



RAMSDEN CRAYS PARISH COUNCIL SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Resident,

This newsletter includes information about the activities of the Parish Council over the last year (April 2013 to July 2014), as well as financial information and Parish Council contact points.

Dates for forthcoming Meetings:

Parish Council Meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. (except August)

Dates scheduled for 2014 are:

17th September, 15th October, 19th November, 10th December

The Public are very welcome to attend the Parish Council meetings held at Ramsden Crays Primary School either held in the hall or one of the classrooms. You will have an opportunity to speak on agenda items at the Open Session at the commencement of the meeting and then again at the end during Open Session on general items.

Please feel free to approach any member of the Council (contact details below), or the Clerk, if you have any issues that you wish to raise with the Parish Council.

Networking/Representation:

Members of the Council regularly attend liaison meetings with Basildon Borough Council, the Association of Basildon Local Councils and other agencies and representatives from parish councils to share knowledge and experience. Occasionally the Council is asked to comment on documents received from the Borough and County Councils and other agencies and to take the opportunity to respond on issues relevant to Ramsden Crays.

New Projects:

Outside Gym

The Parish Council was successful in obtaining part funding towards the purchase of outside gym equipment from Essex County Council for the Park and further funding is being sought to enable the project to proceed.

War Memorial

Funding for a marble surround to finish and complete the Village War Memorial between Approach Road and Corner Road has been offered to the Parish Council from Veolia North Thames Trust for the amount of £7,400.00 and this has been accepted. Work has commenced.

Village Sign

Basildon Borough Council has kindly offered to replace the village sign for the Parish without cost to the Parish Council. This should be installed within three to four months.

Church Hall:

The Parish Council have contested the sale of the Village Hall and the funds from the sale being taken by the Church and spent outside of our Parish. A solicitor who is also a resident has been helping the Parish Council to try to get some justice for the village. Sadly we have not been successful with this, but the Parish Council thank this resident for his invaluable time and support.

Dale Farm:

The travellers that are parked illegally in the road in Oak Lane have again managed to stave off their removal albeit temporarily and the Parish Council are continuing to apply pressure wherever we can to ensure that the travellers are removed.

Confirmation was recently received from Basildon Borough Council that the Planning Inspectorate has, following the decision of the High Court, reaffirmed their previous decision not to accept the appeal application. The Inspectorate concluded that the appellant did not have the right of appeal because she has been unable to prove that she had permission to be on the land. Trespassers in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 do not have a right of appeal. The appellant can seek to Judicial Review the Inspectorate's decision. The appellant had until the 3rd July to make an application for a Judicial Review.

The rubbish that accumulated in the field next to the legal site has been photographed and has been brought to the attention of Basildon Borough Council.

Highways Issues

The Parish Council are continually monitoring and advising Highways and Basildon Council of any issues relating to potholes, blocked drains, overgrown hedges, footpaths, or overgrown trees obstructing street lighting etc.

If you have any complaints regarding highways please notify the Clerk or any councillor.

The Parish Council have been successful in reducing the speed limit in Harding's Elms Road to 30 MPH and the approach to the junction of London Road and Harding's Elms road reduced to 40 MPH. This was done with the help of our MP John Baron and Ward Councillor Terri Sargent.

Transport Issues:

Through consulting with some local residents who use the local bus services the following points were raised.

- Currently the parish is served by two bus services, the 222 that travels through the village to Billericay and Wickford and the 237 that journeys to Basildon town and Basildon Hospital.
- The 222 is an hourly service to Billericay and Wickford.
- The 237 runs every three hours.
- It was noted that journeys for connecting services that run through Ramsden Crays are frequently difficult for passengers as there is an hourly wait for the connecting service.
- The 222 service during term time commences at 3.00 p.m. and has an additional hourly service.

Mobile Library:

Please note that unfortunately due to the lack of use within Ramsden Crays of this service. The Mobile Library will no longer stop at High View Rise, Ramsden Crays.

Crime:

There has been an increase in burglaries in the area and residents are encouraged to be vigilant and safeguard their properties where appropriate.

Zip Wire:

The Parish Council is grateful to Veolia North Thames Trust for its donation towards the contribution from the Parish Council for the recently installed zip wire within the Parish, situated in the park area. This was officially opened by the Mayor on 13th May and Cllr. Sargent was also in attendance.

Street Lights:

Ramsden Crays Parish Council has liaised with ECC and Basildon as it has been concerned regarding the lack of street lighting between 12.00 and 5.00 a.m. within the area and the knock on effect for the safety of residents.

Useful Information

Please note that any criminal incidents should be reported to the Police on 0300 333 4444 or anything that is suspicious. Ward Councillors, Terri Sargent and Stuart Allen hold regular surgeries at Noak Bridge Village Hall at "Coppice Lane" on the first Saturday of the month between 9.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. and Steepleview Community Hall, Willowfield on the third

Saturday of the month between 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. any resident from the Crouch Ward is invited to attend. A PCSO is nearly always present.

Your Input:

The Parish Council would like to hear from you for future projects within the Parish. If you have any ideas on these or any more, please contact either the Clerk or Councillors.

Parish Councillors

Chairman - Councillor Andrew Peake	01268 525771
Vice-Chairman – Councillor Tina Borer	01268 285795
Councillor David McPherson-Davis	01268 525762
Councillor Norman Flint	01268 931167
Councillor Sally Aungier	01268 289769

Non-Elected Appointments 2013 - 2014

Clerk to Ramsden Crays Parish Council - Georgina Bassett – 01702 584158 – ramsdencrayspc@live.co.uk

Independent Internal Auditor - Heelis and Lodge

Other Useful Contacts:

Cllr. Terri Sargent can be contacted on terriken@aol.com or 01268 288766

Cllr. Allen can be contacted on stuart.allen@members.basildon.gov.uk or 07816965999.

Member of Parliament: John Baron your local M.P. holds regular surgeries in the constituency. Telephone for an appointment on 01268 520765.

Keep up to date with our latest information including agendas, minutes, etc., visit:- www.essexinfo.net/ramsdencrays

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This is a summary of the receipts and payments of the Parish Council for 2013/14. Further information is published later in the year when the accounts have been audited.

SUMMARY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2014

Year ending 31.03.13 £'s		Year ending 31.03.14 £'s
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
10033.92	Precept	9263.00
16.84	Bank Interest	20.36
0.00	Capital Grants	0.00
5600.00	Other Funding/Grants - Zip Wire	7000.00
0.00	Awards - Online overpayment	0.00
0.00	Half courses, subscriptions - Shotgate	72.50
0.00	Half publications - Shotgate	30.00
0.00	Insurance Claims	0.00
15.00	Refunds - transfer other 3 accounts closed	0.00
0.00	Shotgate - cheque - general	557.93
0.00	Diocese Church repaid	18.20
0.00	Diocese Church VAT repaid	3.64
636.29	VAT	2816.24
16302.05	<u>Total</u>	19781.87
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
3511.39	Clerk-Salary	3565.11
877.79	Clerk-HMRC	887.79
222.85	Clerk-Travel Expenses	231.75
0.00	Clerk-Training	0.00
156.00	Clerk-Tel Calls/Room Hire/Use of Equip.	156.00
89.80	Stationery	110.14
130.34	Election Costs	0.00
120.00	External Audit	100.00
115.00	Internal Audit	115.00
738.81	Insurance	753.44
30.07	Postage	21.85
179.74	Publications/Minutes Book	80.00
607.33	Subscriptions	455.37
100.00	Newsletters	42.40
22.50	Cllr's Travel	0.00
0.00	Cllr's Training	0.00
87.50	Courses Split Costs - Shotgate	0.00
0.00	Grant	0.00
671.98	VAT (Recoverable)	2785.99
7661.10	General Admin incl VAT	9304.84
260.00	Hall Hire	675.00
0.00	Verge Planting	0.00
45.90	Maintenance	0.00
0.00	Other Misc. - Notice Board/Parish Sign	0.00
200.00	Sec. 137 Donations/Upkeep of Cemetery	100.00

3069.00	Project - War Memorial	2220.00
	War Memorial Planters	1080.00
	Project - Cableway	10338.00
	Diocese Church	36.40
	Cheque in error	557.93
<u>0.00</u>	Capital Payments	<u>0.00</u>
<u><u>11236.00</u></u>	Total	<u><u>24312.17</u></u>