



Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

November 2015 Edition

From the Parish Council

What's happening?

Neighbourhood Plan

The Emerging Local Plan 2017-32

Colchester Borough Council, having consulted at various points around the Borough are now developing their Local Plan. They have completed a Housing Needs assessment which has concluded that 920 homes are to be built across the Borough each year over the next 30 years to meet the increasing demand. They are currently assessing all sites submitted for potential development across the Borough under the Call for Sites. We will know which sites are identified and how many houses are proposed for each area across the Borough in March 2016.

Progress so far:

The Parish Council is approaching the emerging Local Plan in two ways: **the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Marks Tey, and direct liaison with CBC planners.**

Neighbourhood Plan

- **150 residents came to a meeting on July 19th**, and heard Jan Cole from Rural Community Council Essex explain that whilst the local plan covers the whole district, and we are not able to influence the decision on the numbers of houses to be built in our area, a Neighbourhood Plan would be focused on the needs of the neighbourhood and would allow the local community to specify in more detail what they expect from development.
- **34 residents took part in workshop sessions to look at a way forward.**
- **24 residents expressed an interest in being part of a Steering Group** to bring this forward. They attended a further meeting on September 16th.
- **Following the meeting as the first stage of the Plan process the Parish Council applied to Colchester Borough Council to designate the area for the Neighbourhood Plan, using the Parish boundary, and after the consultation process this has been approved .**
- The meeting on **Thursday 15th October** (not yet held at time of printing) we will be agreeing the **Terms of Reference**, appointing **Steering Groups Officers**, and organising **Topic Groups** for building the evidence base, and timescales for producing the plan. **Topic groups** will concentrate on different interest areas to build up an overview of neighbourhood requirements, and will want to include views from all residents.

Topic Groups:

Housing - Economy - Environment - Heritage - Getting Around - Infrastructure - Community facilities and Well Being

This is a huge task which will take about 2 years to complete, involving significant commitments of time and energy and cost. This enables us to get evidence of what exists and what is needed in Marks Tey which will allow us to respond to CBC's preferred option in the proposed Local Plan in the 2016 and will ensure that any development will include identified local needs.

The final plan will be put to a referendum of all Marks Tey residents for your approval, and has to be agreed by 51% of all who vote before it goes forward.

Please have your say, your voice counts, by:

- Joining a topic group that interests you - If you would like to join a topic group, please let the Chair of the Steering Group (when appointed) or Parish Clerk know.

For regular updates on the work that the Parish Council is undertaking, please look at our website www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish, contact a Councillor, or come to a meeting and ask us directly!

- Contacting the Parish Council, or you may be contacted by a member of the Steering Group to give your views so that we include all opinions.
- If you have any individual concerns about the Local Plan decision please give these to your local Borough Councillor, Elizabeth Blundell, who can directly feed these into Colchester Borough Council and who sits on the Local Plan Panel at CBC.

Direct Liaison

Parish Councillors have established links with CBC officers to ensure that difference of opinion can be quickly resolved. CBC officers have also chaired a discussion with **Garden City Development Ltd** consultants (the people engaged by CBC and Braintree and Tendring DC to advise on how any new development should be undertaken) and the Parish Council. Details of the Garden City approach is available on our website (please contact the Clerk if you would like these sent to you) but are about well planned development with access to local schools and hospitals, public transport and cycle ways.

Parking Update

Commuter Parking

Ongoing discussions are taking place with Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council regarding commuter parking on roads around Marks Tey.

Station

Following a decision made in March 2015 by NEPP (the North Essex Parking Partnership) without consultation with local residents, parking restrictions with pay by phone arrangements are being introduced in the area on North Lane opposite the station including the recycling area. After pressure, we are told that spaces are being left for set down and pick up and access to the recycling bins and we have requested details of this. The Parish Council think there are higher priority parking issues including the spread of commuter parking in Church Lane and the estate and are pressing for an overall approach to parking problems in Marks Tey. Railtrack are also extending the car park behind the Station to add another 48 spaces and these should be available in a few weeks.

Marks Tey Local Shopping Parade

Reinstatement of marked kerbside parking bays to prevent diagonal parking has been undertaken by NEPP. Marks Tey Parish Council have contested this controversial action and having liaised with local businesses will continue to follow this issue up with NEPP. We are told that this is not currently likely to be enforced but this cannot be guaranteed so beware. The businesses have also been invited to submit a Road Traffic Order request to formally change the parking arrangements into the diagonal parking which has maximised parking capacity and reduced road speeds on London Road but there is a long lead in time of a couple of years to secure this.

A120, A12

Resurfacing work to the A120 road and paths planned for this winter has been delayed until next summer 2016 and people will have been aware of road closures to effect the surveying work for this and cleaning of the road drains. The intervening time will be used by Highways England to undertake some repairs to the road and the Parish Council are pressing for a width improvement to the field side footpath of the road at the time of the resurfacing. Another concern has been vibrations from defects in the A120, if this affects you please let the Chairman know (by note, phone or e-mail – chairman@marksteyparish.org.uk) and/or advice Highways England direct by using the Highways Agency Information Line (HAIL).

Design work has started on the work needed to widen the A12 to 3 lanes between Marks Tey and Chelmsford. The scheme is funded and construction work is anticipated for 2019/2020. The Parish Council is trying to get a place on the recently established Stakeholders Group since despite the widening being welcomed it will have a significant effect on the south of the parish and it is important that good environmental and noise protection measures are undertaken and full and early information given to anyone affected.

Recycling boxes and bags

Marks Tey Parish Office has available to parishioners the following recycling items:

Glass and Cans Green Boxes, Food caddies, Clear plastic recycling bags

These can be collected from the parish office at the hall but it is advisable to call first on 01206 213250 to ensure that the office is open and that stock is available.

For regular updates on the work that the Parish Council is undertaking, please look at our website www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish, contact a Councillor, or come to a meeting and ask us directly!

Message from Essex Police on Crime Prevention

Lights on!

As the autumn nights draw in it's time to think about the burglar out there and not leaving them "tell tale" signs that your home is empty and vulnerable. The art of illusion is to try and make it look as though your home is occupied even though you are not there. Provide that first impression to the "would be" burglar that this house is occupied, it looks too difficult to get into and that if they do try there is a good chance they will get their collar felt!

- **Lighting**, if your house is overlooked and there is the chance of burglars being seen they will prefer to go elsewhere, so get some decent lighting on your house. Dusk till dawn activated lighting on the front and rear with energy saving bulbs, not only deters the burglar but you can see who is at your door or around your home, and also when you return home you have a welcoming light.
- **Is there clear unobstructed access to the rear?** Burglars will prefer to gain access out of sight at the rear. Where possible fence and gate access to rear gardens, top this with some trellis or spiky toppings (the spiky topping requires a warning notice). How about some defensive planting, what's this you ask.....something like Berberus, Pyracantha or Hawthorn around perimeter fencing or anything else you wish to protect i.e. domestic fuel tank (some garden centres sell more established plants).
- **The illusion:** - Try to make it look similar to when you are there - table lamps inside on timers (don't use energy saving bulbs with digital timers it shortens the life of the bulb) – remember these should be in the rooms you normally occupy i.e. lounge and kitchen not just a hall or landing as no one lives in these rooms! A radio on a talking programme, it all helps. You can even buy a device now called "Fake TV" that mimics the light from a television.
- **Out and about?** For a little extra confidence consider carrying a personal attack alarm, many come with a torch and are quite cheap from DIY stores, internet etc. Most of all be aware of your surroundings, avoid concentrating on mobile phones and music devices whilst out and about.

Essex Community Messaging

This is a service run by Essex Police to notify and warn subscribers of crime and incidents in their immediate locality. Users report it as being a good service - see www.essex.police.uk/ecm.

Mobile Library Services

Essex County Council mobile libraries carry a wide range of books and other items, but if you can't find a particular title you can reserve a copy. All mobile libraries are wheelchair-accessible

November 5th and 19th December 3rd and 17th

The mobile library visits St Andrews School, 13.20 – 14.10 and Leyfield, 16.40 – 17.15

For more details or help please phone The Answers People on 0845 603 7628.

Newsletter

The Parish Council tries to get this Newsletter delivered to every home in the parish but have had delivery problems. Do you know people in Marks Tey who do not receive this Newsletter if so can you let the Clerk know, address below, so that we can ensure that this is rectified.

Parish Council meeting dates 2015 – all meetings are at 7.30pm

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend

Full Council

Monday 2nd November

Monday 7th December

Planning and General Committee

Monday 16th November

Monday 21st December

Two new Councillors have been co-opted – welcome to Su Moakes-Cooke and Karen Barker and Kate Evans has taken over the post of Vice Chair.

Would you like to hire one of the Parish Halls or Playing Field for a family event, society gathering or business meeting? Please contact Gill at the Parish Office, address below. Competitive rates and flexible booking arrangements available

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Parish Councillors

Allan Walker (Chairman)	71 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	211424
Malcolm Bailey	47 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1NE	212341
Karen Barker	32 Keable Road, Marks Tey CO6 1XB	210195
Martin Cowan	Poplar Nurseries, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1HR	210374
Juliet English	Willow Croft, Wilsons Lane, Marks Tey	210072
Kate Evans (Vice Chair)	75 Keable Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1XR	210767
Dave Johnson	2 Brickwork Cottages, Church Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1LN	211652
Rachael Moore	36 North Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1EG	210025
Susan Moakes-Cooke	41 North Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1EG	
John Wood	63 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1NQ	212100
Vacancy		

Office Staff

Steve Marriott	Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	213250
Gill Sargeant	Hall Bookings Manager	213250

Address: Marks Tey Parish Office, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ

Email: Parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk
Bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk

QUESTIONNAIRE

The Parish Council is reviewing the budget for this year and next and is looking at priorities. This is an ideal time for you to influence our decisions and actions.

1. Is the Parish Council doing a good job ? YES / NO Please comment

2. The Parish Hall and Playing fields are an important village asset:

- Please circle any or all that you or your family use
Hall, Play area, Football Field, Skate Park, Basketball court
- Are you aware of the activities that take place in the Halls? YES / NO
- Would you like more information YES/NO
- Is there anything else you think could be provided in the Halls or that the Parish Council should do? Please comment below.

3. What do you think the priorities of the Parish Council should be? Please comment below.

Please return these questionnaires to the Parish Clerk using the address above or to one of your Councillors. If you would prefer an electronic version, please e mail kate.p.evans@btinternet.com.

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