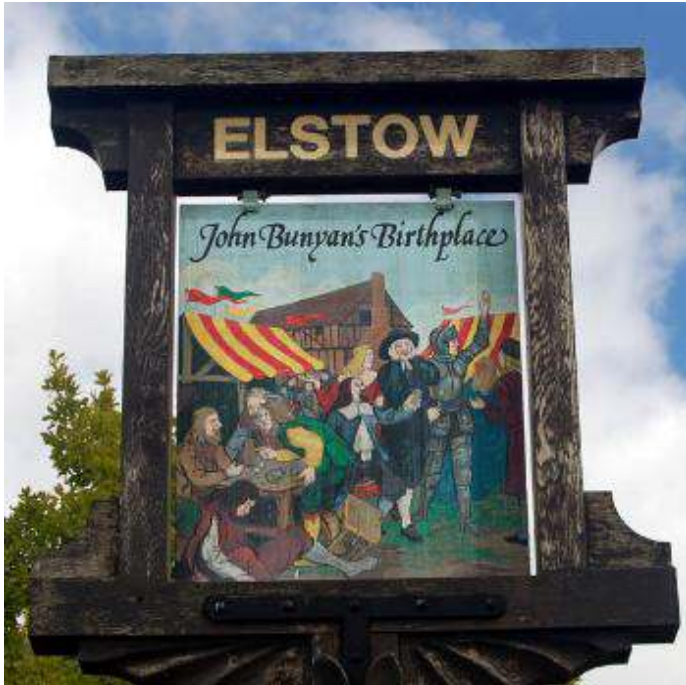


ELSTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2016

Elstow Parish Council Annual Report 15/16

There have been 9 meetings of the Parish Council over the year, with Sue Anderson being elected as Chair and Tony Hare as Vice-Chair. Over the year there has been the co-option of Bob Lammin, Jon Miles and more recently Sarah Bell, to join the Council. Thanks and appreciation go to former Councillors Jeremy Crocker and Crispin Maddox who contributed a great deal to the Council during their time.

It continues to be, as always, busy for the Council in regards to planning and development. There have been a number of focuses over the year which the Council have been very active in, these include the next consultation stages of the Local Plan 2032 document, which is the local authority development strategy framework document. The Council again voiced their objection to any sites being allocated within the parish given the expansion of the village in recent years.

Also, the Parish Council objected to the residential development of Village Farm, this application was due before the Borough Council Planning Committee with a recommendation for refusal and it was withdrawn just prior to the committee meeting.

The Parish Council also had communications with the site owners of the former old school to discuss the future maintenance of the War Memorial. There was lengthy discussions and communications on this important historical monument, with the Parish Council being overall supportive of taking on the maintenance of the memorial on the conditions of the surrounding area being landscaped appropriately, and a commuted sum being paid to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council have also seen a lot of residential planning applications this year and have considered each application individually, with where appropriate objections being made usually

with concerns such as over development or impact on street scene.

The Council agreed that the precept for 2015/16 continue to remain at £15,000 for the year; this continues to be a low figure considering the size and population of the parish which is something the Parish Council are very proud of. Over the year the Council developed a formal application form for organisations requesting financial assistance so this is available to anyone wishing to apply for help.

The Parish Council contributions during 2015/16 included:

- . Contribution of £375 towards the May Festival
- . Donation made for Remembrance Day
- . Cutting of the grass along the Wilstead Road rural footpath - which will continue throughout this year
- . The production of the village newsletter which is circulated to every household within the village
- . Funding towards new equipment at the Elstow Christian Fellowship
- . Redesigning of a new village website being funded by the Parish Council
- . Maintenance of the play area near Romsey Way carried out

The Council is very pleased with the continued success of the play area on the land between Romsey Way and former Abbey Middle School. The area continues to be well used regularly by many children which is great, and the Council have implemented some further enhancements to this play area with additional play equipment which cost in the region of £33k.

More recently, the Parish Council also agreed a grant be allocated to enhance the Elstow Cricket Club offer to the local youth.

The Parish Council are continually striving to ensure Elstow remains a rural and historic village, reporting highway issues, and maintenance needs within the village. There have been site meetings with Borough Council Highways Officer where the parking issues along the High Street have been reviewed as well as the speeding issues through the village.

The Council have been working regularly with the Police in regards to reducing crime. Unfortunately, the Council were recently informed due to police budget constraints and restructure of staff, they will no longer be able to provide regular monthly crime reports or attend Parish Council meetings.

The Council look forward to what is expected to be another busy year.

Please note some contact details for Lizzie the Clerk have changed:

Address: Lizzie Barnicoat, Clerk to the Council, PO BOX 1542, Bedford MK42 5DJ

Telephone Number (01234) **635772**

Email: lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

Next Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council will next meet on on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm in the Playing Field Hall meeting room. As always, the public is welcome and encouraged to attend and speak on any item within the 'Open forum' section of the agenda. If anyone would like to bring a matter to the attention of the Parish Council, please feel free to contact Lizzie Barnicoat, Parish Clerk, on **635772**

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR TIM HILL'S REPORT

Local Issues

Since my last Newsletter Article I have, amongst many other local issues, progressed the following raised by residents, sometimes with the valued help and support of the Parish Council:

- Speeding.
- High Street/Church End junction.
- Inconsiderate parking.
- Rights of way at Wigram Close/High Street and Halesowen Drive/Croyland Drive junctions.
- Broadband speed.
- Litter, dog litter and litter bins.
- State of pavements.
- State of road surfaces.
- Extending cricket pitches on Playing Fields.
- Street name plates.
- Overhanging shrubs etc. in Moss Lane and South Avenue.
- Flooding.
- Abbey Fields Shop.
- Collapsed fence in High Street.
- Overgrown grass on Abbey Fields.
- Footpath on A6 from Wilstead Road to Shanks.

I have also held four local advice surgeries since the last Parish Newsletter.

Ward Fund

My Ward Fund for 2016/176 is still to be confirmed. I have put in provisional bids so far for:

Elstow and Stewartby.

1. Contribution towards cost of providing First Aid Training at Guild House. Guild House has 7 members from my Ward and I have agreed to contribute the equivalent of £25.00 a head towards the overall training.

Elstow.

1. Hillesden Avenue - Whole estate No Verge Parking Scheme.
2. West End - Extending existing High Street No Verge Parking Scheme to Progress Way roundabout.

3. Contribution towards installation of a goal on Tucker Park.
4. Contribution towards the cost of a new bench on the Romsey Way green.

REPORTING MATTERS to the BOROUGH COUNCIL

If you see something in the village such as **dog fouling, fly tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles or vehicles for sale**, then the best thing you can do is report it directly to the Borough Council on 01234 718060. This is the appropriate contact number for reporting to the Environmental Health department which also includes noise and air pollutions. This way the Borough Council, who have the appropriate authority to take action, can follow the matter up.

In terms of **highway problems**, on the road or footway, or a problem with a street light, please report these direct to the Borough Council Highways Helpdesk who will log the problem and follow the matter up. They can be contacted on 01234 718003.

ELSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

As you might know, it has been decided to halve the number of PCSO's in the Bedford force due to 'cost savings'.

This is a regrettable decision that can hardly inspire confidence so I guess the answer is to be even more vigilant.

A consequence of lack of local PCSO's is that we will no longer automatically receive crime figures for the area of Elstow although I have been given a link that will take you through to a set of figures which appear not to be random and may well reflect 'crime' in Elstow

<http://crime-statistics.co.uk/>

This years May Day has been set for Saturday 7 May, we shall again have an attendance with the Police Van so I am looking forward to seeing as many members as possible.

DOG FOULING

This issue is regularly raised at Parish Council meetings as being an ongoing, and continual problem throughout the village. Here is some guidance from the Borough Council:

The problem of Dog Waste:

Estimates suggest that there are around 7 million dogs in Britain, together they produce around 1000 tonnes of excrement every day! Research into public attitude towards littering and refuse consistently shows that dog fouling is at the top of the list in terms of level of concern and offence caused.

It is not well known that roughly half of the dog population is infested with the parasitic worm '[Toxocara](#)' which can cause blindness in humans.

The law relating to Dog Fouling:

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 has repealed the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and dog fouling is now one of five dog control matters that can be regulated by way of **Dog Control Orders**.

From February 2013 [Dog Control Orders](#) will be live on designated land where it is an offence not to clean up after your dog. Failure to do so can lead to a £75 fixed penalty notice being issued, or if a decision is made to take the offender to court, the fine can be as much as £1,000.

Where does the law apply?

Under section 57 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, a [Dog Control Order](#) can be made in respect of any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment).

Who does the Law apply to?

The law applies to **everyone**. The only exception is for those people that are registered blind or with some other disabilities that made it impossible for them to comply.

How do I dispose of my dog's mess responsibly?

'Bag it, tie it, bin it'

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Standing at the North end of Elstow High Street, is **Bunyan Memorial Hall**. This building dates back to 1910. Over recent years it has undergone several improvements, renovations, upgrades.

'**Claims to fame**' include: Painted glass window, depicting scenes from John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'; meeting place of Ladybirds – preschool; Brownies and Slimming world ...

Additionally, it is home to Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship. We meet on Sundays at 11:00am, and on a Thursday in term time, run either a Coffee Morning (from 10:00am to 12:00noon) with a stall selling pre-loved items, (the money raised being for various charities); OR Tots Time – for under 5's and their carers. If you'd like to pop in to any of the above, we'd be delighted to see you. Further information on our website bunyanelstow.weebly.com



"I would like to introduce Elstow pre-school "The Ladybirds", a registered charity, parent committee run pre-school that has been running since 1991. We are located at the Bunyan Meeting Place Hall in the High Street, Elstow and are open **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am - 3pm.**

We have government funding for 2, 3 and 4 year old children, have space for 30 children per session and currently have 42 children on roll.

On March 9th 2016 we had our Ofsted inspection and thanks to our dedicated team of staff, support from our committee and parents and of course our children! We received a rating of Good, which under the new inspection framework is an excellent result and testimony to all the hard work put in by everybody to reach this.

As this year is our 25th year of running We will be holding a birthday party to celebrate and would like to invite former and current children and their parents/carers/grandparents etc....to come along and join in our birthday celebrations. It will be held on **Saturday 2nd July 2016 from 2pm to 5pm**, at The Bunyan Meeting Place Hall, Elstow and would be wonderful to see

as many people there as possible to help us celebrate an invite will also be listed in one of our local papers nearer the time as well.

If you are a parent/carer looking for more information you can contact us on **01234 343080**, email elstowladybirds@gmail.com or via our contact page on our website www.elstowladybirds.weebly.com

ELSTOW CRICKET CLUB UPDATE

It's been an eventful winter at The Warren, with much to relay before we get stuck into the 2016 season, which is rapidly approaching. The club's Cricket Development Committee have been industrious in their plans to expand and improve the facilities we can offer our members and the local community.

Funding from Elstow Parish Council and from Borough Councillor Tim Hill has allowed us to develop the club's playing surface, meaning in future years we will be able to host even more matches at our ground, and introduce even more young cricketers to this great game of ours as a result. We are very grateful to the Parish Council and to Councillor Hill as well as to the Elstow Playing Field Committee for backing us in this vital development of our club. Work will start on the extension of the square at the close of the 2016 season.

Funding from the ECB will allow us to improve our tea room, The Pigeon Toe Inn, making this vital part of our club more approachable and welcoming for guests. The brainchild of Elstow CC legend Paul Jackson, 'Project Jacko' will see a new sliding door at the front of the building, allowing easier access to the bar and tea room as well as providing a hospitable viewing area for visitors when those notorious Warren Winds whip across the playing field. We are hoping the necessary building work will be completed by the middle of summer.

In other news, the club's AGM saw a change of personnel within the club as Under 12's manager Ian Russell has added Secretary to his ever growing portfolio within the club while Fiona Tanswell, part of our Elstow Ladies team who train at the club on Tuesday

evenings in the summer, has assumed the role of Treasurer. The club have teamed up with local property firm Advancing Property who have come on board as sponsor of our junior teams, we are very appreciative of the support from Gary Hone and his team with regards to our young cricketers.

Away from the meeting rooms, the club have enjoyed another successful winter indoors. Thomas Wisson's team followed up their 2014-15 season win with another Bedfordshire Indoor Cricket League title. Unlike the last day drama of the previous season, this triumph was secured in a more assured fashion, as title rivals Southill were beaten in the penultimate match. A professional display against bottom placed Eversholt on the last day of the season meant that the club go through to the national competition for the third time in four years next winter.

Winning the county competition the previous season meant another visit to Edgbaston in late February for the regional finals of the ECB's national indoor competition. The parallels with our day our trip to Birmingham in 2014 are almost tangible; having seen off local opposition in the semis, we lost to the champions of Wales in the final. In the second of the day's semi-finals, Wisson's team triumphed over Hunts' champions Ramsey in the last over, chasing down 128 with two wickets in hand and only two balls to spare. Paired with Pembrokeshire's Haverfordwest in the final, Elstow started well in pursuit of their victory target of 156 but lost key wickets when it mattered most, perishing forty runs short.

Lord's can wait for another year, and great credit to Tom and his charges for another good winter of indoor cricket in 2015-16. With a further Beds Indoor County Cricket title added to the trophy room at The Warren, it really is about time we started to win things outdoors now...

After several near misses and frustrating failures, Elstow's 2nd XI finally nailed promotion to Division Four of the Four Counties Cricket League. Not only that, Geoff Couling's team picked up the club's third trophy of 2015, adding to two indoor titles won earlier in the year, winning the Division Five title by 22 points.

The manner of the title triumph was hugely impressive, with the team being unbeaten since the middle of June. A forbidding looking final month was overcome as the team dug deep to produce some resilient and spectacular cricket. After gaining the lion's share of the points in a one-sided draw at North Crawley, title rivals Edlesborough and Great Brickhill were dispensed with in successive weeks as Elstow won both matches batting first and picking up maximum points from both fixtures. Edlesborough came to The Warren and were beaten by sixty runs. Paul Jackson starred with the bat as his unbeaten 57 helped the home side to 173-8. Jackson then took three key wickets in the Edlesborough reply to cap a fine match for the club's evergreen all-rounder. A week later a strong effort from the top order set up victory over Great Brickhill by 78 runs. Jack Flynn top scored with 48 in Elstow's 194-4. Elstow youngsters ran amok with the ball as Brickhill were shot out for 116 in reply. Dan Thind picked up 19-4 from 8 overs, Jack Flynn added to his afternoon's work by grabbing two wickets before Taran Thiarra wrapped up the win in the last over.

Eaton Bray came to The Warren hoping to sabotage the Elstow promotion party as the 2015 season came to its conclusion. The Eaton Bray captain, mindful of the destruction wreaked on his team by the Elstow batsmen earlier in the season, opted to bat first in a damage limitation exercise. His team made 144-5 from their 44 overs as, once again, Jackson led the way with the ball. Thind, who has picked up 23 wickets this year with his off-spin also finished with figures of 31-3. Couling signed off his

remarkable season with 57 well made runs at the top of the order, but it was Ed Wisson with 43 not out and that man Jackson again who saw the team home to victory by seven wickets in front of a large home support.

Meanwhile, a dramatic tie in the last fixture of the season for the 1st XI was a fitting end to a bizarre season. Al Phillips was bowled by the last ball of the game when the scores were level which meant an equal share of the points at Thurleigh. The home side reached 262-5 from their 44 overs with Sumiot Karunakotha's 3-20 the pick of the bowling figures for Elstow. The away team in truth should have got home with a ball or two to spare, but, some late jitters in the lower order meant that Elstow couldn't capitalise on the good work by Stevens and Steven Reid.

The dramatic collapse in the second half of the season meant Phil Johnson's team finished in eighth position. While the team may have endured, a summer to forget, one of the club's stalwarts, Matt Stevens has enjoyed a prolific 2015. In the Thurleigh fixture Stevens scored his third century (124*) of the campaign, and his second consecutive 100+ run score following his ton the week before. The form shown by our senior players, led by the likes of Matt Stevens and Paul Jackson this summer has been fantastic.

Report by Henry Wisson

DO YOU VISIT THE ROMSEY WAY PLAY AREA? The Parish Council are looking for an individual who uses the play area facility on a weekly basis, to carry out a visual inspection of the play equipment. There is no training needed for this, and no documentation needed to be completed, the Council would just like to find someone that can look over the equipment and report any matters to the Clerk. If you are interested then please do ring Lizzie, the Clerk, on 635772

An Historical "Treasure Hunt" Type Quiz

To solve these cryptic quiz questions, take an observant stroll around Elstow, start at the northern end of the High Street and head south. Further information to help you solve these clues can be found on the "Photos and History" pages at www.bedford.gov.uk/moothall

- The name of a house and a cottage confuse postmen on high. What is the name of both and the number that has been assumed by the smaller?
- Although there are several in the village, you cannot fish from any of them.
- What originally rose daily in this now blooming place? And when?
- Between 2 and 3, in 77 was, and is, an opening. Look for a direction to find out who the architect was.
- Horseshoes, petrol & pop came from this location. When did the brewer acquire the house?
- It's a sign and a celebration for 51. What was it called, when and why?
- You can see it was quite a drive, but what was this place's proper name?
- Before the first Act, for over 60 years, children learned here.
- Two lights in the north-eastern shop contain how many diamonds?
- Go green if you are stumped to find out who renewed a charter.
- Norman's niece enabled others to follow Benedict. Who was she and he and how did she accomplish that?
- What was the name of that lady's husband's and why did he die?

- Before Medieval times, no-one rang here but they kept a lookout.
- At its height, what was at least twice as long?
- One day every week, young Bunyan saw something that gave him the idea for the symbolic starting point of Christian's journey. It is still exists - but what, and where, is it?
- Formally a lady of letters, she now refreshes visitors. Who and where?

For the answers, go to <http://clivearnold.weebly.com/links.html> and scroll down to the bottom of that page. *Author, Clive Arnold*

Do you Sometimes Not Know Where to Turn for Help?

Did you know that Elstow has a dedicated Village Agent, who is here to help you? Her services are free of charge, and she will phone or visit you at home. She is here to help you access the services and support you might need.



Calling all over 60s! Last winter we helped many people on low incomes to check their eligibility to claim a £140 discount off their electricity bill. Hopefully the cold winter is now behind us, but now is the time to register for next winter, as the Warm Home Discount Scheme is running again through winter 2016-2017. If you get Pension Credit you will automatically qualify. However, many electricity suppliers offer the discount to pensioners on a low annual household incomes, on a first-come, first-served basis. You will have to apply directly to your electricity supplier to claim. Call us to find out if your supplier is part of the scheme and for help applying.

Transport - We are currently working with the "Wheels in Motion" project to provide accessible transport in rural areas. This summer they are also running a number of monthly group outings, at a reasonable fee which includes being picked up and dropped off at your own front door. This is a welcome opportunity for people who have transport problems and limited mobility. If you need help with transport, or would like to volunteer as a driver, please give us a call.

Help for Dementia Sufferers and their Carers – Carers in Bedfordshire and the Tibbs Dementia Foundation are two local

organisations who can give you valuable support. We can tell you what they offer, and help you to get in touch.

Do You Feel Safe in Your Own Home?

Contact us if you would like a free home safety check by the Bobby Van, which is a service provided by Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust.

We can also help you complete **Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms.**



Please call your **Village**

Agent on

Freephone 0800 039

1234



Bedford Borough
Council

This is an answerphone service, so please leave your name address & telephone number, and we will aim to call you back within 2 days

ABBEYFIELDS BUS TIMETABLE

Grant Palmer Limited

21

Woodlands - Bedford Town Centre - Abbeyfields

Monday to Saturday

Commencing 2nd Sept 2013

	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
						SH	SD / NS	SH / NS
Woodlands Estate Crispin Drive		11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00		16:00
Woodlands Estate opp Bramley Way		11:02	12:02	13:02	14:02	15:02		16:02
Avon Drive/Torrige Rise		11:06	12:06	13:06	14:06	15:06		16:06
Larkway		11:08	12:08	13:08	14:08	15:08		16:08
Bedford Bus Station (Stop H)	10:16	11:16	12:16	13:16	14:16	15:16	16:16	16:16
St Pauls Square	10:18	11:18	12:18	13:18	14:18	15:18	16:18	16:18
London Rd/Barford Avenue	10:22	11:22	12:22	13:22	14:22	15:22	16:22	16:22
Abbeyfields Elstow Lower School	10:27	11:27	12:27	13:27	14:27	15:27	16:27	16:27

	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
						SH		NS
Abbeyfields Elstow Lower School	10:30	11:30	12:30	13:30	14:30	15:30		16:30
London Rd/Barford Avenue	10:35	11:35	12:35	13:35	14:35	15:35		16:35
St Pauls Square	10:39	11:39	12:39	13:39	14:39	15:39		16:39
Bedford Bus Station (Stop H)	10:41	11:41	12:41	13:41	14:41	15:41		16:41
Larkway	10:49	11:49	12:49	13:49	14:49	15:49		
Avon Drive/Torrige Rise	10:51	11:51	12:51	13:51	14:51	15:51		
Woodlands Estate nr Bramley Way	10:55	11:55	12:55	13:55	14:55	15:55		
Woodlands Estate Crispin Drive	10:57	11:57	12:57	13:57	14:57	15:57		

Operates via Ashmead Road, Tyne Crescent, Avon Drive, Dove Road, Larkway, Brickhill Drive, Kimbolton Road, St Peter's St, Dame Alice Street, Bromham Rd, Hassett St, Bedford Bus Station, Greyfriars, River St, Horne Lane, St Paul's Square, St Mary's St, St John's St, London Road, Meadowsweet Drive and Abbeyfields

Explanation of Notes

SD = School Days Only

SH = School Holidays Only

NS = Not Saturdays

SORRY - NO GRANT PALMER SERVICES OPERATE ON SUNDAYS OR BANK / PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Events at the Abbey 2016

Saturday 7th May 7th Elstow May Festival 12.00 - 4pm

A fun filled afternoon for all the family.

Bedford Brass will be entertaining the crowds with their music before the May Queen procession takes place and our new May Queen is crowned. There will be traditional May pole dancing by the Children of the Elstow Primary School.

Other attractions include a hog roast, fun fair rides, bring-your-dog dog show, Bonnie baby competition, Falconry display, a great range of stalls with items for all of the family - from a Vegan bakery, home-made chutneys or make your own jewellery. And you will be in with a chance of winning a weeks' holiday accommodation in either Alicante or Brittany, or dinner for two at the St Helena Restaurant with our Grand Raffle!

Not only this but you can relax with a cream tea at the wonderful refreshment village!

Saturday 11th June 2016

A celebration afternoon tea to mark the Queen's 90th Birthday. If you would like to come please contact Bill and Joyce on (01234)926677 Tickets are £3 - bring your own teacup and plate. Dress code is red, white and blue!

Thursday 16th June

The annual Elstow Shakespeare Festival starts tonight in the ruins when THE HANDLEBARDS (a four strong cycling troupe of professional actors) will perform (and play all of the parts in) Richard III. Gates open at 6pm. Bring your own chair (and picnic) Performance starts at 7pm

Tickets £15 each or a family ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children under 16) for £50.

Sunday 26th June

Elstow Abbey is taking part in the National "Open Church Sunday". The Church will be open for afternoon tea, tours, children's treasure trail and craft stall. Come along and explore our ancient Abbey Church and hear the story of 1000 years of Christian worship.

Tuesday 12th July

The Castle Theatre Company from Durham University come to the Church to perform "Much Ado About Nothing" as with the Handlebards gates open at 6pm, curtain (if we had one) at 7pm. Tickets £10

25th-29th July (Mon - Friday)

Our annual week long children's Holiday club takes place this week 10.00am to 12 noon each day. Children aged between 4 and 13 can come and join in the fun in the wild-west searching for treasure. If you would like your child to take part please email abbeyelstow@gmail.com for a registration form! We will finish the week with a celebration on the Friday night followed by a barbecue!

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Mrs. Sue Anderson	Chair	01234 309280
Mr. Lloyd Allison		07789 741933
Mr. Dennis Carr		01234 213068
Mr. Richard Fitzmaurice		01234 326151
Mr. Tony Hare		01234 358883
Mr. Bob Lammin		01234 407097
Mrs. Benita Wignall		07809 200324
Mr Jon Miles		
Mrs Sarah Bell		
Mrs. Lizzie Barnicoat	Clerk to the Council	01234 635772
	email: lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com	

THE ABBEY CHURCH

Church Wardens: Mrs. Tracey Hinson	01234 406061
Mr Stephen McDonald	01525 716773

BUNYAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Brian Addington	01234 216080
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