

Report from the
Parish Council
Chairman

**MARK
BROGAN**



2020 has been a very challenging year for everyone and all businesses and concerns throughout the world due to the pandemic. Thanks to Paul Earnshaw and team for all the help that group delivered supplies to the most vulnerable in the parish during the early stages of the pandemic. We hope that all of you are staying at home and keeping safe and well during these challenging times. Thankfully, much of the work of the parish council has continued despite the pandemic with our meetings taking place via Zoom whenever lockdown restrictions prevent face-to-face discussions.

New Parish Council Clerk: In May, Martyn Corbet our parish clerk resigned from his post after nearly 9 years. Martyn has worked very hard for the council and the parish. We wish to thank him sincerely for all his work and his achievements over these years. In June, we welcomed Sue Meehan as Parish Clerk. Sue, and her husband Colin, moved to Heathfield 18 months ago. She brings with her a wealth of experience from her previous roles in public and private sector management.

Speed Limits: We are concerned, as many of you are about speeding in the village and Heathfield. In September, we applied for a Local highways initiative (LHI) grant to establishment of 20 mph speed limit throughout the village, thanks should go to David Easthope for his work on this. The proposal covered the whole village with an arrangement similar to that recently installed in Fowlmere. Unfortunately, the response from SCDC was unfavourable citing some issues, e.g., speed bumps require a pavement, which do not exist in Middle Street, so that pedestrians do not trip in the dark. SCDC did suggest some alternatives but we thought that these were insufficient. We consequently voted and agreed to withdraw the application, as it was unlikely to be successful. We will consult further with the community and decide the next steps through the spring.

Defibrillator: Following successful installation of the defibrillator in the village hall in 2019, this has already been used once and clearly could save someone's life one day. It was decided that we should also install one in Heathfield ward. Councillors Jackson & Schneider have had many discussions with EMG with regard to them hosting the equipment. I am pleased to say those discussions were successful and we were in a position to start the installation just prior to lockdown restrictions tightening in December.

Heathfield Public Open Space (POS): As many of you are aware the council received grants from the WREN foundation and the National Lottery to install children's play equipment for years 8-16 and adult gym equipment. This totaled approximately £80,000. This is largely thanks to the efforts of Darren Mullett, together with Cllrs Smith &

Schneider. We are pleased to say that the gym equipment, the climbing frame were installed in February and basket swing and zip wire in August. As a result, we see many more families using this amenity and it appears to be better enjoyed by many. I am also pleased to say that the council has recovered all the funds for this from the above organisations and therefore this was achieved without spending any of our funds. In addition to this the WREN foundation grant also paid for 3 benches which are now installed. We also plan litter bins situated close to the benches, which will be added in the near future.

Parking Issues: We are working together with County Councillor Peter Macdonald on improvements in 3 areas; the junction of the Village Green and Fowlmere Road, the bus stop area in Heathfield and an area in Pepperslade. It was agreed recently to package these as a bundle and ask the county council highways to carry out a survey and make recommendations with costs.

Heathfield House: Some residents have been complaining about noise from flues on the site, particularly at night time. We are working District Councillor Richard Williams to verify the planning status and the noise control office of the district council have been notified.

Heathfield-Thriplow Greenway: complaints have been received concerning the Crisp Factory adjacent to the greenway. There appear to be many developments in recent months, new marquees, Portaloos, car parks etc. We are working with Cllr Williams making enquiries with regard to planning applications for each. Planning enforcement have been informed and the matter is currently ongoing. The Environment Agency visited the site in November with regard to pollution seen in the nearby pond. They reported that this had indeed emanated from the factory, and was confirmed to be vegetable oil. Measures have been taken to ensure this does not occur again.

Parish Councillors: In September, Owen Mackay resigned after many years as a TPC Councillor. We thank for all his contributions during his time with us. We are pleased to welcome Luigi Murton to the parish council and wish him every success. He was co-opted at our November meeting. Luigi and his family have lived in Thriplow for the past 8 years.

Precept: We recently voted to increase the precept by 15% for the 21/22 tax year this is to support many activities agreed and minuted in recent council meetings, including some of those above, which we think will strongly benefit the parish. A recent audit of all 100 parish councils in Cambridgeshire showed that Thriplow Parish Council Precept charge was in the lowest 10%. Consequently, it was agreed at the last meeting that this modest increase is wholly justified.

Agreements with HRA: Discussions took place this year with regard to payment of Heathfield street lighting and payments for grass cutting in the Heathfield ward between the parish council and Heathfield Residents Association. I am pleased to be able to say that an amicable agreement has been reached on both issues.

Community Governance Review (CRG): South Cambs. County Council (SCDC) carried out a survey in February last year proposing some changes to TPC. The following changes were approved by SCDC following majority vote. The name shall be changed to 'Thriplow and Heathfield Parish Council', effective after ratification in May. The representation on the council will change from 7 councillors for Thriplow and 2 for Heathfield, to 5 and 4 respectively, at the next parish elections in 2022.

All residents are welcome to join our parish council meetings, which will be via zoom for the at least the next few months, details can be found in the agenda on the website: www.thriplow.org.uk/parish-council

Report from
Neighbourhood
Watch group

JANE GOUGH



Neighbourhood Watch objectives are promoting a sense of security and community spirit, especially if we have more vulnerable members of our community. We all need to be increasingly vigilant in our community which will prevent opportunities for crime. It helps to report suspicious activity quickly. If we look out for our neighbours it promotes security and community spirit and perhaps less fear of crime.

We are fortunate to live in quiet neighbourhood. We belong to the Sawston policing team who reports that the most commonly reported crimes up to Nov 2020 are violence and sexual offences, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and arson and other types of thefts.

We must not forget being safe online; protecting your computer, banking and telephone scams, safeguarding children and social networking but to name a few.

Crime information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111. Your personal information and device are not tracked. If preferred, the online form can be found here <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Call 999 if you or someone else is in danger or a crime in progress.

To contact the police, call 101 if the crime is not an emergency.

Jane Gough
Councillor, Village Ward



Report on maintenance
and parish recreation
grounds

TERRY SMITH

Grass cutting in the Parish – Hardy Landscapes (Fowlmere) have again done an excellent job in the Parish and their contract has been renewed for the coming year.

The seats (14 total) in the Parish are all in good condition and shouldn't need retreating this year.

I will be getting quotes to resurface the Bus shelter apron in Brook Road and to provide some hard standing for parking at Ringstone

All the new equipment installations on Heathfield Open Space have now been completed, there are some litter bins on order and will be installed very soon.

Following the annual RoSPA inspection, some items in the Village and Ringstone play areas required some parts renewing, this has now been carried out. There will be some trimming back of the hedges and trees in the Village Recreation Ground in March. The Play Wall has been refurbished, many thanks to Ben Stronach.

REMINDERS

Owners and householders are reminded to cut back to their boundaries, any overhanging hedging and tree branches. This applies both to pathways and roadways,

Dog walkers – please take your dog waste to the appropriate litter bins DO NOT hang bags in hedges or leave on verges, alternately take it home and dispose with your domestic waste.

ACT RESPONSIBLY

Terry Smith
Councillor, Village Ward



Book your visit to the local recycling centre. It's easy to do and helps save lives.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/waste-and-recycling/booking-system-for-household-recycling-centres



Reports on the
Neighbourhood Plan
and Watercourses

DAVID EASTHOPE

Thriplow & Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan

Since just before the end of 2018 the Neighbourhood Plan group have been working on a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Thriplow and Heathfield. The purpose of the Plan is to set a framework for future development in the parish and, once made, the plan will carry the same legal weight as plans drawn up by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The SCDC planners must follow what is in the Neighbourhood Plan when making decisions about planning applications in the parish, subject to other material considerations.

The Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan group, which is led by Philippa MacGarry, started their consultations with residents by sending a questionnaire to every household in the parish. A Housing Needs Survey has also been carried out and analysis of the survey responses resulted in exhibitions held in late February 2020 in the village hall and in early March 2020 at the Officers Mess, Duxford. All residents and businesses in the parish were invited to view the results of the consultations and to make any comments or suggestions they wished. In order to fund the work carried out by the group grant applications were made to central government in 2019 and 2020 and these were approved.

Progress on the plan is, of course, subject to the availability of the time of those involved in its preparation, however, this has not been helped by the pandemic which has made meetings much more difficult and resulted in slower progress than anticipated. The group is now in the process of preparing the first draft for the proposed plan and hopes this will be finalised in the not-too-distant future.

Before being accepted as the official Neighbourhood Plan for the parish the proposals will need to be vetted for content by a Government Inspector and, following this, there will be a referendum in the parish on the proposals. Only if a majority are in favour of the proposals will the plan go forward as the official Neighbourhood Plan.

Watercourses report

Over the last few years Owen MacKay has been drawing our attention to potential problems caused by the lack of maintenance on watercourses throughout the village.

He had meetings with the District and County Councils and communicated with landowners in the village where there are watercourses within their ownership.

Generally, the responsibilities for maintaining these watercourses in Thriplow falls on the riparian owners. Smaller watercourses, ditches and drains, known as “ordinary watercourses” play a crucial role in managing flood

risk to people and property. It is important, therefore, to ensure that these are well maintained and kept free from debris and obstructions and do not become overgrown.

If you have an ordinary watercourse, which may or may not be piped, running through your land or immediately adjacent to it you may well be the riparian owner. If you are, then you have responsibilities to both your upstream and downstream neighbours, which in essence means that you should not extract water from the watercourse as it could lead to a lack of water to those downstream and should also not carry out any activities that could cause pollution to the watercourse. You have the right, of course, to protect your property from flooding and your land from erosion, however, you must get your plans agreed by the relevant risk management authority before you start work.

Other responsibilities include an obligation to let water flow through your land without obstruction, pollution or diversion and downstream neighbours have the right to receive water in its natural quantity and quality. You must accept flood flows through your land even if these are caused by inadequate capacity downstream.

You should keep the banks clear of anything that could cause obstruction and increase flood risk, either on your land or downstream. You are responsible for maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse and the trees and shrubs growing on the banks. You should also clear any litter or indeed anything else from the channel and banks even if it did not originate from your land. You must keep structures such as culverts, screens, walls, etc. clear of debris. If you are a landowner and have a watercourse, either open or piped, running through your land or immediately adjacent to it, for example a roadside ditch, and are not sure whether you are the riparian owner and what your responsibilities might be you can contact the Flood and Water team at Cambridge County Council, Shire Hall, Castle Court, Cambridge, CB3 0AP or they can be contacted online here:- floodandwater@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. If you would like a more informal chat on any of these issues, I am happy to speak with you in more detail and put you in touch with the people who can give you the best advice.

David Easthope
Councillor, Village Ward

THRIPLow VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire in daytime or evenings.
Facilities include sound system, chairs, tables, fully equipped kitchen, stage area, committee room, toilets and parking.

To book contact Oz Flynn on 01223 839546 (Monday-Thursday 7pm-8:30pm. Saturday 10am-5pm) or email flynnoz@aol.com

Ladybird Playgroup began September 2019 in a strong position with only a few available spaces.

The children were excited to be back and we had a lovely autumn, building new friendships and providing exciting learning experiences. Our fundraising was boosted by a successful sponsored Treasure Hunt, which allowed us to buy new resources for the children.

We returned after the Christmas break on January 7th to an Ofsted Inspection, which we had learned about during a Staff Meeting on the 6th. It was also the day we welcomed Sarah, our new member of staff!

We were inspected under the new guidelines and were pleased to receive a rating of GOOD.

Although we had by now heard of a virus in Wuhan, little did we know how much it would affect us in the coming months.

Very soon we were locked down, so we turned to sending our children, Weekly Activities to help parents keep them amused. Our families responded well and kept in touch by our online Tapestry Learning Journal. Before too long, Staff were back, working alongside Thriplow School staff in the school hall to provide care for the children of Key Workers from Ladybird, Thriplow and Babraham Schools.

In June, Ladybird returned to our own building to continue with our own Early Years children in familiar surroundings. There were lots of things to consider, Risk Assessments to be written, safety measures to be put in place, and PPE equipment to be obtained from a dwindling stock. Above all this, the safety and welfare of Staff, children and their families were our main priority.

After the summer holidays, Ladybird opened and ran with all the new Government Guidance, which is a job in itself, to keep up with sometimes. We continue to keep providing a fun learning environment both in setting and online for our families which is all we can do for the present.

Huge thanks to all of our amazing Staff, Committee, Parents and Children for making this all possible.

Sharon McGinty
Ladybird Manager

Parish Clerk
**SUE
MEEHAN**



I was delighted to take on the role of Parish Clerk in July 2020.

I moved to Heathfield in September 2019 and was ready to take on a new community-based role in the parish. Having retired in 2018 from a senior Highways role in Herts CC, I wanted to use my skills and knowledge in a part-time position.

The role is varied and no two days are the same. The issues here mirror my experience in customer service in HCC where I previously worked for 9 years. I look forward to serving the parish and hopefully meeting more residents in the coming year.

I am also a Director of Heathfield Residents Assn., where I manage the website.

Sue Meehan, Parish Clerk

parishclerk@thriplow.org.uk



New
councillor
**LUIGI
MURTON**

I was co-opted onto the parish council in November 2020.

I have lived in Thriplow since 2012. The village is a special place to me and my family.

I believe firmly in equal representation and having a younger Councillor could bring a fresh perspective. I look forward to making a difference in Thriplow and Heathfield.

Luigi Murton
Councillor, Village Ward

Report from
County Councillor

**PETER
MCDONALD**



**Key worker?
Unable to work
from home?
No COVID-19
symptoms?**

1 in 3 people have no symptoms.
Book a rapid test to help us break
the chain of transmission.



NHS **Cambridgeshire County Council** **PETERBOROUGH City Council**

Find your nearest rapid result testing centre

The Hub High Street, Cambourne, South Cambridgeshire, CB23 6GW Launches 3 February	The Coneygear Centre Butts Grove Way, Huntingdon, PE29 1PE Launches 11 February
Queen Mary Centre Queen's Road, Wisbech, Fenland, PE13 2PE Launches 4 February	The Meadows Community Centre 1 St Catherine's Rd, Arbury, Cambridge, CB4 3XJ Launches 12 February
Soham Town Rangers Football Club Julius Martin Lane, Soham, Ely, East Cambridgeshire, CB7 5EQ Launches 5 February	St Mark's Church Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2SN Already operating

Book your rapid test at
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting
or www.peterborough.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Help us **stop the spread** of coronavirus

Rapid testing for key workers and all those who cannot work from home launched across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough recently to help track cases of Coronavirus and drive down transmission rates.

A number of sites are being set up across the county offering rapid tests to people aged 18 and over who have no symptoms of Coronavirus. It follows a commitment from the Government to test as many people who are key workers and/or cannot work from home as possible.

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have been allocated 100,000 tests in the next six weeks, with the potential for the pilot to be extended.

Around one in three people who are infected with Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading the disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify key workers showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, which helps break chains of transmission.

Initially there will be six sites across the county, with the potential to set up pop-up sites in areas of high need if required. Tests will be offered at no cost to the public.

Tests will be available in the following locations:

- Cambridge, The Meadows Community Centre, 1 St Catherine's Rd, Arbury, Cambridge, CB4 3XJ – launches Friday 12 February.

Each site will be open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday, apart from the Peterborough site which is open every day from 9am to 2pm and 4pm to 7pm.

To book a test, people need to visit the Cambridgeshire County Council website

Lateral flow tests are a new kind of technology that can be used to test a higher proportion of asymptomatic people and do not require a laboratory to process the test.

The process of taking a test takes on average 15 minutes from arrival to departure.

People with symptoms will not be tested at the rapid testing sites. Anyone with one or more of these Coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – should book a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119.

Foxton Travel Hub

I chaired a meeting between Foxton & Fowlmere PC's, Neil Gough (S. Cambs. GCP Board Member) and officers from GCP. I think it was productive - next steps are a full engagement with officers.

Site Design



- 'Roman road' layout
- Reduced A10 speed limit
- 52 Cycle parking spaces
- 500 Car Park spaces
- 25 Disabled parking bays
- Improved bus waiting facility
- Ped, cycle and equestrian routes
- Solar panels
- Biodiversity Net gain
- Pedestrian refuge crossing point
- Platform to platform bridged crossing
- Improved level crossing design



Thakeham Development

We (the action group) held an open meeting with 70 attendees on Jan 20th. The presentation is here:

https://17a4c9c5-bc96-42ff-89cb-56a5069d86b6.filesusr.com/ugd/11c8bf_ccf8e8132aae4c47b861942733784a5c.pdf

The FAQ's from that meeting is here

https://17a4c9c5-bc96-42ff-89cb-56a5069d86b6.filesusr.com/ugd/11c8bf_1806f3efe8ab4a09a238f06872977f67.pdf

Subsequently we had a response to our FOI to the Ministry where they refused information as it was "not in the public interest"!

https://17a4c9c5-bc96-42ff-89cb-56a5069d86b6.filesusr.com/ugd/11c8bf_045cc92024c84bcd8a2d1f3d1f31ae44.pdf

Peter McDonald, County Councillor

peter.mcdonald@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

**CHARLOTTE
KIRBY**

Councillor,
Heathfield Ward



**RICHARD
WILLIAMS**

District Councillor



**CARLY
RICHMAN**

Councillor,
Thriplow Ward



Focussing on the website and local environment issues

Myself and Charlotte just wanted to update the parish on the key thing we have been focusing on over the last year, the website. It is a slow burner but one that when is complete will make a big difference to how the community can access information and also report important issues. Together with our web designer, we have submitted some design ideas to the rest of the Parish Council so they can see what it would potentially look like and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Whilst our focus is the website, we will also strive to make sure we do our best for the local community over the coming year. Of great importance to us both is the environment and how we all look after our parish and there have been several issues over the past few months that have been detrimental to our surrounding area. This has been disappointing to see but we will always do our utmost to bring these matters to the forefront. Something else we are both involved with is the ongoing issue of parking in both Thriplow and Heathfield. Options to improve the parking is being considered by the Parish Council in the hope we can make positive changes going forward. We hope over the coming year we can continue to work to the best of our abilities to make positive changes within our parish.

In 2021 the District Council is going to start to take decisions on the next Local Plan that will control development in our area up to 2040. My job is to ensure that the interests of our villages are protected and that the voices of the residents of Thriplow & Heathfield are heard loudly in the process. A lot of land in our area of the District has been put forward for possible development and it is important that development south of Cambridge is limited and the rural character of our communities is protected.

Over the past year I have helped residents with numerous planning, housing, environmental and many other issues and worked closely with the Parish Council. In particular I have worked to resolve pollution incidents affecting local ponds and waterways and will continue to work with the Environment Agency and others to ensure incidents do not happen again.

Due to the Covid situation I have not been able to knock on as many doors as I would have liked in the last year to talk directly to residents. I hope that situation will change this year with the vaccine roll out, but I am always keen to hear from anyone who would like to discuss local issues and am always available to help with any problems or concerns.

So please get in touch if you would like to do so. My email address is cllr.williamsR@scamb.gov.uk and phone number is 07584037016. With best wishes for 2021, Richard.