

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FOR JULY/AUGUST 2013.

Finance.

All financial matters are up to date.

Street Lighting.

ECC indicate that the overnight street lighting time reductions will be introduced on 1st September 2013; the majority of street lights will be shut off from midnight until 05.00hous. The Parish Council previously made representations to ECC that certain lights remain operational all night, however only those close to the zebra crossing in Church Road have so far been exempted.

Parking Matters.

Publication of official notice was to be included in the local press on 21st August 2013 **. If there are no objections by 12th September 2013, it could be possible for the revised parking restrictions to be installed during the October half-term break. **The advertisement did not appear in the edition dated 21st August 2013.

General maintenance.

Application submitted to The Woodland Trust for the free supply of 400+ saplings suitable for hedging along Oak Road in between the Railway Bridge and the field entrance gate.

Local Post Office, Church Road.

The postal authority has indicated their intention to re-open postal facilities within Oak Stores whenever possible.

Parish Broadband.

BDC Superfast Broadband Development Dept. confirm that the Braintree District is now number 3 on the ECC list for upgrading. They also confirm that nearly 80 prepaid cards have been received from Rivenhall Parish, a much higher figure than was expected.

A12 junction with Oak Road.

The latest from the Highways Agency is as follows: Letter dated 7th August 2013; *"Following discussions with ECC and Essex Police, we plan to take forward a proposal for improved road markings and the installation of a physical island to replace the existing ghost island at the Oak Road junction. We also plan to remove a sign currently located in the central reserve and replace it with a new sign which will be located on the new physical island. We have also identified further road marking improvements to remove the appearance of a slip road at a private access."* E-mail dated 16th August 2013: *"I will be bidding for monies to undertake improvements at Oak Road. I expect to know if monies have been allocated in late December 2013."* **It has been pointed out to the HA that a hard engineered island at the Oak Road/A12 junction would prevent the largest HGVs getting round.**

Henry Dixon Road/A12 underpass.

The underpass was again flooded over the period of 20th/21st August 2013 and reported yet again to the Highways Agency.

Vandalism.

It's been reported that sewer covers have been removed from the car park at the rear of the Village Hall with rubbish stuffed into one. BDC has replaced the covers with ones properly secured. Essex Police have also been informed and the local PCSO will call at the car park whenever possible. BDC also renewed the fence between the Village Hall and the Old Rectory.

Public Footpaths.

Re-opening correspondence with ECC regarding the proposed creation of a footpath extension along Church Road from the entrance to Rivenhall Hall Farm to the commencement of Park Road, thereby linking up the existing footpaths between Rivenhall and Silver End.

ECC Roads Maintenance.

The bollards in Oak Road have been reinstated

Still no action regarding the reinstatement of the lighting column at the Keep Left sign in Henry Dixon Road.

Church Road Zebra Crossing.

The damaged beacon was due for replacement during w/c 18th August 2013.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

The Local Liaison Officer has replied to the request for an extension of the 30mph along Church Road as follows: *"I have been looking into this request and unfortunately this wouldn't be a viable scheme. Church Road was part of ECC Speed Limit Review that looked at our policy and introduce any new speed limits where appropriate. The section of road in question was deemed a viable speed limit at that time. Our aim was to introduce a policy that is responsive to the needs of both local communities and highways users and that can be implemented in a flexible, pragmatic and cost effective manner."* However, the PC will continue with the application for a speed limit reduction.

Tarecroft Wood.

Details of ECC business plan requirements referred to Chairman, who will liaise with the Clerk, Cllr. Bills and Cllr. Brailey in due course.

Planning Matters.

Resulting from the Government introduced change to permitted development BDC has decided to include all prior approval applications in the weekly lists supplied to Town/Parish Councils so that the submissions can be viewed with the details on line. The prior approval applications will be distinguished by their coding as follows: HHPA - householder prior approval; COUPA - change of use prior approval; COMPA - commercial extensions prior approval; TMPCOU - temporary change of use prior approval.

Coffee Morning PC 'Surgery'.

Attending this on a fairly regular basis along with Councillors.

Liaison with Chairman.

Liaison with the Chairman upon various items of correspondence, the agenda for the next meeting and the photocopying/collection, as necessary, of planning applications.

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
27th August 2013.