

Hail Weston Parish Council Your Newsletter Autumn 2022



What's been happening

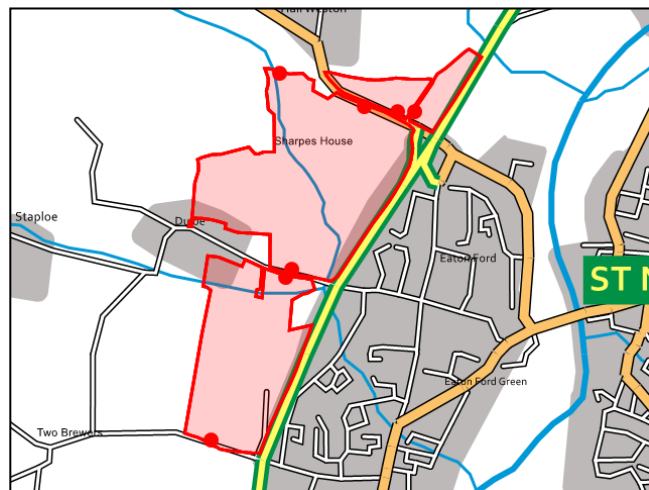
Planning update

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has relaunched the Pre-Application Planning Advice Service, allowing agents and residents across the district to access planning advice before submitting planning applications. The revamped system offers a completely digital enquiry process, allowing applicants to submit requests and pay for pre-application advice through the council's website.

Government reforms of the planning system have been well published, and more than 40,000 responses were received to it. HWPC contributed and contested along with many of the housing targets and how they were proposed to be applied. The Government is already behind on the ambitious timescales which are causing uncertainty. It has been muted that for some planning applications the consultation time will be reduced from 21 to 18 days. The HWPC discuss all planning items in their parish meetings to allow any developer or resident the opportunity to discuss their planning proposal and allows any residents to make their views known to the Parish Council before they discuss the proposed application and make observations to HDC. Many residents already know that comments can be directly logged on the HDC planning portal in addition to attending the parish meeting.

Eaton Banks - As you may already know, Thakeham Developers have submitted to Bedford Borough Council (BBC), a proposal for 3,000 homes (across the B645, see map right).

Hail Weston Parish Council (HWPC) has been informed that the site has been excluded from further assessment at Stage 1 because its location is not in accordance with the development strategy. Bedford Borough Council stated, "The proposal has the potential to cause harm to heritage assets. This harm may range from low to high. There may be options to avoid, reduce or mitigate this harm and where sites have not been ruled out altogether for other reasons, further assessment will be undertaken to more fully explore impacts on significance and options for harm reduction and mitigation. This further assessment may ultimately lead to the conclusion that the site should not be allocated".



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Little Barford new settlement proposal has been suggested by Bedford Borough Council as suitable for allocation in the Local Plan for a mix of uses including housing, employment, open space and other community uses. Allocation principles include the delivery of 4,000 dwellings and employment land within a new settlement.

What's been happening

Trees

The level of frustration around the lack of CCC maintenance has increased particularly in Orchard Close where this has been an ongoing issue. All seem to agree, even their Tree Officer that the species are not right for pollarding and the only action recommended is lifting the crowns routinely. CCC does not support the removal of trees due to their good health.

Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

HWPC are due to receive some saplings in November, which is more significant than ever. If you wish to help, please let us know.

The trees removed from the verge by the village sign have been placed in the sand pit at the playing field and two new trees will replace the removed Ash trees.



The Jubilee tree planted in the Garden of Rest by Peter Mailer and the plaque unveiled by Jill Gooch, Hail Weston Parish Chair to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee, is doing well despite extremely dry conditions. A recent addition to the Garden of Rest is a beautiful bench commissioned by Chrys Baker. The bench is a wonderful tribute to the life of John Baker who loved living in Hail Weston and served for many years on the Parish Council and various committees.

Crime

Stephanie Mailer joined the PC in May and has been working with Neighbourhood Watch (NW) and has set up a group for Hail Weston Parish. A new Neighbourhood Watch Association for Huntingdonshire has also been set up and Hail Weston village is a member. The association will support collaboration between the local NW groups.

You can join our village Neighbourhood Watch group here:

<https://members.ourwatchmember.org.uk/join>. Once joined you will receive regular updates on news and activities. HWPC have positioned some new signage in the village to suggest the Neighbourhood Watch is operational also and awaiting delivery of some additional signage.

What's been happening

Health Inequalities Project

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is beginning to roll out its brand new Health Inequalities Project across the district, thanks to a successful bid to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System for £250,000 funding.

HWPC is one of 15 organisations in the district which has taken the opportunity to bid for money and has been successful. It will enable us to launch a project in our area which could be anything that is helpful to Hail Westerners' - perhaps a walking group, dementia cafés, strength and balance classes, art therapy and group activities.

HWPC wants to know the kinds of activities our residents would like to engage in. Please help us ensure this money reaches you in the best way possible. As we are really keen to hear from all ages in the village, we will offer a £40 shopping voucher to the person whose idea is chosen. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey by 27 November 2022, to help us shape this valuable project surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MKBMPSX

Speed camera analysis - We have gone solar on the B645

Jeff Hubble analysed the data routinely. The extracts from the Viasis speed camera give a good indication as to the value of having them set up for the village.

On the B645 it is evident that a figure of approximately 97% compliance is quite encouraging and should benefit those who live along that section of the road.

The detailed graphs and information have been sent to the Roads Policing Unit for their information and action.

The traffic numbers, taking the average from both directions are now equal to the Highways estimate of 56,00 per day. Highways estimate for 2025 is 7,500 per day.

The cameras within the village attract less (92%) compliance. Disappointing figures were from the camera opposite Newtown coming into the village, where the best achieved was 66% compliance.

That begs the question is a physical barrier required, such as road humps, platform table, chicane, etc. Something that, if required, would need to be put before the village for consultation.



What's been happening

Hail Weston Fete and Dog Show

This summer saw the return of the much-loved Hail Weston Fete and Dog Show.

The theme this year was very traditional with lots of stalls, refreshments, an ice cream van and a scaled-down dog show due to the extreme heat. There were lots of races for the children and some very competitive tug of war!!

This wonderful event would not be possible without the hard work and effort from the Village Hall Committee, all of the many volunteers and the people that came along to enjoy the day and spend their money. Thank you, everybody.

The final figure raised from the fete was £2,263.70, the best yet!

There will be a donation of £500 to Hail Weston church, £200 to the Carers' club and a bench bearing a plaque is to be purchased for the Playing Field. The rest of the funds will be put aside for any items which may arise, for example, from the Community Led Plan.



Litter pickers wanted

Four younger residents have been signed off for their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Scheme for support in village litter picking. Rebecca, Elizabeth, Charlie and Oliver. Well done!

As you know there is the annual litter pick, but we could do with some routine pickers help to keep the village cleaner. We can provide individuals or groups with pickers and bags prior to a litter pick and will arrange for any filled bags to be collected from an arranged collection point.



Open spaces

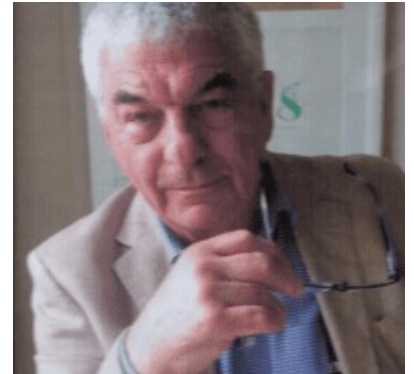
Paul Baker is a very welcome addition in supporting keeping the village tidy and carrying out repairs to village assets. He is keeping very busy and making fantastic progress!

If you would like to help in any way by joining him routinely or as a one-off help, do please contact him or the Clerk.

Other news

Jeff Hubble

The Parish Council was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Jeff Hubble at the end of October. Jeff served as a Parish Councillor since May 2018 and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to his role in dealing with all matters relating to Highways. On behalf of the Parish Council, he successfully bid for the speed limit reduction on the B645 and within the village, as well as the introduction of mobile speed cameras. Jeff analysed the data from the cameras, as well as regularly changing their location.



We will miss his wisdom, humour and pithy comments.

Huntingdonshire Undefeatables

One Leisure Active Lifestyle's 'Undefeatables Scheme' that launched last year, is now also open to people with cancer, lung disease, long-term anxiety and depression.

'Undefeatables' is a discounted membership for a period of nine months, which includes activities such as badminton, squash, cyclone (indoor cycling), the gym, fitness classes, and swimming, amongst other targeted activities delivered across One Leisure.

Find out more information at www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/undefeat

The public are invited to attend any Parish Council meeting

The public may address the council on current matters or issues of concern in Open Forum (usually item 4), and any matters raised for decision will become a future agenda item, unless already on the current agenda.

The Parish Assembly is usually held in March and is for all residents. Many village volunteer groups provide residents' updates as well as the Parish Council Chair on the year gone by, and opportunities for the forthcoming year. It's a social event and all are welcome. In 2022 we had 33 residents attend which was amazing - thank you and we hope to see you next March!

Forthcoming Parish Council meeting dates

2022	15 November		
2023	17 January	21 February	21 March (Parish Assembly)
	18 April	16 May	20 June
	18 July	15 August	19 September
	17 October	21 November	

Other news

Village volunteers recognised

Congratulations to Marian Mulcahy and Wendy and Paul Baker. On Thursday 14th July 2022, Hunts Forum held its annual volunteer ceremony at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.

Following the Parish Council's nomination of Marion Mulcahy and Wendy and Paul Baker for supporting Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Hail Weston and getting the whole village behind this amazing project. The competition from other nominated volunteer organisations across the whole of Cambridgeshire was very hot, so we were particularly thrilled when they received the Bronze Award.

Also, at the ceremony, Wendy was awarded the prestigious 'Volunteer of the Year Award 2022'. Anne-Marie Hamilton nominated Wendy for her work with Dreamdrops Children's Charity. Judges commented, "*Wendy epitomises all that is sought in our community's volunteers. Over and above, the care and empathy she exudes, she brings energy, vision and innovative problem solving to the challenges presented. A perfect example is how she managed and ran the 'Laptops For Schools' programme, particularly prevalent during the Pandemic.*"

Julie Spence announced that Wendy and Paul would be going to the Buckingham Palace Garden Party next year. Well done and congratulations.

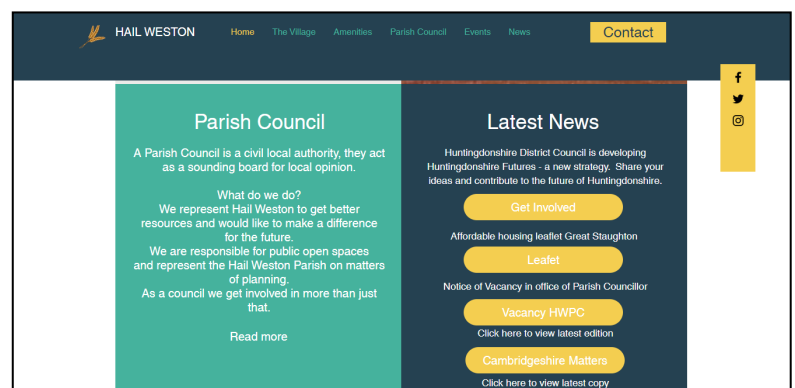


Hail Weston's very own Bronze Award winners Wendy and Paul Baker, pictured with Mrs Julie Spence, OBE QPM, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, and David Morgan, former Hunts Forum Trustee and founder of the Rural Volunteer Award.

Parish Council website

Oliver Oldham also joined the council in May and is working to improve the website.

Residents can view events, parish agendas and minutes. Also, there are wider communications from HDC and CCC which tend to be monthly, and are very helpful to residents and can be found on the home page. Please don't miss out!



Other news

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme

The Secretary of State has approved this scheme and if no legal grounds are presented through judicial review, works will commence with the dualling of the A428 between A1/A421 Black Cat Junction and A428/A1198 Caxton Gibbet Junction to high-quality dual carriageway. Construction will include 19km of new dual carriageway, and grade separated junctions.

Keeping pathways clear

Several residents have recently contacted the PC to highlight issues they are having whilst walking about the village avoiding vegetation that is obstructing pathways.

The overgrown hotspot areas are:

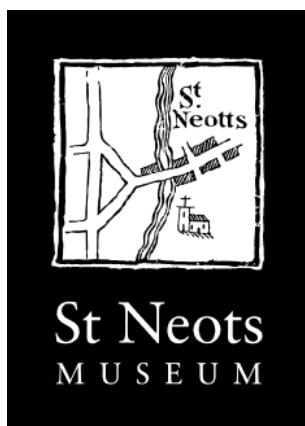
- Ford Road
- Bird Lane
- Kimbolton Road
- High Street.



Most look tidy but are starting to encroach footpaths so please do check. Thank you in advance.

What's On at St Neots Museum

A full list of events being held at the museum is available at stneotsmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/



Community Led Plan

The publication of the Community Led Plan is due soon.

Keep an eye out for it!



Other news

Scheme helps businesses cut costs and carbon

Is your business ready for a future without fossil fuels? Have you been asked by companies you work with what your carbon footprint is and how you need to reduce it?

Questions like these will become commonplace as the UK tackles climate change.

The Low Carbon Business Support programme offers support and guidance to businesses looking to take their first steps to reduce their carbon emissions, as well as those who have actively started their low carbon journey.

The programme runs until February 2023 and is being led by Deyton Bell, in partnership with the county council and Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) and with support from the European Regional Development Fund. All the support provided will be free.

To find out how you can take advantage of this please read more at cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/new-scheme-will-help-businesses-cut-costs-and-carbon



Town and Parish Council update on Huntingdonshire Futures

HDC has started to develop Huntingdonshire Futures, a shared Place Strategy that will set out the aspirations and ambitions for the future of the district. HDC will be holding a range of activities and events throughout Huntingdonshire, in the autumn, where local people can share ideas and aspirations for the district. You can be involved by visiting huntingdonshirefutures.net. The website is live and has a range of tools to help residents share their ideas.

If you have any questions or queries about the plan, please contact the team at place@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Would you like to grow your own fruit, flowers or vegetables?

If so, we have a starter plot available for you to rent. Please email clerk@hailweston.org.uk if interested to discuss this further.



Cost of living support

Are you worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport? You are not alone; the rising cost of living is affecting many of us.

You may be looking for support to access grants and debt advice, get all the money you're entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support measures. Whatever your money worries may be, Cambridgeshire County Council have some useful information available at [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities-localism/support-with-the-cost-of-living)

You can also apply for Household Support Fund, which has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food and household energy bills.

Support is offered in five ways:

- Support for people who are struggling financially
- Trusted Partners
- Cambridgeshire Holiday Voucher Scheme (CHVS)
- Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
- Support with food and household energy

Find out more here: [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus/household-support-fund)

Parish Council vacancy

A vote for the co-option will take place at the next Parish Council meeting. Co-option of this vacancy will feature thereafter on Parish Meeting Agendas until filled.

As a Councillor representing your community, you will help to keep it a great place to live. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude, and be willing to work as part of a team.

To qualify a person must, on the day of co-option, be a British citizen and attained the age of 18 years AND

- On that day and thereafter continue to be a local government elector for the area of the authority, OR
- Has during the whole 12 months preceding that day occupied as owner or tenant any land or any other premises in the area; OR
- Has their principal or only place of work during that 12 months in the area; OR
- Has during the 12 months resided in that area; OR
- During the whole 12 months has resided within the parish or within three miles of it.

Please speak with any Parish Council member for further information.

Contacting the Police

With calls to 999 and 101 increasing, we would like to inform you about the best ways to get in touch with the Police and remind you about the online services, which are available to use 24-hours a day.

Always call 999 in emergencies, or when:

- A serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- Someone is in immediate danger or harm
- Property is in danger of being damaged
- A serious disruption to the public is likely.

But for non-emergencies, there are a few different ways you can reach the Police.

Online reports

For when you would like to provide information about anything from antisocial behaviour to fraud and corruption. Submit a report online and it will be progressed in the exact same way as a 101 call.

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/report/>

Live web chat

Available around the clock and can be accessed via the Police website any time by clicking the green icon in the bottom right of the screen. In June, specialist operators helped more than 2,300 people using live chat.

<https://www.cambs.police.uk/>



StreetSafe

And you can also tell the Police us about a public place in your local area where you feel unsafe using the **StreetSafe tool**.

<https://beta.cambs.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe>

By using the online services in non-emergency situations, you are helping to preserve call handlers' time for real emergencies for people that need help the most.

See [cambs.police.uk/](https://www.cambs.police.uk/) for more information.



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire



Have any questions about this newsletter?

Please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@hailweston.org.uk with any questions regarding the content of this newsletter, or speak to members of Hail Weston Parish Council.