

Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

April 2017



Newsletter Delayed – Please accept our apologies

As events are currently changing fairly rapidly, please look at our Website which we are in the process of updating, or call in at the Parish Office or local Library and ask to see our website.

Some of you have experienced problems getting the Newsletters from our distributors, we have now developed a system of resident volunteers, who will deliver within their local area.

The PC has in recent months picked up such issues as, improving the village's appearance in the form of 'greening the village', tackling the menace of litter, neighbourhood planning, maximising our assets, budget reforms. All are covered in this edition.

The rising interest means the PC must look for new ways of communicating with everyone, we are working on this, reviewing all of our methods of communication.

Allan Walker, Chairman, Marks Tey Parish Council

Colchester Borough Proposed Local Plan

The CBC Local Plan proposals are available here: <http://www.colchester.gov.uk/localplan>

Parish Council's actions to date

- Complained about poor communication with CBC and stressed the need for their involvement with the delivery proposals.
- Urged the need for greater involvement for Marks Tey in developing the proposals and a say in where the initial 1,350 to 2,500 homes should go in the area if the Part 1 proposals go ahead over the next 15 years commencing 2018.
- Host public presentations by Gateway120 and West Ltd about their desire to develop to the east and west of the parish.
- Held a Public Information Meeting for Marks Tey with CBC staff,
- Made an eight page response to CBC on the Local Plan, including comments :
 - Is Marks Tey destined to be swallowed up in a new 20,000 home 'West Tey' Garden Community?
 - Is Marks Tey put in limbo by the proposed Local Plan pending detail on the new community?
 - Is it fair that developing Marks Tey is proposed over two Local Plans stretching 30 years plus?
 - What action is there on our A12/A120 infrastructure deficiency?
 - What is the chance of all this being delivered?
 - Infrastructure needs to be delivered before any development.
 - The documents were not easily readable or understandable.

The response is available in full here: <http://www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish/assets/documents/prf-opt-response-sep16>.

What Happens Next?

Following the first consultation, the revised Local Plan for the next 15 years is expected to be available SOON when a further consultation will be made. It is expected that this will then:

1. Be submitted to Planning Inspectors in summer 2017.
2. Be adopted at the end of 2017.

Garden Community

CBC have appointed David Lock Associates to do further master planning on the Garden Communities with a view to producing a proposed outline plan in summer 2017, when proposals for the area to be covered by the development will be made clear. The Parish Council have asked for further consultation with residents, have met CBC and David Lock to ensure that the interests of Marks Tey Parish as expressed through the Neighbourhood Plan process, are taken into account at an early design stage.

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!

The Neighbourhood Plan – Your Village, Your Say

Members of the public are warmly welcomed to attend our 2 weekly planning group meetings on Wednesday evenings. Look at our website and Parish noticeboards for further details www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish/neighbourhood-plan/
Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1668838273332158/>



A120 and A12 Improvement and Maintenance

The 2 Public Consultations on the possible improvement of the A12 and A120 have now closed and there was a well-attended exhibition on the proposals, at the Parish Hall. The Parish Council has submitted its views on both and are involved in stakeholder meetings on progress and are pushing for early upgrading and re-routing of the A120.

Look on the website or newsletters for our responses and for further information on the options:

None of the A120 options directly affect Marks Tey but they do affect how much traffic will continue to use the existing road.

Maintenance of the current A120 through Marks Tey continues and the Parish Council has written to the contractors giving comments on the first month or so of works and asking for a clearer longer term programme.

After Parish Council pressure, Marks Tey is getting the most work done on this stretch of the A120 with new curbs, pathways, fencing, and signs and lighting although not an increase in the width of the northern footpath between Ashbury Drive and Church Lane. We are continuing to work with Highways England and landowners with a view to solving this.

Funding

As we are asked to take on more and more responsibilities in our community our grant income from Colchester Borough Council has also been decreasing year on year, as they deal with their funding problems. At the same time the cost of maintaining the Hall and surrounding recreational area is rising. The Council is having to register for VAT to be able to undertake the planned maintenance. Our hall hire income may well fall for the coming financial year.

We have in prior years been able to balance our accounts by drawing on reserves but this cannot continue, so the Parish Council have, like many other Parishes, agreed to increase the Precept (the amount of money that householders pay as part of their council tax) for the financial year starting 1 April 2017.

This was not a decision taken lightly. In real terms this will mean an increase of approximately £4.17 per month on a Band D property (this is represented on the council tax bill as £49.98 for the year). Even with this increase the Parish Council will be running a deficit budget (i.e. we will continue to use reserves and reduce items from our budget as we have been over the last two years).

So why increase now? In order to continue to run the parish facilities (hall and recreational area, bus shelters and street lighting) and meet the increased responsibilities that have been placed on local councils. Our costs have continued to increase at a rate when the reduction in our income has meant, quite simply, we wouldn't be able to balance our books long term.

By raising more money and committing less reserves this year we are seeking to prevent a massive rise next year, whilst also using this year to examine our costs further, look at what we do, and seek to raise income from other potential sources, so that we can prevent further issues.

More details on our website or call or email us to discuss.

Parish Hall - planned maintenance

Applications will be made for all grants available to initiate the planned programme of maintenance ensuring that the hall remains a sought after location for holding events. Included with this newsletter, on our website and notice boards, is a list of the regular club events that take place at the Parish Hall.

Would you like to hire one of the 3 Parish Halls or Playing Fields, all with ample parking, for an event, society gathering or business meeting? Please contact Martique at the Parish Office.

Competitive rates and flexible booking arrangements 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!

Community Litter Pick

A **third** Community Litter Pick was held on the 11th March, 27 volunteers joined us and we collected over 40 bags of rubbish from local areas. A huge thank you to everyone who helped, it was a great day, all getting together to clean up our parish. We will be hosting **another in the autumn** and looking at more community ideas over the next few months. Further information will be posted on our website or talk to us directly.



Ley Field Green Area

Ley field is owned and managed by CBC. They do not have any funding for additional improvements, although they have, after representations from the Parish Council, improved the hedge by removing the bramble and will also improve the path from Stanfield. However the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining funding from the Community Fund for 2 picnic benches to be placed near the play equipment, along with 2 benches which will be placed near the path. These improvements including path improvement are expected to take place in the Spring holidays.

We had applied for funding to improve the play area, as requested by some children and families, but unfortunately were unsuccessful. We will keep trying, and in future we want to look at the possibility of planting more trees all around Marks Tey and especially on the green areas, and to look for funding to place more benches. **Let us know if you think that there is an area where a bench is needed.**

Street Representatives.

16 people kindly offered to deliver leaflets in their area to ensure that information gets out to everyone. Please let us know if you are also happy to do this. We will link Parish Councillors to each area so that there is a line of information and communication.

Volunteers- Sat 20th May

Do you volunteer in Marks Tey in any way? Apart from Litter Pickers, Street Reps and Neighbourhood Plan volunteers, there are many people who volunteer at the School, with the Church, with children's groups, and in many other ways. We are holding a **Volunteer Morning** at the Parish Hall from **10.00-12.00 on Saturday 20th May** to say thank you to everyone, to see what the voluntary effort in Marks Tey looks like, and to see how we can support each other. We will also look at whether we want to plan a community activity – a community picnic on the playing fields for one day a week in the summer holidays has been suggested, but it could be anything! **Please come along.**

Commuter Parking and St Andrews School traffic

The Parish Council have been pressing the North Essex Parking Partnership over the parking problems in Marks Tey, namely the congestion and vehicle speeds with the long-stay on-street parking by the station, the re-imposition of parallel parking by the London Road shops and commuter parking in Church Road also on the estate. We are seeking traffic calming and additional signage although NEPP say Marks Tey is low priority. In spite of our efforts collecting the views of local residents and making a case for parking restrictions, CBC did not support our application to the Essex parking authority, giving as the reason that restrictions in Church Rd would simply move the congestion away to nearby streets. We are disappointed, even though it was agreed to introduce 'keep clear' markings, because drivers may choose to ignore them.

We may need your help to press this further.

We have approached Highways England to have the 40mph limit extended to Little Tey and even lower this to 30mph, but with little success.

At long last and after a lot of pressure, Mandeville Road has been resurfaced, which is very good news, but it is used as an informal parent 'car park' for the School. Some parents and locals have voiced their concerns about the speed of cars being driven past the School in the morning and at the end of the school day, in an area which is in any case busy with cars. We have talked to the School and with the support of our ward councillors, petitioned CBC to consider what further traffic calming measures it could introduce to reduce the possibility of a bad incident or accident, such as having a speed limit of 20 mph and/or installing a pedestrian crossing, and we await its response.

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!

Considerate Parking

- Please park sensibly, be considerate to local residents and keep our children safe.
- Parents with buggies and wheelchair users need to be able to use the pavement.
- Parking on grass verges causes damage which is unsightly and costly to repair.
- Bad parking can create blind spots or obstruct sightlines especially when parked near a junction.

Inconsiderate parking can result in serious delays for emergency vehicles which can be devastating.

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.

The mobile library visits St Andrews School, 13.20 – 14.10 and Godmans Lane estate entrance (Leyfield), 16.40 – 17.15 Thursdays Fortnightly Apr: 10, 24

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

Parish Office Opening Times

Visitors are welcome to call at the Marks Tey Parish Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays to view documents, ask questions, or get glass and cans green boxes, food caddies, or clear plastic recycling bags (some items carry a CBC charge). At other times by appointment but it is always advisable to call first on 01206 213250 to ensure that we can respond to your request or that stock is available.

Council Meetings

Members of the Public are warmly welcomed to join all Council and Committee meetings which are generally held on the second Monday in each month at the Parish Hall starting at 6.30pm. Next Full Council meetings are Monday 10th April 2017 and Monday 8th May 2017 which includes the Annual meeting and Annual Assembly – see Noticeboards and website for all 2017 dates – Please join us.

Colchester Borough Ward Councillors

We have three CBC Councillors who are working with the Parish Council and representing community interests at CBC, each are coming to our meetings in rotation.



Kevin Bentley

cldr.kevin.bentley@colchester.gov.uk
Tel: 01206 382405



Andrew Ellis

cldr.andrew.ellis@colchester.gov.uk
Tel.: 01206 735166



Jackie Maclean

cldr.jackie.maclean@colchester.gov.uk
Tel: 01206 212128

Marks Tey Parish Councillors

Allan Walker (Chairman)	71 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1LS	Tel 211424
Karen Barker	32 Keable Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1XB	Tel 210195
Juliet English	Willow Croft, Wilsons Lane, Marks Tey. CO6 1HH	Tel 211805
Kate Evans (Vice Chair)	75 Keable Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1XR	Tel 210767
Susan Moakes-Cooke	41 North Lane, Marks Tey. CO6 1EG	Tel 212059
Gerald Wells	Beeches, Church Lane, Little Tey. CO6 1AH	Tel 615328
John Wood	63 Godmans Lane. Marks Tey. CO6 1NQ	Tel 212100
Maureen Callen	Tintagel, Wilsons Lane, Marks Tey. CO6 1HH	Tel 672612
Vacancy	Come and join us – contact Clerk or Chairman	Tel 213250
Vacancy	Come and join us – contact Clerk or Chairman	Tel 213250
Vacancy	Come and join us – contact Clerk or Chairman	Tel 213250

Office Staff

Steve Marriott	Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	Tel 213250
Martique Freathy	Premises Manager & Assistant Clerk	Tel 213250
Tracy Millard	Bookings Assistant	Tel 213250

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

Phone: 01206 213250

Email: parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk chairman@marksteyparish.org.uk

All Parish Councillors have been either elected or co-opted, their email addresses are on the website.

We urgently need 3 more Councillors, please offer to join us – these are important times for Marks Tey.

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!