



HAWKWELL i

Hawkwell Parish
Council

Issue 28

OCTOBER 2011

PLANNING AUTHORITY VOTES FOR THE URBANISATION OF THE EAST OF OUR DISTRICT!

In spite of strong opposition from the residents adjacent to all the sites that the District Council plans to concrete over they are pressing ahead with the plan to turn the east of the district into a single urban sprawl. Just what was the point of the so called consultation when not one significant concession has been made to address the protestations of the people of Hawkwell, Rochford and Ashingdon. What kind of democratic system allows the legitimate claims of local people to be so roundly disregarded?

Despite Rochford District Council trying to delay the examination of its' Core Strategy for tactical reasons until after the Localism Bill becomes law it will go before a government planning inspector in the next few weeks.

The Core Strategy decides the future of the district for many years to come and covers not only housing requirements but also the economic needs and how the district will develop generally.

Hawkwell Parish Council has responded to the consultation with many concerns; not least the accessibility of the documents and the amount of jargon used that may not be readily understood by residents.

Across the District our first option was to continue the developments in the west. This was on the basis that major road networks are close, as are public transport facilities. There is also a sports centre, supermarket, medical centre and school within easy reach. Unfortunately this was rejected following pressure from Rayleigh Councillors.

The Core Strategy totally fails to recognise the problems that are likely to ensue by placing three large housing developments, Hall Road, Brays Lane and Rectory Road, relatively close together along with the employment opportunities at the airport. Given that there is a weight limit on Warners Bridge, and the size and congestion on the roads surrounding our village the Core Strategy, as written, is almost certainly going to create grid lock on the roads in and around Hawkwell. We believe that use of 'Green Belt' land should be a last resort and that there should be a presumption that developments will be on 'Brown Field' or 'Green Field' sites but it seems that 'Green Belt' will be released for development first.

Specifically to Hawkwell, in the area RDC calls south Hawkwell, we believe the claim that the sites suggested for housing as being 'well related' to the airport job opportunities to be flawed given that a significant length of Hall Road from Rectory Road to Cherry Orchard Way has no footpath and no public transport links. The proud claim of Rochford District being 90% Green Belt would too quickly be eroded by the urbanisation of Rectory Road on the Christmas Tree Farm site and the raises the probability of coalescence if Hall Road is given the go ahead, effectively linking west Hawkwell with Rochford and Southend through the developments planned for the airport.

Claims are made that refer to transport provision but given that west Hawkwell is more or less cut off from public transport once evening arrives we demand that any planning gain contributes directly to the benefit of residents prior to any development taking place.

In conclusion we have absolutely no confidence that the infrastructure improvements necessary up front to mitigate these proposals will ever materialise and the Rochford's strategy fails to even remotely address the internationally accepted definition of sustainability, 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

Inside this issue:

- Hawkwell Parish Plan Questionnaire Results
- Precept for 2012/13
- Xmas Parcels for the elderly
- All our yesterdays?
- Councillor Contact Details



HAWKWELL PARISH PLAN - CONSULTATION RESULTS!

The Parish Plan Questionnaire has now been evaluated and the results will be on display at an Open Event/Exhibition at the Freight House 15th October 2011 from 1pm – 4 pm (Prize Draw at 1.15 pm)

The Hawkwell Parish Plan Group wish to thank all Hawkwell residents (including Youth and Juniors) and Hawkwell businesses who completed the Questionnaires sent out in May this year. We received back 25% from all households in Hawkwell and 43% from businesses who we were able to contact. We are not sure how many households included Junior and or Youth residents and so we are unable to put a percentage on the huge pile of Junior and Youth Questionnaires that were completed.

The results and responses were processed by staff and students of Greensward Academy for which we are most grateful. These results will be on display at the Freight House on the 15th October and will include all aspects of the questionnaire:-

Households, Environment, Community, Services & Amenities, Traffic & Highways, Public Transport, Housing & Development, Youth & Junior Residents, and Businesses

There will be a separate table for each section of the Questionnaire. "Post It" notes will be available for ideas of specific actions to address the problems highlighted, split between actions that can be taken locally and actions requiring the involvement of

other organisations. There will also be the opportunity for you to state what you consider to be priority for action.

Whether you filled in your questionnaire or not, by attending the Public Meeting at the Freight House on the 15th October you will be able to add weight to what has already been achieved and this will of course be most welcome.

This event will also include the Prize Draw of the three lucky numbers from the questionnaires. 1st prize to the value of £250, 2nd prize to the value of £100 and third prize to the value of £50. Your lucky number is on the very back page of the part which you kept.

We really need you – the residents – to come along to this event for just a short while in order to find out the opinions of fellow residents. Do they think like you or do their priorities lie elsewhere? Come along and find out and give us your thoughts. Your attendance could be of benefit to you and to the Final Hawkwell Plan.

If you feel you can assist us in any way at this Open Event/Exhibition we would be very grateful to hear from you – we certainly could do with a little help setting up etc. and it's not for long. Please contact us via our website www.hawkwellplan.org.uk or telephone Lionel on 01702 204452.

See you at the Freight House on Saturday 15th October between 1p.m. and 4 p.m. (there is FREE parking)

SETTING THE PRECEPT FOR 2012/13

Parish Councillors are about to start the process of setting the precept for 2012/13. Between now and the end of January, Councillors will be looking at their operational costs and developing costings for projects to be funded from next years Council Tax. Our Members are acutely aware of the current state of the economy and the financial restraints faced by many of the residents of Hawkwell. In preparation for setting the Council Tax base for the coming year, the Parish Council has updated its Fiscal Policy which means we are, in essence, setting out to hold the precept as low as possible bearing in mind the huge increases in, for example, utility prices (we pay for street lighting) whilst still funding well loved parish events such as the bi-annual summer fayre and the annual Christmas Lights ceremony. As a Parish we hold only a modest amount of money in General Reserve (in line with the requirements of the Audit Commission) and do not have a large pot of 'spare' cash to fall back upon.

In preparing for this budgeting round we are aware of moves by the District Council to try reduce its costs by transferring some of its functions to parishes. We will resist this without being assured of a proper transfer of funds from District to the parish to compensate us. To

accept such transfers without an appropriate financial agreement means that, unlike the District (where more than 50% of its income is from sources other than the precept), the parish will have to increase its precept by, what could be a significant percentage, without a equal reduction in demand from the principal authority. In these circumstances we would consider this to be double taxation.

We promise our parishioners that each and every budget will be scrutinised in detail and any unnecessary expense weeded out to keep the costs to a reasonable level.



All our Yesterdays?

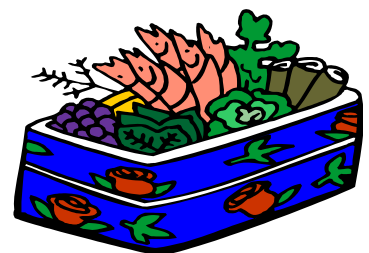
Hawkwell is celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a summer fayre at Rochford Rugby Club next June. As part of the celebration we would like to create a montage of pictures from the time of the Coronation and the rest of the nineteen fifties and compare the village 'then and now'.

If you have any old photos that you would be prepared to allow us to copy and display please contact the Clerk on the number given on the back page.

Xmas Parcels for the elderly

As in previous years we plan to provide a small Christmas hamper for our elderly residents (of pensionable age or over) living alone in the parish.

If you know of any Hawkwell resident who meets the above criteria and has not received a parcel before please give details to the Parish Clerk, contact details on back page, by 30th November.





HAWKWELL'S OWN CHAMPION!

Well done to Lee Heath who won the UK Championship Mono 2 Class of fast electric boat racing, he beat the current World Champion who was the current UK champ as well, so not bad for his 1st championship....



Let's have your news of any other champions from Hawkwell!



NEW COUNCILLORS JOIN THE TEAM

Following our previous issue in which we asked for volunteers to fill the vacancies caused by retirements of long serving Members at the May election, we are pleased to announce three new Members have been co-opted.

Karen Cooke, Linda Haskew and James Scrivener bring a range of skills and experiences to the Parish Council and we look forward to their contribution over the coming years.

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

District Councillors for Hawkwell Parish

Hawkwell North

Mrs Jo McPherson Tel: 07973 883818
Mr R Pointer Tel: 07515 343370

Hawkwell South

Mr Philip Capon Tel: 258792
Mrs Heather Glynn Tel: 547060

Hawkwell West

Mr John Mason Tel: 204377
Mrs Christine Mason Tel: 204377

County Councillor for Area

Tracy Chapman Tel: 542452

West Ward

Mrs Angela Heath
Tel: 207710

Mr David Weir
Tel: 207764

Mrs Myra Weir
Tel: 207764

Mr Robert Mitchell
Tel: 200477

Mrs Pauline Young
Tel: 204858

Mrs Karen Cooke
Tel: 201202

South Ward

Mrs Elizabeth
Chippette
Tel: 544770

Mr Vic Leach
(Chairman)
Tel: 541413

Mr James Scrivener
Tel: 01702 207710

Mrs Linda Haskew
Tel: 541324

North Ward

Mrs Jean Barney
Tel: 547450

Mr Royston Patient
Tel: 531462

Mr John Dickson
Tel: 206625

Mrs C Cunningham
Tel: 540088

Mr Arthur Williams
Tel: 541892

CLERK CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office
r/o Hawkwell Village Hall
Main Road
HAWKWELL
Essex SS5 4EH

Phone: 01702 207710
Fax: 01702 562162
E-mail: info@hawkwellparishcouncil.gov.uk