



# Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

June 2020

---

Welcome to the Parish Council June Newsletter.

## **An Apology and Goodbye from the Chair**

At around the end of June I am standing down as Chair of Marks Tey Parish and as a Parish Councillor after 5 and a half years as Chair. I joined the Parish Council 7 and a half years ago because, after years of commenting about what was happening in Marks Tey, I thought I should try and do something about it. I wanted to improve Marks Tey Parish beyond being a place with a main line station and the junction of two major trunk roads and I apologise that that physical cohesion and greater sense of place has still not been achieved, and the highways still divide and disrupt our community. This is still an aspiration for the Parish Council, and I'm sure that this work will continue, and is ongoing through the Neighbourhood Plan.

I also feel that the Parish Council should have a new Chair at least every 4 years or so to give it new energy and direction and have been trying to hand on for the last year.

When I look back over many achievements the Council has made, most of these have rightly been achieved by others: we became an accredited Council, the resumption of the Fete, the six monthly litter picks, the shortly to be fitted two defibrillators, the community library, the Young at Heart Group, Community Picnics, the numerous activities that go on at the Hall, and the developing Neighbourhood Plan, and even this Newsletter itself. You fortunately, have a Council of selfless, and committed Councillors and staff aided by a host of volunteers and that is good because these things will continue and I give my thanks to all of them. We were joined this month by the co-option as Councillors of Trish Wynne-Willson and Gerald Wells (re-joining us) and we welcome them to our now full Council. The Councillors have indicated a couple of people who they would like to become the next Chair and hopefully one of them will be elected as Chair at our next Full Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

We also, of course, are in the middle of the Coronavirus crisis, and I hope you and your families are staying well and coping with lockdown. We again have a team of volunteers that are trying to help a number of vulnerable residents around the parish and if you are in difficulty please let us know. I also again apologise for all of our activities that have had to stop. The close down has severely affected income to the Hall and, while it has been closed, we have furloughed a number of staff who directly help to support the Parish Hall, but we have kept the playing fields open and the grass cut so that at least you can continue to use this even though we have sustained vandalism.

We will let you know on our Facebook page and announce on our website as soon as we know a date that we will be allowed to re-open. We have also received a grant and rates relief from CBC and the Government to assist and our internal auditor, who has just completed this year's audit, reports that we are in our soundest financial position for the last 6 years. These financial Reports for the last year will be available on our new website [www.marksteyparish.org.uk](http://www.marksteyparish.org.uk) from the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

As we now start to come out of lockdown it is only right that someone new should guide the Parish Council into the post crisis world. I will hopefully continue to be available to the Council for as little or as much as they require. My leaving will give the Council a vacancy and we would welcome applications from people who also would like to do their bit to improve the Parish. We will, of course, also have our deferred Parish election next May when all Councillors will have to stand down and be re-elected and this is an ideal time for people to put themselves forward particularly if you would like the Parish Council to go in a different direction.

Goodbye, good luck, and take care, as we all emerge into a changed world. It has been a privilege to address and act for you all.

**Allan Walker, Chair, Marks Tey Parish Council**

## Our Marks Tey Neighbourhood Plan



The plan has been developed by people who live here, based on what Marks Tey residents have told them they want, for our village, for the future. **If it is passed, developers and planners have to take note of it in any future development.**

**It is, therefore, really important that it has your support and reflects what you want for our village in the future. We have to show that we have consulted widely. We need responses from as many people as possible before July 12<sup>th</sup>**

What kind of picture do we have of Marks Tey in 10 years? Probably we would all say “one that keeps its essential character”, but what does this mean? Each of us will have a different image of the village & so the picture would be one of diversity, but we would share some common themes. These, hopefully, have been reflected in the Plan, in the 15 policies on which we are consulting. Some are about:

- improving mobility around the village and nearby areas, both by car and, as important, by other means,
- our open spaces and rural lanes, which need protecting,
- the distinctive nature of our villages and the need to keep them separate,
- what kind of housing and employment opportunities we would accept in the future.

Have we ignored features which you believe to be important? Quite likely, in spite of the 4 years or so we have spent on preparing the Plan, and we can only put this right if people tell us. The pandemic has made all our lives more difficult and it has faded into the background, but the remaining 4 weeks of the consultation gives us time for responses to come in.

We don't know how much recent events are changing the picture. The possibility of a large garden community in Marks Tey now looks a much more remote option, but it remains there, and the likelihood of individual planning applications in the near future has now greatly increased. In the face of this uncertainty, completing our Plan, backed by the support of residents, is vital.

The arrangements for participating in the consultation have changed, and you can join in by:

- Going to the **Parish Council's website** ([www.marksteyparish.org.uk](http://www.marksteyparish.org.uk)), and to the Neighbourhood Plan section for the documents, one being the questionnaire, which you can download or complete online. The documents remain at the pharmacy, but, due to its restrictions on calling, are hard to use.
- **Contacting the number below**, if you find using the internet hard, so that arrangements can be made for you to read or borrow copies of the Plan, and get a copy of the questionnaire.

The Parish Council's Facebook remains a valuable information source for us all, especially as arrangements may well change in the next 4 weeks. [www.facebook.com/MarksTeyParishCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/MarksTeyParishCouncil/)

**John Wood**  
**Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 01206 212100**

## Welcome to our two new Parish Councillors!

Gerald Wells has re-joined the Council, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the maintenance of buildings, which will be very helpful in the never-ending care of the Parish Hall. Trish Wynne-Willson has a background in finance, and has also volunteered for the Parish Council and will bring her energy and commitment to support our community development work.

We very much look forward to working with them both.

## Covid 19

Since March when the Coronavirus resulted in the country going into lockdown, a small group of Marks Tey volunteers have rallied to ensure that those residents in isolation or shielding could still get essential supplies of food and medicine. Working on a one to one basis, as much as possible, to aid continuity and provide a sense of confidence and security, Marks Tey residents have shopped, collected prescriptions, swapped jigsaw puzzles, posted packages, kept in touch by email and phone, made face masks and even managed an essential plumbing job.!



The whole village has been very neighbourly looking out for each other not to mention clapping for the NHS every Thursday for 10 weeks...

A teddy bear hunt, Rainbow trail, painted rocks and lots of toys and games put out free of charge kept the children occupied in this difficult time too.

## Community Events

We had a packed programme for 2020, which has been disrupted, but can't wait to get back on track, and as soon as possible, hope to be getting people together.

The fete planned for August unfortunately won't be happening, but we will definitely plan a community celebration for whenever we are allowed!



In the meanwhile, following the great effort of volunteers to plant 100 trees on the Recreation ground in the rain, we have begun work, in a small, socially distancing way, to clear the copse at the end of the Recreation ground. If you get a chance, walk up there and have a look at progress!

We plan to do more tree planting in the Autumn, let Mo or Kate know if you want to get involved.

It should be possible for a litter pick to happen later in the year, but, in the meantime, if you see a build-up of litter in your area, let us know and we can sort out some equipment for you, or alert volunteers to clear it.

We were also successful in getting a grant towards setting up a group for men – "Fix-it Saturdays" so watch this space, and again if you want to know more, or get involved in the planning for when we can get this going, let us know.

Looking forward to when we can get our groups and activities together again, the Christmas party, wine tasting, and not forgetting the volunteers cream tea, to say a **big thankyou** to all of you who do so much!!

Mo – 07928 810404

Kate- 07850 695154

## Defibrillators for Marks Tey

The Defibrillators have been received by the Parish Council and will be installed once the current pandemic situation permits.

## Parish Office

In line with current government guidelines the Parish Hall, Playpark and Skatepark are currently closed. The Playing Field is open and residents are welcome to use it for recreational purposes.

Office staff are still available to help with queries and can be contacted via email or telephone.

## Recycling Materials



If you require garden waste sacks, green boxes or food caddies please complete an online request for delivery to your home address by Colchester Borough Council. Please note this is a temporary solution until normal service resumes.

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling-containers>

## 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	75 Keable Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1XR	Tel 210767
Allan Speller		283 London Road, Marks Tey. CO6 1EX	Tel 213643
Albert Thomas		34 The Rookeries, Marks Tey, CO61DY	Tel 213427
John Wood		63 Godmans Lane. Marks Tey. CO6 1NQ	Tel 212100
Robin Rust		196 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey CO6 1HS	Tel 212280
Gerald Wells		Beeches, Church Lane, Little Tey	Tel 615328
Trish Wynne-Willson		11 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LJ	Tel 212166

## Parish Hall Staff

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

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

**Phone:** 01206 213250

**Email:** [parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk) [assistant.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk](mailto:assistant.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk) [bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk](mailto:bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk)

## Colchester Borough Councillors

Kevin Bentley	<a href="mailto:cllr.kevin.bentley@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.kevin.bentley@colchester.gov.uk</a>	Tel 382405
Andrew Ellis	<a href="mailto:cllr.andrew.ellis@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.andrew.ellis@colchester.gov.uk</a>	Tel 735166
Jackie McLean	<a href="mailto:cllr.jackie.mclean@colchester.gov.uk">cllr.jackie.mclean@colchester.gov.uk</a>	Tel 212128

## Essex County Councillor

Anne Brown	<a href="mailto:cllr.anne.brown@essex.gov.uk">cllr.anne.brown@essex.gov.uk</a>	Tel 321241
------------	--	------------