have something that is worrying you about our environment, or have any ideas on how best you think it could be improved, then contact the Clerk and he will be able to advise on how best the matter can be taken forward by the our Committee. Our Clerk is his usual efficient self and many thanks to our new Admin Assistant Ryan Bennett for his helping with the various GREEN projects he has prepared.

Parish Council Meetings - public welcome to attend



Meetings start at 8pm

Council meeting - last Thursday of each month
(except May and August)

Annual Parish Meeting - last Thursday in April

Annual General Meeting - Thursday 11 May 2017

Environment & Amenity meeting - first Tuesday of each month
(except May and August)

Planning & Development meeting - first and third Wednesday of each month

Finance & Administration meeting - second Thursday of each month
(except August)

Annual Reports

Don't forget to come and visit sometime at our meetings, you are always welcome!

And finally I'd like to once again thank our parish Rangers Phil and James who keep Croxley Green a very special place to live. You can also now follow them on Twitter to keep updated on the work they do each day around Croxley Green.

Cllr David Wynne-Jones
Chairman of the Environment and Amenity Committee

Planning & Development Committee Report

The Planning and Development Committee met 24 times between 6th April 2016 and 5th April 2017. One meeting (5th October 2016) was cancelled because it would have been inquorate.

The main business of each meeting has been to review planning applications recently submitted to Three Rivers District Council from within the Parish and comment upon them. Much development is allowed under Permitted Development Rights and the Council's comments on planning applications are limited to matters contained within the national planning policy framework and the local development planning framework (the TRDC Local Plan).

In total we have reviewed 146 planning application, the majority of which have been for comparatively minor residential extensions, and most have been commented as "no grounds for objection" (NGFO). We receive reports on recent decisions by TRDC, applications approved, refused or withdrawn, and on any appeals.

We have only specifically objected to 6 proposals. Of these four were approved by TRDC, one was withdrawn, and one is still pending.

There was one appeal reported this year on application 16/1366/FUL Greystone Works, The Green regarding the demolition of existing workshops and construction of three storey building containing six one bedroom flats and associated car parking and landscaping.

We also receive notification of applications for prior approval, for certificates of lawfulness, for

discharge of planning conditions, and for non-material amendments to planning applications, and noted 43 within the year.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out the Parish Council's proposals for additional planning policies that would apply to all development within Croxley Green. If approved, this will have a significant impact on planning matters within the Parish for anyone who wants to build, alter, extend or add to their property.

An initial consultation draft was sent to nearly 90 organisations and other interested parties in June 2016. Written responses were received from twelve organisations and seven individual respondents. The draft Plan was revised and the Consultation Statement and Basic Conditions Statement required to accompany it were prepared later in 2016.

The documents were submitted to TRDC in January 2017 for Regulation 16 Consultation and independent examination of the Plan. After the formal submission additional comments were received from Hertfordshire County Council, the Education Funding Agency, and TRDC. In order to fully respond to these additional comments the Parish Council temporarily withdrew the submitted Plan and associated documents which were re-submitted in April 2017.

In addition the P&D considered Highways and Road Safety matters in the first meeting each month. Thanks to the individual efforts of Cllr Dudley Edmunds, TRDC reviewed the issue of speeding on Community Way and has installed speed control measures ("thumps"), additional signs and marked a pedestrian way along the edge.

Although just outside the Parish, we felt it absolutely necessary to raise our objections to the proposed massive development at Ascot Road. The matter was first discussed in December and we wrote to Watford Borough Council in February 2017 to express our concerns about the impact of the size and height of the seven proposed buildings on the character of the area and neighbouring areas, the skyline and the landscape for miles around and the impact of the intensity of

development within the small site, with provision for 485 dwelling units, on the demand for local services and facilities, including education, recreation, health and parking.

The future of the proposed Metropolitan Line Extension is now unclear and the lack of information concerning its progress is worrying.

The specific proposals for the development of the proposed new school site at the bottom of Baldwins Lane have not yet been revealed and the lack of information about development of the site is a matter of concern, for both local residents and the families of prospective pupils.

Cllr Andrew Gallagher
Vice Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee

Finance & Administration Committee Report

The remit of the Finance & Administration Committee (F&A) is to ensure the finances of the Council are managed in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Committee Members are myself as Vice Chairman of the Council, Cllr Chris Mitchell the Chairman of the Council, the chairman and vice chair of the E&A Committee Cllrs Wynne-Jones & Edmunds and from the P&D Committee Cllrs Bains & Gallagher. Like all meetings of the Council the meetings are open to all councillors who wish to attend along with any members of the public and press who are always welcome.

Each month the Committee meets to review and examine the Monthly accounts prepared by the Clerk which shows the exact monthly expenditure, monies spent to date versus the budget for the year. These monthly meetings allow us to make sure that your money is being spent in the right way to help benefit the residents of Croxley Green.

The Parish Council is funded by you the residents and with approximately 5,200 houses in Croxley Green in 2016/17 this cost on average approximately £54 per household per year. (£280,000+). In addition we received the last of the Tax Support Grant from TRDC which compensated for the reduction in the tax base following the changes made

by HMG to the Council Tax benefit system. (£4,277). We also received for the first time income from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) of £4,104 which is a planning charge made by TRDC on new developments. At the moment the allocation to the Parish Council is 15% but with a Neighbourhood Plan this increases to 25%.

In overall terms our income was £299,000 and our expenditure was £252,000. In addition £19,000 was put into earmarked reserves and £27,000 in General Reserves. This brings our Reserves to just over the recommended level.

A number of Grants were awarded to local organisations during the year including the Citizens Advice Bureau to set up a monthly session in the Library for residents, to the Croxley Green Bowls Club, to the Guild of Sport and to the Croxley Green Home and Produce Show. The Council was pleased to be able to assist them and welcome any appropriate applications for the upcoming financial year.

Between October and January, the Council considers its budget at all its meetings to which all members of the public are welcome. This is time when the Councillors scrutinize the Council's budget in detail at both Committee and at Council level to ensure that there are sufficient funds to sustain the services and facilities which the Parish Council provides. As there is no tax support grant this year, the Council finalised this year's budget in January with a very small increase of about 8 pence on a Band 'D' property.

On Tuesday just gone, the Council had its end of year internal audit and I'm very pleased to report that once again the Council has received a 'clean' audit.

Cllr Jeremy Hollands
Vice-Chairman, Finance & Administration Committee

The Hazel Seeley Award 2017

At the start of the Annual Parish Meeting on 27 April, the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Chris Mitchell, presented the Hazel Seeley Award to this years winners Pauline Batten and Keith Alford.



Pauline Batten and Keith Alford

Our congratulations to Pauline Batten & Keith Alford who received the Hazel Seeley Award in recognition of the tireless work they carry out to make Croxley Green a special place to live.

For 12 years they have worked to improve the lives of the residents of Cherwell Close by maintaining the large gardens, staging quiz nights & fish and chip suppers, taking residents to doctor's appointments and decorating Cherwell Close with wonderful Christmas lights which are enjoyed by all. Well done to these two very deserving recipients.

Each year Croxley Green Parish Council awards the Hazel Seeley Award to an individual(s) or group in recognition of the work they do for the benefit of the community of Croxley Green.

The award, in the style of a civic award, is named after former Parish Councillor, Hazel Seeley, whom served continuously on the Croxley Green Parish Council for 18 years.



Hazel was the recipient of the award in its inaugural year in 2016.

Nomination forms the Hazel Seeley Award 2018 will be available in October from the Council offices or you go to the Council's website:

<http://www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk/index.php/information/forms>.

Future of the Parish Council

At the Annual Parish Meeting Cllr Robert Ridley proposed a motion that a poll is held asking the residents of Croxley Green to vote to abolish/retain Croxley Green Parish Council.

The Chairman explained, for the benefit of those present, that:

- It would cost the Parish Council in excess of £5,000 to organise and hold a parish poll and the result would not be binding.
- A parish poll is not the process required by law for the abolition of a Parish Council, so the proposed poll would be a waste of time and money.
- The way to abolish a Parish Council would be by a petition signed by a minimum of 10% of the electorate. [In Croxley Green, in excess of 1,000 registered electors.]
- The District Council [TRDC] would then undertake a local governance review taking account of the views of the local electors, Parish Council, Councillors, and any other person or bodies considered to have an interest in the review.
- Once started, the review would have to be completed, and would cost more time and money to conduct.
- Since the Localism Act 2011 there has been a general presumption in favour of Parish Councils to provide greater local control over local services and many more Parish and Town Councils are being set up.

Following extensive discussion of the merits of the motion the Chairman asked by way of a show of hands if there was any support for Cllr Ridley's proposal.

Zero people raised their hands to support Cllr Ridley, and as there was not the support of ten electors (the number currently required in law) a poll could not be called for. The Government is currently reviewing its consultation to increase the minimum number for a poll from 10 to 10% of the elected population.

David Allison
Parish Clerk

Allotments

Memories of Eastbourne

On Wednesday 22 June 2016 the Parish Council arranged two coaches which were waiting in the car park beside the Barton Way allotments. Senior citizens are famous for being early, so although we were due to depart at 9 am, most people had arrived by 8:30. The weather did not seem promising, and the M25 was typically slow, but everyone seemed in jovial mood for the day out. We were informed by our leader of vital information such as which are the best fish and chip shops in Eastbourne, and where the public toilets are.

Upon arrival, we were dropped off at the pier, which looks very elegant since being renovated after a fire in 2014. Some people headed off to the famous tea shop, some enjoyed a walk along the flower-bedecked promenade, and others explored the town. The sun started to shine, and some of us even ventured out for a paddle.

This quintessentially Victorian seaside town looked beautiful in the afternoon sunshine. After a delightful day, we all boarded the buses again, and were back in Croxley by 7:30 pm. Altogether a lovely day out. Everything was well-organized, and thanks are due to the Parish Council and the volunteers (David Neighbour and Jeremy Hollands) who took care of us so well.

The idea of a sponsored coach trip (initiated by Hazel Seeley, a Parish Councillor from 1998-2015) was started in 2007 in order to provide a day out for 35 people in sheltered housing. Trips were organized to Clacton-on-Sea, Brighton, and World's End in Wendover.

In 2012, the Parish Council decided that the excursion should be open to all senior citizens in Croxley Green. It is a splendid way to meet other community members, and provides an opportunity for people who do not have cars (and especially for those for whom a long train or car trip is difficult or unaffordable) to have a day out and enjoy some fresh sea air. Thanks to all who made this event so much fun, and hope to see you on the bus next June!

Jocelyn Menyhart
Croxley Resident

Allotments in Croxley Green

We are lucky to have, in Croxley Green, several areas allocated as allotment grounds. The largest of these is off Barton Way, but there are other smaller areas allotment grounds.

Barton Way

In the land adjacent to Dickinson's field, Barton Way and Community Way in Croxley Green lies the Barton Way Allotments. It is thought it was formed during 1920s after the 1st World War as part of the Government initiative relating to Homes for Heroes, when many allotment sites were created.

The classic thought of a typical allotment grower being male with a flat cap and a couple of ferrets is long gone. There is a very diverse group of allotment holders of all ages and knowledge on there now. It is especially good to see young families enjoying their time together. More experienced growers are always very happy to give advice and often give spare plants and produce to others. Local beekeepers have hives there and several plot holders have chickens too.



The allotments are leased by Barton Way Allotment Committee from Three Rivers District Council. It is self-managed by volunteers. At one time there was a waiting list of 60 people and it was taking three years to obtain a plot. The list is now much smaller. In fairness to all, the committee make a check each year to ensure plots are being maintained as part of their lease condition. This is when the dreaded letter falls on the mat of people who have neglected their plot, asking them to use it or lose it. If no improvement is made after a certain time the tenants are asked to leave, so those on the waiting list get a chance to try out their horticultural skills. Perhaps

some television programmes have not told the true tale of how much work an allotment can involve including the actual harvesting of produce. But like anything in life if your allotment is precious to you, time will be found to use it.



Everyone was delighted when Watford Mencap took over a plot a couple of years ago and have been so successful they have now taken over another one and hope to get a greenhouse set up soon. They take a very active part in the Open Day and the Association welcomes their help. The Association also has a very good relationship with its neighbours the Croxley Green Parish Council.

Visits by groups such of school children, and other organisations are very welcome. Malvern Way School visited them in 2016 and very much enjoyed the experience. It is interesting how much children seem to know these days about the food they eat, and where it comes from. Until you have been on the site itself people do not realise how big it is. Holding over 150 plots of various sizes it welcomes visitors once a year to its Open Morning, usually in July.

The site is very lucky to have its own toilet block and running water – a rare luxury which is very much appreciated.

Providing you don't overdo things having an allotment can be a fantastic way of getting fresh air, a good workout, and give you optimism for the future as part of the allotment community. It can give you literally a little bit of space and peace and quiet in the very busy lives we live.

Paul Tublin
Barton Way Allotment Association

Updates

Other Allotment Sites

There are a few spare allotment plots left in Croxley Green. If you would like to rent one, please contact the relevant Association who will be able to provide location details, facilities, rental costs, etc.

Barton Way Allotment Association
Contact: Paul Tublin
01923 721067
e-mail: bwallotment1@btinternet.com

Croxley Hall Woods Allotment Association
Contact: Liz Stainer
e-mail emstokes@hotmail.co.uk
07941 060941

Frankland Road Allotment Association
Contact: Mr C Mitchell
01923 775642
e-mail chris.mitch@ntlworld.com

Lavrock Lane Allotment Association
Contact: Mr A J H Clarke
01923 779570
e-Mail: tony@thedreamingfrog.co.uk

Rangers School Projects

The Parish Council has always had close ties with the local schools. We have constructed areas for the children to use, taken part in interactive lessons and took a hand in lunch time gardening clubs. The past two years have been no different.

In 2014 we were asked by Little Green School if we could renovate



Little Green School wildlife area

their wildlife area which had fallen into disuse. We cleared the area of brambles and nettles, created a log seating area for classes, built a bug hotel, which the children helped us fill, and with one of the parents relined the pond. I'm happy to say that the pond is full of tadpoles and aquatic plants and the pupils make good use of the area for lessons. We now make regular visits to maintain and keep the area tidy.

We also went back early in 2016 to erect a greenhouse for their vegetable garden.

At the beginning of last year Harvey Road School asked us if we could build them two new raised beds to complement the two they have already. With the help of a parent the wood was bought and we installed them ready to be filled and used.

Later on in the year Yorke Mead School approached us to design and construct an allotment garden in a space vacated by a porta cabin classroom. We came up with a plan and sourced the materials and the project was completed in February, in good time for planting in spring. It was hard work and the weather was not kind however we managed to construct four large raised beds, a slabbed walkway, installed an antique sink and fenced the whole area. It's wonderful to see the beds full of fresh produce and they have planted fruit trees and bushes which have added to the colour.

It's great to go into the schools and we are only too happy to help

especially if the work we do is appreciated and put to good use by the children. I hope the good relationships we have will carry on long into the future.

Philip Hinton
Senior Ranger

Sky High Sunflowers

The Parish Council used to run a competition with the local schools each year to grow the tallest sunflower and the largest pumpkin. As a local resident I restarted the tallest sunflower competition with my neighbours on Sherborne Way. This year ten of us have shared a packet of seeds and are growing the flowers. At a prearranged date towards the end of the season we will measure the tallest sunflower and then meet up at one of the houses to present a small cup to the tallest grown. It is all done in a very nice manner and very enjoyable with loads of friendly banter.

If there are other streets in Croxley Green that would also like to take part next year we could have the tallest grown on each street then that will be put forward to the tallest grown in Croxley Green.

For all those that would be interested and like to take part, please contact me or the Parish Council offices and I will start to arrange dates and seeds.

Clr Derek Wallington



Yorke Mead's allotment garden

Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plan

Last year I reported that we had completed the informal consultation draft of the Neighbourhood Plan and invited you all to read it, either online on the Parish Council's website (it is in the information section, <http://www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk/index.php/information>) or paper copies available at the Council's office and in the Library. We displayed the draft Plan at the Revels in June 2016 and gave away copies at the Local Area Forum on 13 July 2016.

We sent out copies to nearly ninety local organisations and interested parties at the end of June 2016 and invited responses by early September. Written responses were received from twelve organisations and seven individuals. The Parish Council is grateful to all those who responded for the care with which they scrutinised the draft Plan and Appendices and the thoughtfulness of their responses and comments. In particular, TRDC engaged an independent professional planner to review the draft and provide an objective opinion as to whether the Plan, as presented, was likely to be fit for purpose as a development plan document. The comments have all been included in a "Consultation Statement" which is required by Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 as part of the formal submission of the proposed Plan to TRDC.

Once we had received the comments, the Working Party met to review them and, with the help of our technical adviser, Peter Goodwin, we modified the Plan and Appendices to respond to the comments during October and November and approved a revised draft for submission to TRDC in December 2016. In parallel we had to prepare two documents to meet the legal requirement – the "Consultation Statement" and a "Basic Conditions Statement", explaining how the proposed Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act (1990). Both these documents can be found on the Parish Council's website under <http://www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk/index.php/information/planning-development/neighbourhood-plan>. If

anyone has any trouble sleeping, they might find these two statements work better than most commercial sedatives – reading a couple of pages should send almost anyone into a deep slumber.

The four documents were submitted to TRDC in January 2017. As the Plan had been modified significantly following the consultation, TRDC requested their independent professional planner to carry out a further review of the proposed Plan to provide independent confirmation that the policies would meet the basic conditions. At the same time further comments were received from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and the Educational Funding Agency (EFA) about the effect of the proposed policies on the development of the proposed Croxley Danes School site. In the light of the comments from HCC, the EFA, and the independent reviewer, in March 2017 TRDC offered the Parish Council an opportunity to reconsider the submitted Plan before progressing the statutory Regulation 16 Consultation and independent Examination of the Plan.

We withdrew the proposed Plan temporarily, considered the further comments carefully and amended the Plan and Consultation Statement before the proposed Plan was resubmitted to TRDC in April 2017. Now that the Plan has been resubmitted, TRDC is seeking views on the planning policies contained within the proposed Croxley Green Neighbourhood Development Plan (the public consultation required by Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations

2012). The consultation is running for a six week period from Friday 21st April 2017 until Friday 2nd June 2017.

In parallel, TRDC has appointed an Independent Examiner, Ann Skippers (a member of the Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service Panel (NPIERS)), who will assess the proposed Croxley Green Neighbourhood Plan against the basic conditions and will recommend one of the following actions, that:

- the Plan proceeds to the referendum stage;
- modifications are needed to the Plan before it can proceed to the referendum ;
- it does not proceed to the referendum .

It is only after the Examiner's Report has been received that TRDC will come to a formal view as to whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions, and whether to proceed to a referendum (which will be determined by a simple majority of those voting) or not.

So, like you, we are waiting to see the responses to the Regulation 16 statutory consultation and the views of the independent Examiner. We hope that, all being well, there will have been a referendum with a positive vote, and the proposed Croxley Green Neighbourhood Plan will have been adopted by TRDC before our next Annual Parish Meeting in 2018.

Cllr Chris Mitchell
Chairman of Neighbourhood Plan Working Party



Neighbourhood Plan Display at the Revels 18 June 2016

Updates

Dog Tales!

Considering the number of new paws on the block, Croxley Green remains a very dog friendly place.

However, as dog owners we need to recognise and accept that we have a responsibility towards all residents, canine and otherwise. My two dogs have both been attacked in the last few months, the younger one bitten and the older, somewhat arthritic one, knocked over. The owner of the dog that bit excused it by stating it was a "rescue" and the other one seems to be building a reputation for attacking old and infirm dogs. There is absolutely no excuse for this. If your dog is a problem or a potential problem then it must be kept on a lead or a long line.

Some of you will know that my hobby is working and training sheep dogs: I train and work my own dogs and those of other owners. Many people seem to think that Border Collies are born fully trained: please be assured that they are not! They learn quickly and they can learn the bad as well as the good. Pet dogs don't need the standard of training that a working sheep dog needs but they do need training. A dog with even basic training is less stressful to walk and easier to handle. There are, in Croxley, some exceptionally well behaved dogs, a total credit to their owners and then there are some others! Please do train your dog, even if it is only a basic (reliable) recall and an emergency "down." By being a responsible owner we are less likely to be on the receiving end of further, unnecessary, legislation and restriction.

Always pick up after your dog! There is absolutely no excuse not to. The Parish Council provide waste bags and there are plenty of bins about. If you need to, you can put the bag in a litter bin (but preferably as a last resort).

The Parish Council Dog Show now seems to be an annual fixture and grows year on year and this year will be held on Sunday 24 September in Stones Orchard. It is run by a group of enthusiastic supporters who donate their time and talent. In the past we have been sponsored by the pubs on the Green and also Croxley Hardware. This year we have been promised a proper PA system with no



charge. Indeed, the only charge we get saddled with is by TRDC for allowing us to use Stone's Orchard!

We very much appreciate the support of local trainers Doberdayz who set up an agility course. Last year we also had Debra Sandling from TRDC there to answer any questions that you may have. Over the last two or three years people have made a number of suggestions about the Show: two rings, an ice-cream van, tea and cakes, a BBQ etc. Apart from the various regulatory issues there is also the problem of having enough volunteers to run the extra attractions. However, if you feel that you would like to run something at the Show please get in touch with the Clerk at the Parish Council as it will be the Clerk and deputy who have to handle the paperwork!

Cllr Dudley Edmunds

The Future of The Parish Pump Magazine

Many residents will remember "The Resident" magazine produced by the Croxley Green Residents Association (CGRA). There is a nearly complete archive of The Croxley Green Resident magazine on the Croxley Green History website (partly funded by the Parish Council) at <http://www.croxleygreenhistory.co.uk/the-croxley-resident-archives.html>. It became increasingly difficult to find someone willing to act as editor and

others to contribute articles and publication ceased with number 207 in Autumn 2013.

The first "Parish Pump" was published in 1992, six years after the Parish Council was established in 1986, and was published in parallel with "The Resident" for many years. Like the CGRA, the Parish Council has found it increasingly difficult to find an editor and willing contributors to produce the Parish Pump. In theory the Parish Council still aims to produce two editions per year but in practice has only managed one a year since 2012.

In 2006 Nik Allen started the MyNews group of publications in Hertfordshire with the publication of MyAbbotsNews. MyCroxleyNews was added to the stable in October 2006 and, since then, has provided a free monthly magazine delivered to every house in Croxley Green.

Over the years more and more people have turned to the internet to find information and, more recently, to find the latest news. The Parish Council's website was rebuilt in November 2015, replacing the previous one which dated from 2006. It includes a noticeboard, a latest news section, information on Council events and the latest tweets. You can also upload photographs.

The Finance & Administration Committee discussed the future of the Parish Pump on 13 April 2016. It was pointed out that, following discussions on the annual budget for 2017/18, the budget for printing and distributing the Parish Pump had been reduced to £2,000. The thinking behind this decision was to move from a longer magazine style publication produced once or twice a year and delivered to every household to a smaller newsletter, produced more frequently and published online, with paper copies made available for collection from various places throughout the parish. There were several reasons for the change. There would be economies of effort, which could be spread throughout the year, and of cost. There would be more frequent information and news for residents. Amongst other things, to achieve the 'General Level of Competence' for the Council under the Localism Act 2011, the Council would need to

Updates

produce at least four newsletters per year.

We suspect that many copies of the Parish Pump pass quickly from the letterbox to the recycling bin and go unread. But we also know that some copies are read carefully and some are kept for reference through the year. Not everyone uses the internet and some who do are more comfortable with 20th century information technology than 21st century. So any change in the way we produce and distribute the Parish Pump will have consequences for different groups of residents. We have considered a number of options. One might be to work with a commercial publication (such as MyCroxleyNews) to reach every house.

We would be interested in your views. What do you think would be the best way forward? You can comment online or you can write to the Council offices. There is a consultation page on our website where there is a simple form you can fill in with your views and comments.

David Allison
Parish Clerk

Public Access Defibrillators

Two years ago when I re-joined the Parish Council I became interested in the provision of Public Access Defibrillators (PAD). As it happened the Council were already discussing the possibilities after joining with the Croxley Green Residents Association (CGRA) who had received a grant from Councillor Steve Drury.

It became apparent after a period of time that the Council was in a better position to arrange purchase, install and maintain the units than the CGRA so the grant was passed to us to move forwards.

We purchased three units which were placed at

- the Baptist Church on Baldwins Lane,
- All Saints Church hall office on the Green and
- outside the Parish Council offices in Community Way.

For these units to be effective they need to be accessed quickly so it was decided that more would be needed across the Village. When the Councils Budget for 2017/18 was being discussed in December last year I put forward a proposal to provide three more units to allow quicker response times. The Council approved the proposal so we purchased them in May. They are currently in the process of being installed and will be situated outside

- the Red House on the Watford Road,
- the Croxley Hardware Store on Baldwins lane and
- the Doctors surgery opposite the top shops in Baldwins lane.

These units have the ability to save lives but thankfully so far have not been used.

If you suspect that someone is having a heart attack, the defibrillators can be accessed by calling 999. The operators have the locations of all the units with the codes required to release them from their protective cabinet.

The operators will guide any users on how to use the units, as the units do themselves. They are safe to use by anybody as **no training is required and in fact they will not work if they detect a heartbeat.**

There is still scope for the addition of more units in some areas of the Village where cover is not as good as it could be. This is something that the Council will be looking to in the future but also maybe local businesses, traders, or individuals may want to consider sponsoring a unit.

Jeremy Hollands
Vice Chairman

Is It You?

There is a great dog walking fraternity in Croxley, as demonstrated by the fantastic turnout at the recent Parish Council run Dog Show in Stone's Orchard, and most are responsible owners. However, there is still a minority who allow their dogs to foul the footpaths. Even as I made my way home to pen this article the footpath outside Yorke Mead School was fouled, it really is quite shameful.

But there is another thing that fouls our environment, it's the countless litter, i.e. plastic bottles, cups, cans, cartons and wrappers, sometimes it really does seem endless. Unfortunately where ever some of the young people gather they leave a trail of rubbish behind them with seemingly no concern for the area in which we live. I am sorry to say this about some of our youngsters but it is just like the dog foulers, a small number spoil it for all. I'm sure most do take pride in our village.

This litter problem is compounded as at present the only litter bins provided by Three Rivers District Council close to the new public footpath around the Guild of Sport, are by the Library and the shops in New Road. There are none near the playing fields or the open areas. The provision of more bins would not stop all the rubbish being thrown about, but at least it would provide an option.

So, if it's you, please, bin it.

David Neighbour, Resident and
Community Bus Helper

Community Bus

The Parish Council provides a free bus service to and from Watford each Friday for Senior Citizens and people

Dog Waste Bags

For those dog owners who have forgotten or were unaware, biodegradable dog waste bags are **free** from the Parish Council Offices and we also supply them to the library. Please use them, and the bins around Croxley, to help keep our pavements, footpaths and open spaces clean and free from mess.

Please don't forget to use the RED waste bins.



The Parish Pump

living in sheltered accommodation and funded from the Planning and Development Committee's budget. It runs on three separate routes so that it passes closer to the places where people live than the regular services through Croxley Green. The timetable is shown on page 5 and on the Council's website and usually each journey is accompanied by at least one volunteer helper.

If you know someone who would appreciate a supported journey into Watford, please encourage them to use the service. The community bus relies on a dwindling band of volunteers to help so, if you have some spare time and would be willing to help on a Friday morning once a month or more, please contact the Parish Council.

There are occasionally times when the service does not run or is changed to a different day but these are usually only when there is a Bank Holiday or over the Christmas period. Should the day of the bus runs need to be changed, information is given to users of the bus service in advance and further information is posted on the Parish Council website.

Keeping Croxley Green special: Planning for our future

Your Parish Council has agreed to lead an initiative to produce a Strategic Business Plan to cover the 5 year period beginning in 2018. The plan will be a vision for the parish, setting out its objectives, key priorities and specific actions to be taken to deliver the vision, as well as restating the purpose and values of the Council.

We do not intend this to be a traditional 'Parish or Village Plan' that sets out aims and ambitions that are delivered by the community and

partners as a whole. Rather it is a document that gives residents a clear understanding of what Croxley Green's Parish Council can achieve working with local voluntary organisations, such as residents' associations, businesses and with other local authorities such as the District or County Councils.

The plan already has a strong foundation – the results of the Community Plan questionnaire that was carried out in 2013. At the time there was extensive consultation with residents and local organisations, and from the results we developed a prioritised list of issues for Council to address.

However that was nearly four years ago and so we want to ask for your help again in taking it forward and to make absolutely sure that it reflects what you want now.

Apart from this brief introduction we will be using as many other ways of making contact as we can – expect to see leaflets coming through your door, notices on the local noticeboards, reports on the Council web site, and through social media generally. And we'll be reaching out to local business too as they are an important part of our community.

Finally, so that the plan doesn't become something that sits on the shelf and becomes stale, we will regularly review the plan, check that it remains relevant and still meets the needs of residents, we will consult again and again and use feedback to modify its contents as we progress.

This is not the last time you'll hear about the new plan!

Cllr Nigel Cole
Chairman of Strategic Business Plan Working Party

Ramble With The Rangers

On Sunday May 14 me and Phil led a group of residents in what was our inaugural ramble around Croxley Green. We followed part of our newly installed bird-box trail and made our way through Stone's Orchard, Croxleyhall Woods, and followed part of the river.

It was a great sunny morning walk and an enjoyable time was had by all. We had just over 20 residents join us, for all or part of the walk, and a few dogs too. Many thanks to those who joined us and watch this space for dates on future rambles.

James Townley
Ranger



Bird-Box Trail

The Parish Council have been busy installing 45 bird boxes around the village in time for nesting season. We have produced a bird-box trail leaflet which includes a map that contains locations of all 45 bird-boxes and lots of other useful information.

Leaflets can be picked up for free from the council office or downloaded from our website at <http://croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk/index.php/information/forms>

And visit our stand at the Revels on 24 June where you can sign your name on a bird box which will then be installed in the village.



Follow the Rangers on
Twitter:

@CroxleyRangers



'Keeping Croxley Special'

Telephone 01923 710250

Email: info@croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk

Web: www.croxleygreen-pc.gov.uk

Twitter & Facebook: @CroxleyGreenPC



Follow the Council on
Facebook and Twitter:

@CroxleyGreenPC