

Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

January 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2019 and we wish a happy and contented 2019 for you all. The Parish Council has continued to try to offer more community interaction over a busy 2018 with school holiday children's picnics, meeting groups for over 50's, as well as our usual litter pick sessions, and of course the re-introduction of the Village Fete, which we intend to repeat in 2019. Even more is planned for 2019, with the introduction of a community library and making our Wine Tasting sessions a regular event. Details of all of these as well as the numerous other activities that our hirers run from the halls, are available on our website (details below). I thank all of our Councillors and the many volunteers who have made this possible and given their time so generously for free.

At the end of 2018, the Parish Council finances are strong thanks to the work done by the Council and our Parish Clerk, Steve Marriott. Steve actually moved to work at Coggeshall Town Council in June, after 3 years with us. We wished him well and appointed local resident Gemma Humphries to be our new Clerk and Responsible Officer and to carry on the good work. The Council is currently setting it's budget for the coming year starting in April.

Please come and help us encourage an active and caring community, whether that be becoming a Councillor, helping at the events and on the Neighbourhood Plan, litter picking, or helping deliver Newsletters and communications to your neighbours.

Allan Walker, Chair, Marks Tey Parish Council

The Marks Tey Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Marks Tey is a safe place to live but we have had several worrying incidents during 2018. The Marks Tey Neighbourhood Watch scheme has an active webpage for communicating information and currently has almost 400 members. If you live in Marks Tey and would like to join then please do look up the group on Facebook. Just search for The Marks Tey Estate NWS. We are working together to keep Marks Tey safe, secure and limit crime as much as possible. The NWS encourages all members to look out for their neighbours, be vigilant and report all crime or suspicious activities to the police.



Jo - NWS Coordinator for Marks Tey. Tel no 01206 210512

Link for the NWS Group www.facebook.com/groups/857828674263023

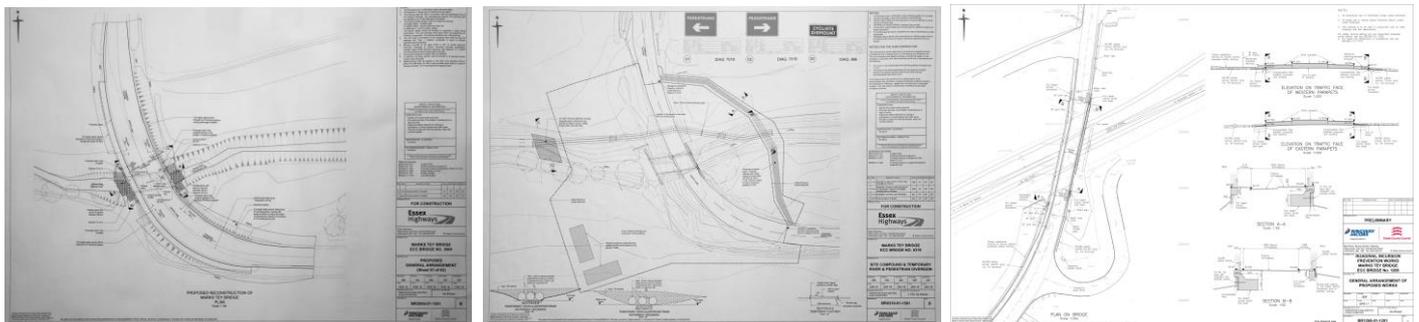
Highway Defects

The Parish Council have been trying to press for the remedy of a number of significant and disruptive highway defects across the Parish. The main roads (A12, and A120) are trunk roads and operated by Highways England who we link with, and we succeeded in slightly increasing the footpath width on the northern part of the A120 by Church Lane. All other roads are the responsibility of Essex County Council. The County Council have recently launched a devolution trial to offer to get minor highway repairs (verge

and rights or way maintenance, etc) maintained by the Parishes. Our Parish Council has seriously considered taking responsibility for this but concluded that it would be difficult to undertake all of the work involved with this for the offered approx. £1,700 funding without it cutting into other things that we do, so we will not be joining the trial for the current year. Additionally, the County Council are asking their local County Councillors to co-ordinate the most important highway defects in their area by producing a list of the top 10 issues across the Ward now and again in the new year after winter damage. The Parish Council are compiling their own list to give to Cllr Anne Brown and have so far noted: the London Road defects, Jays Lane surfacing by the A120, and flooding around the junction of Gt Tey Road and the A120. You will be aware of many more and we would like you to tell us of these by please e-mailing the Clerk or Chairman.

Bridge Repairs

Work has started to replace the Roman River weak bridge at the end of North Lane with the road being closed to through traffic and this could last until May. The work also involves protection of the Rail bridge by the station which will also involve closures and traffic lights. The Parish Council have concerns about this work and are in discussion with the County Council. Details (and bigger drawings) are available on our website. We and Aldham Parish Council are also arguing for permanent HGV restriction signs to stop the GPS routed lorries along this narrow road that that so hinder the communities.



Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan

Following the Planning Inspectors comments in the middle of 2018 on the proposed Local Plan, much work from the Planning Authorities has gone into refocusing the approach and thus not much tangible progress has been made this year. The correspondence between the Inspector and the Planning Authorities gives a lot of information on the evolving way forward and is available at:

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200643/section_1/1065/section_1_examination_publication_local_plan/4.

The Parish Council has continued to attend Planning meetings and make comment where appropriate to press the views we have learnt from you and the approach we have resolved – that any development should benefit the existing village ease its disadvantages and retain it's advantages. We were a party to the Planning Inspector's Examination in Public, made a submission and spoke at the session. All of this is on our website. We have maintained our contact with CBC officers and Members even though there has been no formal consultations this year. We continue with preparation of the Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan and have successfully obtained Government funding for this that has enabled us to undertake some Master Plan work on how we might bring our communities together and to employ our own planning consultant to help us produce a Plan that will say what is important to the village. We marvel at, and are thankful for, the tenacity of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (half Councillors and half other volunteers) as they battle on to produce a Plan with such uncertainty surrounding us (again more details on our website).



Useful Contacts

We are at times contacted at the Parish Council with requests for contact details or help reporting matters the the Borough or County Council are responsible for. Both Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and Essex County Council (ECC) have dedicated web pages to report matters online which may prove useful. ECC site (Service Centre) where you can report Lighting and Highways issues and so much more

<http://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx> or you can call **0345 743 0430** for general enquiries. CBC has a new site [https://beta.colchester.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-spa/?action=Report here](https://beta.colchester.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling-spa/?action=Report+here) you can report, missed rubbish collections, dog fouling, blocked drains and more or for general enquiries you can call **01206 282222**.

Parish Facebook and Webpage

Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/marksteyparishcouncil) is designed for sharing information and ideas, on local news that impacts Marks Tey Parish, Parish activities, council meeting times etc. We hope over 2019 to refresh our Website and would appreciate any suggestions as to what you would find useful on our webpage and how we can make it work for Marks Tey Parish. Please check out our website and forward us any suggestions likewise like or follow us on Facebook, we hope you find it useful, as always if you have a matter that needs an official council response we would ask that you contact us via the Parish Clerk or one of the councillors directly.

Young at Heart

The Young at Heart over 50s group has been meeting in the Small Hall at the Parish Hall for a year. There are around 20 group members, and new people are warmly welcome. There is usually a speaker, a quiz and a raffle – and tea, coffee, cake and conversation.



In 2019, we will meet on the second Wednesday of every month from 2.00-4.00 in the Small Hall. If anyone would like a lift, or to go with someone else, please call Maureen 01206 672612, or Kate 01206 210767.

Marks Tey Defibrillator

A Defibrillator would be a great asset for our community with the nearest one in Aldham. Using one immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can increase the chance of survival by more than 90%. The survival rate is reduced by approximately 10% for each minute that defibrillation is delayed. The Parish Council have therefore committed its self to try to facilitate one in Marks Tey. Similarly our local business, Penny Meadow Life Skills Limited equally think it would be a good idea and on Sunday 4th November, they held a charity Craft Fayre at the Parish Hall to raise monies to help with the purchase of a Community Defibrillator. Penny Meadow provides progressive life skills training, assists facilitates personal development and offers respite care for young adults with learning difficulties The Craft Fayre was a fantastic success and over £1,040 was raised. The Parish Council working with the team at Penny Meadow is now seeking grant funding to raise the balance of the monies required to acquire a Defibrillator. Well done to everyone at Penny Meadow for raising such a fantastic sum of money to support our local community.

If you would like to help with the Defibrillator or learn more about the work of Penny Meadow please view their website at <http://www.pennymeadow.org.uk>

Community Picnic

Our Community Picnics (for children and their parents/guardians) continued to be well attended all through the year in the half terms, Easter and the long Summer holidays. The bouncy castle is always popular to burn off a bit of energy before getting down to the craft table where we have painted rocks, decorated cakes and biscuits, had fun with play doh, adorned tiles and made keyrings as well as the usual colouring, punch work and stickers. The dressing up clothes and toy cars have also proved to be really popular. It was topped off with the well attended Christmas Party with disco, games, craft, food and drink, and of course Father Christmas.

Thank you to our lovely volunteers and to everyone that has attended....we couldn't do it without you nor the vital donations to keep things going.

Community Picnic – Wednesday 20th February 2019

Community Picnic – Wednesday 10th April 2019

Community Litter Pick

Since our first Litter Pick in October 2016, the Spring and Autumn Community Litter Picks have now become successfully established in Marks Tey and the village is tidier as a result. We meet at the Parish Hall, get allocated an area, and go off in small groups or pairs to clean up a patch of our village, and meet up a couple

of hours later to have soup and bacon rolls for a community lunch. We have been supported by the Zone Wardens, who provide equipment and support and take away the rubbish.

We have completed 5 Litter picks, and have removed **well over 200 bags of litter from our village that otherwise would still be there, as well as many large items and car parts that have been dumped.**

Attendees say it is a great community event that improves our environment. Please join us – children welcome!!! We also welcome people who are happy to help with organisation and lunch.

Make a note of the 2019 dates - Saturday 16th March and Saturday 12th October. 10.00 at the Parish Hall. Equipment provided – Community Lunch at 12.00.

Wine Tasting Event

We held a well attended and successful Wine Tasting event on 10th August run by local resident Alison Gore who introduced us to some flavoursome varied price wines and knowledgeably talked us through their origin and make. This is an event we intend to continue and we are looking to host another event on Friday 17th May 2019. Keep an eye on our webpage for more information.

Councillor Vacancy

The end of 2018 saw the resignation of Councillor Juliet English from the Parish Council when she moved out of the areas. Juliet has contributed greatly to our parish and we thank her for that and miss her but it does leave a vacancy for someone on the Parish Council. We are likely to have another couple of Councillors leaving by May so if you are interested in volunteering your time to help your local Parish Council please contact the Parish Clerk or Chairman to request an information sheet and discuss further.

Would you like to promote your Business – Please contact the Parish Council Office for more information

Parish Office Opening Times

Visitors are welcome to call at the Marks Tey Parish Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays to view documents and ask questions. Please make an appointment so that we can have the necessary documents available.

Recycling you can collect green boxes, food caddies, clear plastic recycling bags or gardening sacks, (gardening sacks are now free of charge but you will need a voucher from CBC) on **Thursdays only between 10am and 1 pm but it is always advisable to call first on 01206 213250 to ensure that stock is available.**

Parish Councillors

Allan Walker	Chairman	71 Coggeshall Road Marks Tey. CO6 1LS	Tel 211424
Malcolm Bailey		47 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey. CO6 1NE	Tel 212341
Karen Barker		32 Keable Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1XB	Tel 210195
Maureen Callen		Tintagel, Wilsons Lane, Marks Tey. CO61HH	Tel 672612
Kate Evans	Vice Chair, Chair Staffing	75 Keable Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1XR	Tel 210767
Su Moakes-Cooke	Chair Finance	41 North Lane, Marks Tey. CO6 1EG	Tel 212059
Allan Speller		283 Old London Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1EX	Tel 213643
Albert Thomas		34 The Rookeries, Marks Tey, CO61DY	Tel 213427
Gerald Wells	Chair Premises	Beeches, Church Lane, Little Tey. CO6 1AH	Tel 615328
John Wood		63 Godmans Lane. Marks Tey. CO6 1NQ	Tel 212100

Parish Hall Staff Points of Contact

Gemma Humphries	Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	Tel 213250
Brigitte Taylor	Assistant Clerk	Tel 213250
Tracy Millard	Administration and Bookings Clerk	Tel 213250
Sue and Ivan Dyer	Caretakers	Tel 07505 949645
Mark Saunders	Keyholder	Tel 07505 949645

Address: Marks Tey Parish Office, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ**Phone:** 01206 213250
Email: parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk assistant.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk

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