

CLERK'S GENERAL REPORT FROM 25 OCTOBER TO 28 NOVEMBER 2016.

Finance/Administration.

Accounts and administration are all up to date.

Work continued in preparation for the 2017/18 Precept meeting on Wednesday 14 December in the Village Hall at 20.00 hours.

2016 $\frac{1}{2}$ yearly report printed and made available for local distribution.

BDC Matters.

Complaint sent regarding the suspension of the domestic "Green Bin" collection over the winter period. A list of possible street names for the proposed new residential development off Forest Road has been forwarded via Bellway to BDC.

A request for the playing field play area safety measures to be inspected has been submitted to BDC, they reply that all play areas are to be inspected by an external inspector with particular attention being given to this specific request.

General Maintenance.

General maintenance continues as programmed.

Contractor reminded re steps and slopes from Henry Dixon Road up to the A12.

Contractor has agreed to maintain the War Memorial garden before Remembrance Day and at regular quarterly intervals during the year. The War memorial has currently been maintained for this year's Remembrance Day service.

Adverts for a new Litter Picker have been displayed throughout the parish.

BDC Local Plan.

In January/February 2017 the Submission Draft Local Plan will be considered by the BDC Local Plan Sub Committee and Council and, if approved will be subject to a further round of public consultation shortly thereafter.

Network Rail.

The objection and recommendation under Minutes 1338(vi) re Potters Crossing has been sent to Network Rail as follows: "a recommendation to close the crossing to all users is accepted, but that the blue footpath be retained and a new footpath be constructed to run along the northern boundary of the railway to access the underbridge on Oak Road and connect with footpath 47".

Rivenhall Airfield - Waste Incinerator Site.

The Environment Agency are continuing to consider the response to their July notice but aren't yet in a position to make a decision.

Planning Applications.

Applications dealt with as per the October minutes.

Braintree District Local Highways Liaison Panel.

The very latest information remains as follows:

- a. 7.5T weight restriction, Oak Road - the objection to this scheme remains unresolved. Chairman is investigating.
- b. Extended 30mph limit along Church Road -. Scheme now rejected! Strongly worded objection to this action has been sent to the Officer concerned. ECC reply as follows; "*The extension of the 30mph speed limit was contrary to ECC policy and Essex Police stated that neither the speed data nor the environmental issues support the introduction. It's to be believed that all it would achieve is to create offenders, and with it demand for police enforcement, within an environment where there would be no suitable locations to do so. Officers are of the professional opinion that the current 30mph terminal signs are correctly sighted to ensure a high level of driver compliance. To extend the 30mph speed limit outside of this risks drivers*

failing to understand the rational and in all probability increasing speed at the end of the residential development."

- c. Rectory Lane - Nothing further to report at this time.
- d. Oak Road - a new scheme submitted re HGVs ignoring weight and height warnings going down Oak Road to the railway bridge. Numerous residents have complained recently, police called, etc as HGVs try to reverse back causing chaos. The 2 suggestions to the BDLHP are to liaise with all satnav providers to detail the road as unsuitable for HGVs and to install some form of height warning system between the Rickstones Road junction and Hoo Hall Lodge to alert drivers to go no further if they are in over-height vehicles.

Tarecroft Wood.

Work to improve the entrance and the car park are due to take place within the next 4-6 weeks. Also, ECC have appointed a single woodland contractor to implement conservation management across ECC's estate, a company that uses traditional heavy horses to minimise damage to the woodland soils and rides and who are specialists at managing sensitive woodlands. For more information their website is at <http://www.hawthornheavyhorses.co.uk>

There are no plans to carry-out any management this winter but as part of ECC agreement with Natural England some management work will be required within the next 2-3 years.

ECC Highways Maintenance.

Items remaining outstanding are to trim back the hedge along Rickstones Road between the highway and the footpath; and to repaint the highway surface signs along Oak Road towards the A12 hoping to reduce the number of HGVs turning into Foxmead (again reported).

Albert Moss Playing Field.

Upon enquiry re hazard to children exiting the play area onto the car park, BDC reply: "*All our play areas are to be inspected by an external consultant to identify any risks or hazards so we'll ask him to look at this issue at this particular site to see what can be done about it.*"

Highways England

The Chairman attended the A12/A120 Forum and has emailed details to Parish Councillors.

The Chairman has again requested an urgently convened local meeting regarding the A12 widening through Rivenhall End.

Liaison with Chairman.

Liaison with the Chairman upon various items of correspondence, the agenda for the next meeting and planning application documents as necessary.

Keith Taylor (Parish Clerk)
24 October 2016.