



Hail Weston Parish Council

Your Newsletter Spring 2021



hailweston.org.uk

clerk@hailweston.org.uk

What's been happening

Dear resident,

What a year this has been! However, despite the pandemic, the Parish Council has still managed to meet every month, via Zoom meetings and this has meant that we have still been able to discuss and resolve the various issues arising during the year and move forward on so many of its actions despite the challenges of the year.

The PC look forward to meeting face-to-face again; hopefully from May.

Two new councillors, Rebecca Rowley-Smith and Paul Tynan joined us in June 2020, after Jane Sugars and Matthew Lobo resigned from the Council. Thank you to Jane and Matthew for your contributions throughout your seven years serving Hail Weston.

We have continued with our two main areas of work:

- Representing you on issues affecting the community such as planning applications – we saw 11 applications in the last year (Mar 20-Mar 21) which included eight extensions or alterations to existing properties, one new bungalow and two ‘Planning in Principle’ applications.
- Maintaining our open spaces remains a key objective and will continue to be one of our priorities going forward.

Vice Chair Nick Farnden is the lead on the new Community Led Plan, along with an army of volunteers. The plan is to roll out the questionnaire late spring/early summer with the hope that more than 90% of the uptake is online, however, paper copies will also be available.

There has been a new LED lamp installed on the High Street, opposite the Royal Oak.

We are looking to update the website to make it more of a community website and Councillor Paul Tynan is heading this project. We are awaiting further quotes before deciding.

The Hail Weston part of the solar farm has now been energised and we received a one-off payment of £8,700.00. This is a donation from the company as a Deed of Community Benefit.

The precept for 2021/2022 was approved in November and there will be no increase this year.

The village response to the pandemic has been fantastic. Special thanks to Marion and Martin, who arranged Hail Weston Mutual Aid and all the supporters who make sure that all vulnerable residents receive the support they need. Thank you to the residents who help with keeping the village free of litter, tidying and refreshing the BT kiosk and raising money through baking, making face masks and being generally creative.

What's been happening

Also, congratulations to Maurice and Sue Lee. The Parish Council nominated them for the Rural Volunteer of the Year Award, and they were awarded Bronze medal.

As many will know Maurice and Sue set up the Neighbourhood Café in 2016, with a team of volunteers to provide residents with a chance to socialise over a cuppa and cake. The Neighbourhood Café team have been instrumental in raising almost £7,000 for good causes.

Darren Tysoe, our HDC Ward Councillor and Ian Gardener, our County Councillor have continued to do a great job at keeping Hail Weston Parish Council informed of opportunities to shape consultations and wider county news. I would also like to thank them both.



The public are always welcome and may address the council on current matters or issues of concern in the Open Forum, which is always at the start of the meeting. Any matters raised for decision would become a future agenda item or contact clerk@hailweston.org.uk

Litter picking

Thank you very much to the residents who supported the recent annual litter pick it was a bumper turnout. We sometimes take for granted the beautiful little pocket of Huntingdonshire that we occupy in our village and much of that is due to the fantastic number of trees we have. We take monthly checks on the trees we own and a quick look at those we do not as well as checking our open spaces of the Garden of Rest, the playing fields, the new cemetery and the permissive path. There are concerns about some of our trees in Orchard Close and the impacts that the roots are having on the houses and the sewers. We are working with CCC who are the owners.



Our helpful residents who do regular litter picks enhance the atmosphere of our village and we would encourage all villagers to try not to litter, spoiling our hedgerows and dirtying the verges. We would particularly again encourage dog walkers to bag and collect their dog litter from the route to the ford and the permissive path. The path is just that: permissive. This links us up to North Bedfordshire and a wide range of rights of way and we want to keep this route open for everyone. We also want to make everyone aware of the potential routes to walk out towards Great and Little Staughton and will be working on linking the village to a wider range of footpaths.

What's been happening

Planning round-up

Hail Weston Parish Council (HWPC) have, in addition to responding to planning proposals this year locally have also formally responded to Bedford Borough Council local review, Bedford Borough Council Call for Sites, London Luton Airport Flight Path Change Consultation and Planning for Future White Paper.

Whilst Hail Weston village falls within the Huntingdonshire District, the land on the south of the B645 road by Sharpes Barn is administered by Bedford Borough Council.

HWPC's main objection to development proposed in response to Bedford Borough Council local review was its size - the large-scale development in the countryside which will dramatically alter the character of the countryside. HWPC noted any development in Bedfordshire close to the A1 would be blighted by the significant noise and air pollution that the additional traffic on the road causes.

The HWPC main objection to development proposed in response to the Bedford Borough Council call for sites detail: Hail Weston is classed as a small settlement with Huntingdonshire District Local Plan 2036 and has no facilities.



The Hail Weston Community Plan 2016-2021 response to housing and development illustrated 75% of residents were opposed to any development between the village and the A1. The PC do not therefore believe this would align with the residents' hopes and aspirations.

Flints Field (beside B645 and A1) 15.95 hectares. Suggested site could provide in the time period 150-200 dwellings in 2024/25 to 2028/29 and a further 200-250 in 2029/30 to 2033/34 with 400-450 dwellings overall.

In the 'Planning for Future' White Paper, Hail Weston Parish Council welcomed the commitment to build more houses to help alleviate the housing shortage in the UK.

HWPC had concerns that the process will be top down and driven by algorithms. We were concerned that this approach will not represent the views of the various localities.

Finally, for the London Luton Airport Flight Path Change Consultation, Hail Weston Parish Council noted that either option 1 or 2, contains the same holding stack design and location, the PC felt it wasn't a consultation. We recommended the 'holding area' should be reviewed following this consultation to a much higher level. We suggested 10,000 ft.

HWPC were concerned that prior to COVID-19, 20% of air traffic into LLA was delayed. This could result in large amounts of stacked aircraft over rural Cambridgeshire.

What's been happening

Hail Weston Community Led Plan

In the next few months, everyone in the village will be consulted about the new Community Led Plan 2021-26. It will be your chance to have your say about how you think the village can develop and be improved in the coming years.

The inaugural plan for 2016-21 has not changed the character or the physical appearance of the village but undoubtedly brought about a good number of initiatives which have improved the quality of life for many people.

Amongst the many things the plan introduced are:

- The Village Café
- Library in the phone box
- Two defibrillators
- Bridge Club.

A Community Plan does not have to be seeking big unachievable changes but can bring about a number of modest ideas which enhance the wellbeing of many residents.

As you might expect our preferred method will be online questionnaires but there will also be the option of a paper version for those who prefer a more traditional format.

Whilst we all spend more time at home in this strange year, please take the opportunity to think about what you would like to see happen in the village in the next five years. Focus on the realistic things that can be brought about with the involvement of willing volunteers rather than ambitious expensive projects which may not get off the ground.

We look forward to hearing your views - Nick Farnden

The Royal Oak Pub

The PC approved to re-list the pub as an Asset of Community Value back in 2020. The original ACV was made in 2012 and had lapsed. This new nomination focuses mostly on the current use of the Royal Oak as a public house and how this contributes to the social wellbeing and interests of our local community. The process has been much delayed the PC are awaiting a response from Huntingdonshire District Council.



What's been happening

Highways

The speed limit through the village has now been reduced from 30mph to 20mph. This will eventually include mobile speed signs to use both within the village and on the B645, hopefully proving to be an especially useful tool in reminding drivers to check their speeds.

Speeding is one of the factors that most affects the quality of life in communities around Cambridgeshire. It can be a factor in road traffic collisions and impacts on the day-to-day lives of people living in Hail Weston.



Hail Weston Parish Council have been contacted by residents about speeding vehicles on Ford Road, B645 and within the village. Vehicle 'noise' from motorbikes and cars is also mentioned as one of the biggest community concerns and as such, the PC wants to work to set up a Community Speed Watch. This was temporarily put on hold last year.

If you would like to be part of the Hail Weston Community Speed Watch team please contact clerk@hailweston.org

HWPC have been busy engaging with Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and local parish councils to highlight some health and safety concerns with Ford Road, The bridge steps, lack of safety barriers and ramps (for cyclists) on the foot bridge.

CCC inspected and stated, "The steps themselves are in no danger of moving at the present time" CCC will be receiving some extra government funding for flood damage in 21/22 and will re look to re-bed them at a point in the next financial year, although CCC stated this will not be a priority due to its minor nature. CCC have all but spent this year's budgets and are now only carrying out emergency works until 1st April.

Safety barriers not present on both sides – CCC stated, "Rails are not required on both sides of the steps and, with regards cyclists, any extra railing would prove even more of an issue to access the structure when lifting their bike up the steps".

"Due to the width of the structure, CCC do not believe there to be any scope to make the structure more cycle friendly without replacing the entire structure which is not something we would consider due to its likely cost of £80k + (rough prices taken from the replacement of two similar sized footbridges). CCC will investigate attaching a cycle tyre channel on the side of the steps where there is currently no railing which may help cyclists access the bridge a bit easier but I cannot guarantee this will be possible without speaking to my Scheme Delivery Manager".

What's been happening

Playing field upgrade

The PC are delighted to confirm that funding has been approved to be committed for additional equipment for older children and adult fitness equipment at the playing field. The funding allocated from Huntingdon District Council is £ 28,071. This exciting development is being led by Phil Martin.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge placed on developers that allows local authorities to assist in the funding and delivery of infrastructure development within the local area.

Garden of Rest

A local family bequeathed a sum of money to help maintain this area last year. The PC have tried to improve amenity area and maintain as a place of reflection.

As we know the access to this area is not ideal, but this land is owned by the parish council and as well as a final resting place for past residents it hosts native apple trees, and now a 'Tommy' and nurse figure administering a vaccination has been erected. This has been beautifully arranged by Peter with assistance from Phil.



Peter Burton of Lattenbury Services kindly donated the metal and the skill of Paul Botsford who cut out the figures from cardboard templates drawn by a resident. The PC thinks they are very fitting and will be a great asset to the village and erected in time for VE Day on May 8th.

Monthly Police surgery

PCSO 7101 Richard Braddick, from St Neots Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team is willing to attend a village surgery each month.

The Parish council see this as a very positive move, many residents contact the PC regard to issues that the PC have no particular powers to address, more detail to follow.

PCSO 7101 Richard Braddick, St Neots Rurals Safer Neighbourhood Team
St. Neots Police Station , Dovehouse Close , St. Neots PE19 1DS
Call: 101 Mobile: 07921 094801 richard.braddick@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Planning process

Local planning

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is the Planning Authority and will determine all planning applications in Hail Weston Parish.

The Parish Council (PC) has the right to be notified of all planning applications by the Planning Authority (HDC) (Town & Country Planning Act 1990 Schedule 1 para 8) and the PC can make recommendations to HDC. It is HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications.

As a resident of Hail Weston, you are entitled to make any observation in support or objection to any planning application during the consultation period. All comments submitted on the HDC portal will be publicly available. You can do this by registering on the portal and making a comment or emailing developmentcontrol@huntingdonshire.gov.uk directly. If you are emailing please quote the planning application reference number, include your name, address and contact number, and make it clear whether you are supporting or opposing the application. In addition to making representation to HDC, it is useful to inform HWPC by email to clerk@hailweston.org.uk

Making a comment

Go to www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk and create a new account or sign in. You will be asked to register your email address and set up a password. Once registered you need to search for the application you wish to comment on, select the comments tab, ensure your personal details are correct enter and submit your comments.

If you are keen to keep informed of all planning matters in Hail Weston, you can register on the HDC portal to receive all notifications.

When a planning application is issued by HDC an electronic copy is sent to the Parish Council (PC) for consideration at a Parish meeting. It has been noted recently some resident notifications issued by HDC by post have been slow to reach 'abutting neighbours' of the application site and planning notices (A4 yellow posters) have also been delayed.

The parish meetings are advertised on the village notice board and website giving as a minimum the statutory three days' notice, all parish meetings are open to the public to attend and discuss any matter, not just planning, during the Open forum, usually held just after the start of the meeting. The views of the PC must be sent to HDC within 21 days of receiving the electronic notification of the proposed application or the PC must apply to HDC for an extension. The case officer at HDC will respond to this request.

If the PC receive a planning notification which falls out of its scheduled meeting (meetings are planned a year in advance) then the Chair will call an Extra ordinary meeting. This again which is published and open to all residents of Hail Weston to attend to allow the planning application to be considered by the full parish council.

The PC will make its observations to HDC considering its adopted 'material considerations'. The PC will listen to comments from the applicants and neighbours if representation is made, or evaluate resident comments at the meeting if received. Each individual Parish Council Member has their own view, which they express and then the parish Council vote to on the proposal. The decision along with comments made by HWPC are sent to HDC for their consideration and published on HDC website under parish comment. The decision made by HDC will appear as 'Pending', 'In progress', 'Approved' or 'Objection'.