

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014.

Finance.

Government capping. Eric Pickles MP confirmed that he was not currently considering the capping of Parish Councils, the only few that may be considered in the future were the highest setting authorities where the Town Council's precept is greater than that of its district. So currently there is no cap in place.

Parking Matters.

Site meeting arranged between a representative from NEPP and the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk on 4th February to discuss various issues within the parish, including the new Church Road restrictions and the recycling site all-day parking.

Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Braintree District.

Recommendations received indicating proposals for a 49 Member District Council with effect from May 2015. The consultation period closes on 14th April 2014.

ECC Minerals & Waste Planning Website.

ECC has announced the launch of their new Minerals & Waste Planning website at www.essex.gov.uk/viewplanning

This new website will provide full details of current minerals, waste and County Council applications that have been submitted to the planning team and will allow users to make comments on applications, follow progress from submission to decision and even check details of appeals against decisions. From the beginning of February all consultations about minerals, waste and County Council applications will be electronic. This means that the parish Council will receive notification about planning applications from ECC via email only with responses being made in the same manner.

The Planning Inspector has indicated that the ECC Minerals Local Plan will require main modifications in order to be considered sound and this will need to be consulted upon from mid February 2014, with a six-week consultation period.

A12 at Rivenhall End.

Junction 19 Boreham to junction 23 Kelvedon South Northbound carriageway closure for repairs 17th March to 25th March - including Oak Road junction.

Hedging Trees.

Having secured a good supply of hedging trees from The Woodland Trust, some of those, surplus to Council requirements, have been offered to the local school for use along the churchyard boundary.

Braintree - Witham 33kv Project.

Confirmation has been received that the footpath crossing Rickstones Road at the bottom of Stoverns Farm hill will be reinstated to its original condition following the completion of the works.

ECC Roads Maintenance.

The latest information to hand is that Park Road/Hollow Road will be closed for a culvert reconstruction, commencing 3rd February for up to 10 weeks.

ECC indicate that they are working with UK Power Networks to co-ordinate the drainage repairs along Rickstones Road with the carriageway and footway works.

Rickstones Road is scheduled for closure from 27th January for 5 days so that carriageway repairs can be undertaken.

A120 east and west bound lanes Galleys Corner Roundabout lane closures overnight from 2nd February to 15th March - convoy working with 10mph speed restriction including side road access restrictions.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

The very latest information as follows:

30mph speed limit on Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road has been passed to ECC contractor to cost and programme for delivery before the end of March 2014.

Oak Road railway bridge on track for delivery by end of March 2014.

Oak Road one way weight restriction towards the A12 junction Panel agreed to put another £7.5k into detailed design. Main hold up is the cost of signs on the A12. Good agreement of Panel members that the scheme needs to be delivered along with improvements to A12 junctions (Highways Panel future scheme).

Rickstones Road drainage and kerbing design complete and awaiting consideration - estimated cost £130,772.00.

Church Road layby at church Panel agreed to commission design at a cost of £1,500, estimated scheme cost £20,000.

Extend safety railings at school awaiting validation.

Pedestrian access at Colemans Bridge junction with Colchester Road/Eastways/Motts Lane Panel agreed to allocate £800.00 to investigate works needed for dropped kerbs/tactile surfacing etc.

Extend 30mph (or introduce 40mph buffer) northwards along Church Road recently submitted. Speed survey to be conducted.

New bus stops Church Road scheme delivered January 2014.

Superfast Essex Broadband Project.

Latest information is as follows: "*Rivenhall is an area that will be supplied with fibre broadband ... with works commencing right at the very start of the project in 2014 ... this is still subject to change further to surveys, design and planning which are currently underway ... Rivenhall End will also access fibre within the same works, pending successful surveying.*"

Coffee Morning PC 'Surgery'.

There has been a regular PC presence at the Coffee Morning.

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 application documents.

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
28th January 2014.