

ELSTOW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016

ELSTOW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

More houses? More Shops? More Jobs?

A Safer Environment? Wind Turbines?

What do you want Elstow to look like in the future?

It is **YOUR** community, how do **YOU** want it to develop? It is time to give **YOUR** views.....

The Parish Council wants to hear from you if you would be interested in helping shape the future of Elstow

What does this mean? It means you can have a say in how your parish develops

What happens next? Take this opportunity to speak out, contribute to the plan, and comment on it as it develops

It is up to YOU to have your say on the future of Elstow: to find out more or to get involved, contact Parish Clerk, Lizzie on (01234) 771 702, or email; lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

Elstow Parish Council update

Planning matters

- Redevelopment of the old Lower School site. The Parish Council is in discussion with the developers of the site on the maintenance of the War Memorial. The Council is hoping that it will shortly be able to announce that an agreement has been reached for the War Memorial to be transferred to the Parish Council. The transfer will take place after legal formalities are completed and once the surrounding area has been landscaped to a high standard.

Village Matters

- The Parish Council is close to being able to share with residents the redesign and development of the Parish Council website so this can become an asset and useful resource.
- The Parish Council is pleased to report a five pitch extension to Elstow Cricket Club's facilities at the Playing Field, which was funded in part by a grant from the Parish Council. The total work cost in the region of £13,000 and will be a real asset to the village.
- The Parish Council also provided funding to the Playing Field for some replacement external doors which were needed.
- The Parish Council has recently installed a bench on the Village Green. This was jointly funded with the Borough Councillor Ward Fund.
- The Parish Council has been involved with a number of improvements made to the play area off Romsey Way.
- The Parish Council continues to fund the production of this newsletter. It is circulated to every household within the village.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th November 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 771702 or lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

Elstow Parish Council useful information

Join the village circulation list..

The Parish Council is going to create a village circulation list which will be used to keep residents up to date with Elstow information, Parish Council news and Parish Council meetings. If you would like to be included, please contact the Clerk via email: lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

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 and AT THE TIME to the Borough Council on 01234 718060. This is also the appropriate contact number to report noise and air pollution problems.

For 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 take action. They can be contacted on 01234 718003.

Anglian Water information:

PUMPING STATIONS - Do you have one? It will probably be at the bottom of the garden or field, covered in ivy and weeds and unnoticed for years. It might be a 'Private Pumping Station' and Anglian Water want to know about it. At the moment if you have a pumping station in your garden or field you are responsible if anything goes wrong...But there is good news! From October 2016 Anglian Water will take responsibility for many private pumping stations in our village. This will include the cost to maintain and run them but you have to tell Anglian first. Contact them on 03457 145145 or email them on privatepumpingstations@anglianwater.co.uk

REDUCING YOUR WATER BILL The Parish Council understands that Anglian Water customers may be eligible for a rebate for up to three years on an element of their water bills. Some customers have been over-charged as they have been charged for both foul and surface water, when surface water is actually taken away by highways drains. If you feel you may have been over-paying then please contact Anglian Water.

Parliamentary Boundary proposed changes

The Boundary Commission has published its draft plans for changes to Parliamentary Boundaries, and a public consultation period is currently underway which includes public hearings across the country. This is the start of a process which will last two years with a final result in September 2018.

The proposal for the Elstow and Stewartby Ward is significant: to move the whole Ward into the Bedford and Kempston parliamentary constituency. The Parish Council feels that such a change is detrimental to Elstow as it will then be in the same constituency as urban areas of Bedford town such as Cauldwell, Kingsbrook and Goldington. As Elstow is a rural village community the parish needs are very different to those in urban areas.

This is an important matter and the Parish Council encourages all residents to submit their comments on it. Please follow this link where you will find everything you need to know: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/eastern/bedfordshire/central-bedfordshire-electoral-review>

Elstow Bunyan Christian Fellowship - High Street Elstow MK42 9XP

As part of our ongoing programme of events at Elstow Bunyan, we have a few 'specials' coming up:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 27 th October: | Coffee Morning, 10:00am to 12 noon, 'With Christmas in mind', various stalls and proceeds to charities |
| Sunday 18 th December: | 11:00am Carol Service |
| Sunday 25 th December: | 10:00am Christmas Day service - including Communion |
| Sunday 1 st January: | 11:00am Special service for first day of the New Year |

For more information please visit our website <http://bunyanelstow.weebly.com>

We extend a warm invitation and welcome to any and/or all of the above events.

Brian Addington (Pastor)

Borough Councillor Tim Hill's Report

Village-wide Issues

- Cow Bridge Junction/Ampthill Road Corridor - South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership has supported the Borough Council's bid for £5.1m for the Southern Gateway Project. The purpose of this is to improve journey time and reliability on this key corridor.
- Retail Centre by Abbeyfields Health Centre - I am hosting calls with interested parties to ensure this development is built with the right operator.

Local Issues

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

- Fallen fence between Wigram Close and Progress Way
- Enforcement of speeding on Wilstead Road, A6 and Abbeyfields (including SID installed on Abbey Fields)
- Safety of High Street/Church End junction
- Atrocious parking outside Elstow Primary School
- Borough "Adoption" of Hexham Close estate
- Untaxed vehicles on the Romsey Way estate
- New benches on the Romsey Way and Church End greens
- Shooting at Romsey Way
- Blocked drain in Bunyans Mead

Ward Fund

Elstow and Stewartby.

1. Providing First Aid Training at Guild House for local residents: £175.00.

Elstow.

1. Hillesden Avenue -No Verge Parking Scheme: £900.00.
2. West End - No Verge Parking Scheme: £200.00.
3. Installation of a goal on Tucker Park: £260.00.
4. Two new benches on Romsey Way green: £950.00.
5. Extending the Church End/High Street road safety work: £800.00.
6. Footway extension outside Elstow School: £920.00.

Cllr Tim Hill

Bedford Borough Councillor for Elstow, Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick

Tel: (day) 0131 448 4270

Tel: (eve) 07 910 100 240 or email: tim.hill@bedford.gov.uk

THE POLICE AND ELSTOW

Elstow Neighbourhood Watch update

One of the basic feelings we have is to be safe in our homes. Most of us will go through our lives never being disturbed by crime but others will have been touched by it and their lives affected, even significantly marked. Your Parish Councillors Tony Hare, Dennis Carr and Jon Miles recently attended a meeting held with the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway to listen to her plans for the future of policing and how this might affect Elstow.

A major problem is the lack of proper funding for the police by the Government who consider Bedfordshire to be rural when, with an airport and the large town of Luton, it really is anything but so.

This underfunding makes it difficult to recruit police officers in the numbers we would all like to see. However PCC Holloway has already made changes to work patterns meaning there will be more police on the roads. Your Parish Council has a real interest in the new policing bill to see what this will mean for our village. If you would like to see what crime has occurred in the village recently, simply log onto www.police.uk Once on the website, you will see a red box titled "FIND YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD", type Elstow into this box. Back will come another box, blue this time with "Eastcotts and Wilstead" - this is the area that covers Elstow - click on it then keep clicking on the numbers to see what crimes have been recorded.

LOCAL POLICE ACTION DAY

Officers from the Local Policing Community Engagement Team were in Elstow on the afternoon of Friday 7th October 2016 between 13h & 16h hours carrying out Operation Beneke engagement, which aims to address Community Concerns and Parish Priorities through engagement and Crime Prevention.

51 homes in Wilstead Road, Peartree View, Medbury Lane and Lynn Close were visited with each receiving a Crime Prevention and Information Pack and the opportunity to speak with officers and raise any concerns that they had. The Mobile Police Station was parked near the Cricket Club for a period of time and the team spoke with members of the public, offering Crime Prevention advice

and reassurance. Information was passed to the team of concerns about a garage block. These concerns have been passed onto the Housing Association which owns the garages. From 15h the Mobile Police Station was moved round to Abbeyfields, close to the school. The team spoke to lots of children and their parents on their way home from school.

Officers conducted Speed Enforcement on Wilstead Road, Elstow between 14h20 & 14h45. 20 vehicles were seen travelling going below 30mph. 1 vehicle was seen travelling between 31 and 35 mph. 3 vehicles were seen travelling over 36mph. The drivers were stopped and spoken to by Officers.

Representatives from the Local Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme were also in attendance supporting the event.

ELSTOW SPEEDWATCH

Excess vehicle speed in Elstow is not unique as many villages have the same problem but perhaps ours is compounded by the traffic lights at what is known as Cowbridge which is the junction of Amptill Road and the A6., the bulk of vehicles coming through the village mornings and late afternoons are those avoiding these traffic lights and are not actually residents of Elstow.

A small volunteer group have formed recently to operate a digital speed indicator called 'Speedwatch'. This is operated in the early morning and late evening when traffic in the village is at its height with people either going to or from work. Our last occasion of using the Speedwatch equipment, which clearly shows the speed of the approaching vehicle with large illuminated numbers telling us and the driver the speed they are travelling at, was the week 3 June to 10 June, 4 days in total.

The number of vehicles going through the village on the 4 days was 561 (morning and evening) with 87 exceeding the speed limit of 30 mph, and we had one car doing 52 mph, disgraceful. All speeding vehicles are written to by the police warning them and if they are caught on other occasions they are open to prosecution.

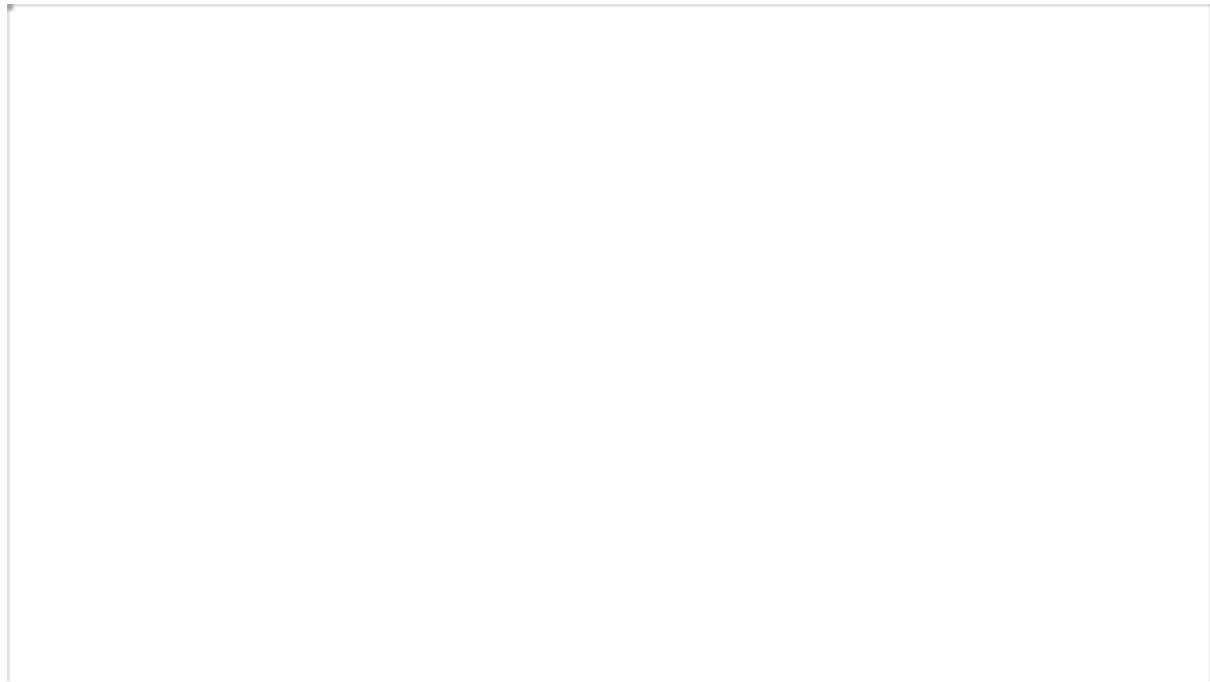
I would like to do more sessions of Speedwatch in Elstow but we do not have enough volunteers, please think about volunteering for what is an important function, we must continue use to emphasis that speeding in Elstow is not acceptable.

Jon Miles 07709 879 245

Romsey Way Play Area

The Parish Council provided the first play equipment on the open grass area between Romsey Way and Elstow Brook in 2010. Further equipment and safety surfaces were added in 2014. We take great pride in this play area and the pleasure it provides to many children in Elstow.

In September this year we commissioned an external safety inspection and, as a result, we have carried out some minor adjustments to ensure the equipment is safe for all who enjoy it. The introduction of a new zip wire seat and chain has been necessary as the previous one was being knotted to raise its height. We have also further enhanced the facilities with the addition of two seats for the enjoyment of parents and carers taking their children to the park.



On 1st October Parish Council volunteers held a working party when we dug and raked all the bark to ensure this is safely spread under the swings as well as removing weeds and nettles from around the equipment. The Play Area is looking good and we ask that you continue to help us to keep it in good order for all the children to enjoy.

Litter and glass remain ongoing challenges at the location. It is sad to see rubbish simply being dropped on the floor and even worse bottles being deliberately smashed. This action is totally unnecessary and inconsiderate and we ask that rubbish is placed in the three bins provided.

We hope the Play Area will continue to provide pleasure to many local children for a long time to come and ask for your help to assure this.

Any volunteers who could assist with regular safety reviews of the site (they take about 20 mins) would be very much appreciated.

Bob Lammin, Parish Councillor

ELSTOW CRICKET CLUB UPDATE

For clues on Elstow CC's season, see our own *Great British summer* for guidelines: bloomin' hopeless to begin with and bloomin' marvellous to finish. Golden would be too big a comparison, and we must leave that, for now, to our wonderful Olympians and Paralympians. Back to the cricket then, and the way both sides finished the summer shows just what we are capable of. The 1st XI put together a strong run of performances in the last month to stave off relegation and set down a marker for the 2017 season. Hani Thiarra was named as the 1st XI Player of the Season following another season of outstanding performances and prolific run making.

The 2nd XI finished in mid-table following a similarly impressive run of results. A key part of their season was the form of Shiva Songara. Only thirteen years old, Shiva spun his way through opponents to finish as Division Four's leading wicket taker as well as earning the 2nd XI Player of the Season award too.

Away from the senior teams, our junior cricketers have enjoyed their summer at The Warren, none more so than Bedfordshire County Development League winners, the club's Under 12 team. Having finished top of their regional division, they finished the season in the county Play Off final against Aspley Guise. Team manager Ian Russell takes up the tale;

"Elstow won the toss and elected to bat. The opening pair scored quickly adding 25 before a well fielded run out reduced the total to 27 from 4 overs. 2 wickets fell in the next pair including a run out from a no ball, and another 20 was added to the score. The next pair added 10, followed by 15 for the 4th pair. Elstow then pushed on with the final pair adding another 28 but a wicket pulled the final score back to 195 for 6. Aspley Guise started quickly with 24 for 1 from the first pair, but the runs slowed and a few wickets fell leaving them 117 for 3 after the second pair. There were only 21 runs in it at the same point after the

fourth pair. The final pair added 23 without loss but it wasn't enough and Elstow finished winners by 19 runs."

Off the pitch, improvements have been carried out at The Warren. The Pigeon Toe Inn, our tea room facility, has had new French Doors fitted which has met with a positive response from all visitors to the ground. During the close season, the pitch will be extended which will allow us to put on more fixtures for our teams.

Elstow Cricket Club



Elstow pre-school "The Ladybirds" is a charity, parent committee run pre-school that has been running since 1985. It is 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.

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

Are you Struggling?

Help is at Hand - Just Ask

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

Do You Need Help with Filling in Forms? Your Village Agent can help you complete Blue Badge, Council Tax Reduction, Housing Benefit and Attendance Allowance forms. If you are struggling with other paperwork, or on-line forms, she may be able to assist.

Transport - Do you have mobility problems and find it difficult to get out? The "Wheels in Motion" project runs monthly group outings, at a reasonable fee, which includes being picked up and dropped off at your own front door. They also run a wheelchair-assisted car/bus service in the Bedford area. Get in touch for more details.

Did you know you can now keep your bus pass and also sign up for Door To Door? - If you are still able to use the bus, but need help in getting to places which are off the bus route, you can now join the Door to Door scheme as well.

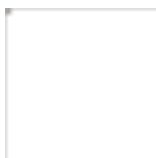
Help for Pensioners on Low Incomes - Are you receiving the basic state pension and struggling to manage? Your Village Agent can tell you if there is any help available. In addition to Pension Credit, there may be other sources of income; for example, you might be eligible to receive a small quarterly gratuity from the St John's Hospital Trust if you have been living in Bedford for at least 15 years. Get in touch for a confidential review.

Free Easi-Grip Key Turner - if you have stiff fingers, which make it difficult for you to turn your key in the lock, we have a small number of key turners to give away, which will make the job easier. First come first served.

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.

Call your Village Agent on **Freephone 0800 039 1234**

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



ABBNEYFIELDS BUS TIMETABLE

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

ELSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs. Sue Anderson	Chair	01234 309280
Mr. Lloyd Allison		07789 741933
Mrs Sarah Bell		0772 548 6696
Mr. Dennis Carr		01234 213068
Mr. Richard Fitzmaurice		07903 511104
Mr. Tony Hare	Vice Chair	01234 358883
Mr. Bob Lammin		01234 407097
Mr Jon Miles		07709 879 245
Mrs. Benita Wignall		07809 200324
Mrs. Lizzie Barnicoat	Clerk to the Council	01234 771702

email: lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com

LOCAL POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

PC Charlie Grozier charlie.crozier@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL 01234 267422

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Tim Hill Tel: (day) 0131 448 4270
Tel: (eve) 07 910 100 240

ELSTOW VILLAGE AGENT

Teresa Moon 0800 039 1234

THE ABBEY CHURCH

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

BUNYAN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Brian Addington 01234 216080

ELSTOW SCHOOL 01234 302300

ELSTOW PLAYING FIELD ASSOC

Mrs Margaret Hinson 01234 349028