EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH MAGAZINE





'SHARE YOUR WARES'

SATURDAY 21ST JULY

10AM – 12NOON

ST MARY'S CHURCH, GILSTON

Eggs, honey, garden produce, plants or just come for a coffee, cake and a chat.





JULY 2018

USEFUL WEB SITES: EASTWICK & GILSTON PARISH COMMUNITY WEB SITE: eastwickandgilston.org.uk STOP HARLOW NORTH GROUP WEB SITE: stopharlownorth.com HUNSDON EASTWICK & GILSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP WEB-SITE: hegnp.org.uk



KNOW YOUR COUNCILLORS CASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCILLORS



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VICE CHAIRMAN SPIKE HUGHES spike.hughes@kelvinhughes.co.uk



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EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 9TH JULY 2018

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL

8.00PM

VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER GILSTON

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BUSINESS MEETING WE WILL HAVE A 10-15 MINUTE SLOT WHERE MEM-BERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE PARISH COUNCIL ON COUNCIL MATTERS. AFTER THIS, THE PUBLIC ARE ASKED TO PLEASE BE SILENT SO THAT THE PARISH COUNCIL CAN HOLD THEIR MEETING.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT DURING OUR MEETING BUT ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

AGENDA FOR ALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS CAN BE FOUND ON ONE OF OUR VILLAGE NOTICE

BOARDS – IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE REPORTS THAT ARE NOT WITH THE AGENDAS (DUE

TO LACK OF SPACE) PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK.

DRAFT MINUTES

EASTWICK AND GILSTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING ON MONDAY 14TH MAY 2018, 800PM, VILLAGE HALL, PYE CORNER

PRESENT: Cllr Beazley, Bryant, Geddes, Orson, Wightwick

In attendance: Christine Law (Parish Clerk), Robert Brunton (District Councillors), Eric Buckmaster (County Councillors), 6 members of the public.

- 1. TO RECEIVE APOLIGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Hughes
- 2. TO RECEIVE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2017-2018 Cllr Orson gave his annual report. The full report can be found in the Annual Report 2017/2018 document published with the parish magazine and parish web site.
- 3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN Nominations were received for Cllr Mark Orson to be Chairman. Cllr Mark Orson's nomination was proposed by the whole council and seconded by the whole council and Cllr Orson accepted the position of Chairman.
- 4. TO RECEIVE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (CODE OF CONDUCT) The new Chairman Clin Organ signed the declaration of accentance that was witnessed by the Darish Clark

The new Chairman Cllr Orson signed the declaration of acceptance that was witnessed by the Parish Clerk (Copy attached).

- 5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN We have received three nominations for Vice Chairman. Due to family commitments Cllr Beazley and Cllr Geddes declined. The third candidate Cllr Bryant was proposed by Cllr Beazley and seconded by Cllr Wightwick and Cllr Bryant accepted the position.
- 6. 2017-2018 ACCOUNTS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AND TO BE APPROVED. Cllr Orson reviewed the Parish Council summary of receipt and payments accounts for year ending 31st March 2018. These had been previously circulated to the council. These were proposed by Cllr Bryant and seconded by Cllr Beazley. The accounts were then signed by the Chairman Cllr Orson and Christine Law the Responsible Officer. Copy can be found within the Annual Report 2017/2018.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Parish Council meeting of Monday 14th May 2018 at 8.25pm, Village Hall, Pye Corner, Gilston At the cessation of the Annual Meeting this section of the meeting started at 8.25pm

PRESENT: Cllr Beazley, Bryant, Geddes, Orson, Wightwick, Christine Law (Parish Clerk), Robert Brunton (District Councillor), Eric Buckmaster (County Councillor), and 6 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- a. Fly tipping notices. It was asked why a notice had been placed outside Church Cottages where fly tipping is unlikely to occur. It was explained that these notices are part of the East Herts campaign against fly tipping and are intended to improve general awareness and as a warning to potential offenders. It was asked if more notices could be placed around the back lane from Church Cottages to High Wych. This would be investigated.
- b. Traffic volumes It was reported that residents in Pye Corner are concerned about the increased traffic volumes through the village and believe this is being caused by traffic avoiding road works on Edinburgh Way, Harlow. The Clerk will write to Essex Highways to find out the scope and time scale for this work. Cllr Buckmaster said he would also investigate. (Post meeting note an article explaining this work has been found on Essex CC website. This information has been published on our web site and the June edition of the Parish Magazine).

Business meeting started at 8.45pm

1) TO RECEIVED APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

a) Cllr Hughes

- 2) TO RECEIVE CONCILLOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERESTS
- a) None given.

3) MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

a) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 12th March 2018 – Item e. on the minutes (a member of the Council had asked to record that they have no confidence in Cllr Brunton (District Councillor) due to his non-attendance at our meetings and lack of any input or support to the parish). His email response is as follows:

Dear Mark

Thanks for taking the call yesterday, sorry it wasn't the nicest of issues to discuss but I appreciate the honest exchange we had.

I said I'd drop you a note on my position in regards to the recently issued minutes of your Parish Council meeting held in March. These were issued on the 7th of May, I downloaded and read these on the evening of the 9th in preparation for next weeks PC meeting and subsequently called you.

My concern stems from item 'E' on the issued minutes where 'it was asked by a member of the Council to record that they have no confidence in Cllr Brunton due to his non-attendance at our meetings and lack of any input or support to the parish.'

I'm sorry if this is how the Parish Council feel but I can assure you this is not a true reflection of my position.

With regards to attendance, since January of 2017 I have attended five PC meetings, missing four. Of the four I've missed, two have clashed with Garden Town Member meetings for which I have apologised, one was due to a work commitment for which I also apologised and the last one (March 18) was due to a school issue with one of my children. I think I apologised for this as well but as this was rather late in the day I can't be sure. So you see, sometimes other District Council business in which I'm representing the wider ward has taken me away and the work/family balance has taken care of the other two.

With regard to any 'lack of input or support to the parish' I'm not sure that's strictly fair. If we leave the issue of Gilston Estate aside for the moment then I do try to deal with any correspondence/requests or engagements in regards to local issues as quickly as possible and as we discussed yesterday I can't recall a time when you've not been able to get hold of me or I've not responded to any other of the parishes/parishioners requests. Sometimes I can't take a particular residents side in a local issue and this may be misunderstood as a 'lack of support' but many times these issues (planning/fly-tipping .. etc) have to follow due process and although I can 'push the process' for residents, sometimes the answers that come back are not what the particular resident wishes to hear.

Returning to the issue of Gilston Estate, this is of course a large area of concern for all of us and I've always made it clear of my support for a robust district plan. That has never meant 'a district plan by any means' and I think that message gets lost in a lot of our dealings. I understand the frustration with the lack of clarity but that's what all the members meetings/steering groups/events/modelling work and eventual master planning, etc, is trying to address.

I'll finish now, I don't want to make anything more of it but hope you understand my wish to address the parish councils/councillors concern. I'd appreciate it if you could make a note in the next meeting minutes. Yours sincerely Bob

These were proposed by Cllr Wightwick and seconded by Cllr Bryant. The minutes signed as a true record by Chairman Cllr Orson.

b) Minutes of subcommittee meeting of 9th April 2018 This was a meeting to discuss the suggestions received regarding the New Homes Bonus. These were proposed by Cllr Beazley and seconded by Cllr Bryant. The minutes signed as a true record by Chairman Cllr Orson.

4) ACCOUNTS

- a) The Councils written accounts summary had been distributed before the meeting and were accepted by full council (Appendix 1).
- b) To agree and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2017/2018 copies had been distributed before the meeting and there were signed by the Chairman and the Parish Clerk. A copy can be found in the Annual Report 2017-2018.
- c) To agree and approve the Accounting Statements 2017/2018 for the year ended 31st March 2018 copies had been distributed before the meeting these were signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer. A copy can be found in the Annual Report 2017-2018.
- d) HAPTC annual membership of $\pounds 465.80$ was agreed and Clerk will pay as previous agreement.
- e) Clerks Salary. An increase in the clerk's salary in accordance with NALC & SLCC 2018-2019 National Salary Award guidelines.
- f) Insurance Zurich it was agreed to renew the council insurance for another year at the sum of £257.60. The Clerk will pay as previous agreement.

Items a-f were proposed by Cllr Beazley and seconded by Cllr Bryant and agreed by full council.

5) PLANNING AND ASSOICATED APPLICATIONS

- a) Proposed agricultural machinery store abutting an existing wall which encloses a listed walled garden. Golden Brook. Listed building consent has been granted but refused by Planning as inappropriate development in the green belt. This was a re-submission of an application that had previously been granted.
- b) Retrospective planning application for change of use of the land at the Plume of Feathers for Dog Training. Erection of field shelter 23ft long by 12ft wide and 2 shipping containers for storage. We are awaiting planning decision on this matter.

6) STOP HARLOW CAMPAIGN

a) Cllr Hughes was unable to attend but his written report can be found in the Annual Report 2017-2018.

7) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- a) NPG takes delegated responsibility from the Parish Councils for coordination of NP activities and works in partnership with the PCs to carry out the tasks necessary to meet the conditions for development of a NP as specified by The Localism Act, 2011. It has become clear that NPG activities will be required for some time to come in particular with the establishment of the Gilston Steering Group chaired by the Leader of East Herts Council on which the NPG has representation.
- b) Neighbourhood Plan Group Terms of Reference proposed amendments
 - i) The NPG should nominate a chair for approval by the PC's.
 - ii) The NPG Chair will have a [renewable] 2-year term.
 - iii) The PC's will appoint the NPG Chair at their Annual meetings [May / June] along with appointing PC Chair's, Vice-chair's and any sub-committee reps.
 - iv) The NPG Chair will make an annual report to the PCs that will be published.
- c) The NPG nomination for NPG Chair is Anthony Bickmore
- d) Neighbourhood Plan Group Chair's 2017/2018 Report: Can be found in the Annual Report 2017-2018.

Items b-c were proposed by Cllr Beazley and seconded by Cllr Bryant and agreed by full council.

8) HIGHWAYS

- a) Cllr Beazley informed the meeting that she is waiting for information regarding the status of repairs to the A414 between Eastwick Lodge roundabout and the Station roundabout.
- b) Moorhen bridge has been repaired.
- c) Terlings Park roads. Sections of roads have not been completed and no information is available as to when they will be finished. Cllr Wightwick will provide full details to Cllr Brunton who will investigate this matter.
- d) Drive Safe Scheme This was discussed, and it was agreed to publicise the scheme in the Parish Magazine and on the web site asking residents for volunteer to take part and organise.

9) NEW HOMES BONUS

- a) A sub-committee meeting was held on 9th April to discuss the suggestions received so far. Meeting minutes have been approved and will be published in the Parish Magazine and website.
- b) Play equipment for Terlings Park Cllr Wightwick is dealing with this matter and will report back to the next Parish Council meeting.

10) DATA PROTECTION ACT

a) The new Data Protection Policy comes into force as of 25th May 2018. A draft policy has been proposed and subject to clarification of the councils use of cloud storage will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

11) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Eric Buckmaster (County Councillor) report to the council is attached.
- b) Robert Brunton (District Councillor) report to the council is attached.
- c) The Council have been informed that the grant to the War Memorial Trust has been granted for the restoration of Eastwick and Gilston War Memorials.

12) ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

a) None.

13) 14.ITEMS COUNCILLORS WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE NEXT AGENDA

a) None.

14) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

a) The date of the next meeting will be on Monday 9th July 218, 8.00pm, Village Hall, Pye Corner.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

District Councillor's Report

I'm pleased to present my report

Quarry

I've not heard anything recently about the Quarry or the Herts Minerals Plan but have been encouraging all my ward residents to sign up to the online campaign.

Emerging District Plan

With regards to the emerging district plan, the modifications consultation period ended on the 29th of March and the inspector has all the submitted comments. Due to the number of comments we're now expecting her to report back by the end of May, early June. This will then be 'fact checked' and the changes to the printed documents and maps made. The completed amended document will then be put to Council, possibly by the end of summer but we should have a better idea of timetable once the report comes back from the inspector.

The Gilston Steering group met on the 5th of April and there's another meeting on the 17th May.

The Garden Town' Co-Op member board, which consists of East Herts, Epping Forrest DC, Harlow Council and Uttlesford DC, met on the 30th April and I've had some constructive discussions with other members in regards to the wider transport issues in an attempt to keep the four tracking and possible Crossrail 2 extension to Harlow on the agenda. The next GTM Board meets in June.

Other Council Business

I've recently sat on two licensing committees and there's another on the 22nd of May, I sat on the planning committee twice in March, once in April and there's another taking place by the end of May. With regards to any Eastwick and Gilston local planning issues, more recently the activities on the land at the 'Plume of Feather', I can never guarantee the response from our planning officers but I can assure you that all your concerns are put forward.

Fly tipping is a local nuisance especially along the 414 from Harlow to Acorn Street and around the lanes at Overall Farm. There was a meeting arranged in late April with the Police, Waste Management Services and our East Herts Executive Member for the Environment (Graham McAndrew). Your chairman and the chair of Hunsdon and myself attended, I'm sure Mark will report on this to the parish.

I'll finish by saying it was a pleasure in helping a young athlete from Widford in recently applying for a training grant. Should you or any of the community have a local group or personal development goal, there may be grants available to assist. Please let me or Eric know and we'll do our best to push it under the right officers nose.

Any other local issues you feel I can assist with please contact me on through my East Herts email address.

Bob Brunton

Bank Accounts as or Current Reserve less uncashed cheque TOTAL Income and Expendi	es iture for the period 1s	And in case of the local data was a second	201 Bal £ £ £ £ £ ay 2	8-2019 ance as of 7 3,391.53 64,396.99 67,788.52 018	1.5.18			
DATE PAYMENT	DETAILS	METHOD OF	EX	PENDITRE	INCOME	то	TAL	
MADE/RESOLUTION	1	PAYMENT				BA	LANCE	
	Balance b/f					£	65,830.37	
3.4.18	Mrs Law - Salary	SO	£	200.14		£	65,630.23	
5.4.18	HMRC VAT refund	income			£ 698.02	£	66,328.25	
9.4.18	Mrs Law - Petty Cash	bacs	£	200.00		£	66,128.25	
9.4.18	Village Hall Hire	bacs	£	240.00		£	65,888.25	
11.4.18	Office Outlet - stat	bacs	£	74.42		£	65,813.83	
23.4.18	Shogun Print -May ma	bacs	£	198.00		£	65,615.83	
26.4.18	D Buxton - War M	bacs	£	40.00		£	65,575.83	
26.4.18	D Buxton- Planters	bacs	£	40.00		£		
27.4.18	EHDC 1/2 yr precept	income			£ 2,450.00	£		
1.5.18	Mrs Law - Salary		£	200.14		£	67,785.69	
		GRANTS				L		
PARISH PATH BENC	HES				ICY CODE			
				ant Received				£ 826.22
Grant Received	0 704.50			nputer - spe T reclaimed	ent 2015/2016	ò		-£ 728.98 £ 121.49
29.8.2012 Spent 2014/2015	£ 724.50 -£ 441.48		100.001.00	nt Received				£ 121.48
Spent 2014/2015	-2 441.40			ent in 2016	u 10.0.10			£ 325.04
Balance	£ 342.17			ant Received	d 11.7.17			£ 332.53
VILLAGE PLANTERS	and the second		8	ent in 2017				-£ 332.53
Grant Received 19.11	.2014	£ 5,000.00	Bal	ance				£ 218.73
Spent 2015/2016		-£ 2,115.20						
VAT reclaimed		£ 219.43						
Spent 2016/2017		-£ 624.49						
25.5.17 Plants		-£ 184.94						
Maintenance		-£ 280.00						
Maintenance		-£ 461.25						
		C 0C 00						
Winter Plants 2017 Balance		-£ 86.00 £ 1,467.55						

County and District Councillor report May 2018

Grants.

Each County Councillor has a grant pot of £10,000 for the year. My allocations for 2017 to 18 to parishes in my division were as follows; The full list including purpose of grant is on the Herts County Council website.

Applicant organisation	amount agreed
Stanstead Abbotts PC	750
High Wych PCC	350
Young Enterprise sawbridgeworth	400
Hunsdon Parish Council	130
CVS	250
Herts Middx Wildlife Trust	1000
Carol Russel for Schools musical	
Al's Adventures in Wasteland	1250
	200
Carers in Herts St Andrews Primary Stanstead	200
Abbotts	250
school travel challenge Saw-	
bridgeworth	750
High Wych guides	1200
St Andrews school Stanstead Ab-	
botts for Trim Trail Hertfordshire Disabled Cricket	
Association.	360
	500
healthwatch Hertfordshire	400
Rivers Heritage site and Orchard	680
Sawbo Mem Hall Nostalgia Re-	
membrance day	500
Sawbo ATC	350
High Wych Link	360
Wareside Parish	300
Allens Green	520

Total allocated: £10,000

In writing I should be happy to consider applications from organisations in the current financial year. I am also the portfolio holder for grants in East Herts. In the past 12 months we have revised our grants policy to focus

on areas of particular need within the District and particularly in addressing areas of multiple deprivation, tackling social isolation, encouraging physical activity, and promoting good health and wellbeing among our residents. Community grants of up to £3,000 are available for community organisations to run programmes to promote good physical and mental health and wellbeing. The new Community and Capital Grants programme opens on May 1st. Details of the process and Criteria are on the East Herts website.

Education

Hertfordshire

Overall in Hertfordshire, nearly 97% of families have been offered a ranked school which is a slight increase on last year. Over 86% of families have been offered their first preference school, which has increased slightly from 85% last year. The cohort is smaller this year (2.4% decrease), with 14389 Hertfordshire applicants, compared to 14727 in 2017. **Bishop's Stortford**

In Bishop's Stortford, including the parish of Thorley, the total number of applications received this year is 429 (4% decrease) compared to 447 for September 2017. All 429 applicants have been allocated a ranked school, with 413 (96%) offered their first preference.

Sawbridgeworth

In Sawbridgeworth, including the parish of High Wych, the total number of applications received this year is 116 (1% decrease) compared to 117 for September 2017. 113 applicants (97%) have been allocated a ranked school, with 98 (84%) offered a first preference. 3 Sawbridgeworth residents have been offered a non-ranked allocation to High Wych C of E Primary School.

In the main, non ranked allocations are to schools within statutory walking distance. However, some families have been offered schools which are further than 2 miles from their home and may be entitled to assistance with home to school transport. Children under the age of 8, attending their nearest available school over 2 miles will be provided with free home-to-school transport. Eligible parents will be contacted in June to advise them of how to take up the offer of free travel.

Potholes Over 10,000 potholes have been repaired in Hertfordshire so far this year as part of a winter recovery programme launched by the county council in response to the harsh winter. Despite warm weather in recent weeks, periods of wet and freezing weather earlier in the year have caused unprecedented damage to road surfaces across the county, leading to a big increase in the number of potholes reported to the county council's highways team.

We've brought in four extra jet patching machines to work alongside our regular crews to get on top of the problem and we've now fixed over 10,000 potholes. Despite the significant increase in the number of potholes and road faults reported, we continue to hit our targets of repairing the most urgent potholes within 24 hours and all others which are considered serious within five to 20 working days."

In addition to pothole repairs, with the weather improving the county council has now begun its annual surfacing programmes, which will see large sections of road given new surfaces. This will include preventative maintenance on roads that are close to failure as well as new surfaces for some of the most uneven roads.

In addition to the money spent specifically on pothole repairs, the county council has increased its highways budget for this financial year with a £40m programme of over 1,000 road maintenance and improvement schemes across Hertfordshire's 3,000 miles of road. This year's funding includes an extra £5m which the county council is spending on improving the condition of local roads people live and work on, as part of a longer term £29m programme targeted on those smaller, local roads.

Hertfordshire Council encourages road users to report potholes on the county council website https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/

Update on East Herts Health and Wellbeing strategy. Our strategy is currently being updated to ensure that there is a focus across all council functions towards improving the health and wellbeing of our communities and enhancing the quality of people's lives (two of our key corporate priorities). We have achieved great success across East Herts in providing physical activities for the over 50s, many of which are held in Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall. We are also running a successful pilot in Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth for Social Prescribing. We have a coordinator now who works out of many GP practices who can direct people to social and physical activity that will reduce isolation and improve their health, and perhaps also reduce reliance on medication. We are also looking at programmes that will tackle obesity particularly in young people and aim to reduce incidents of type 2 obesity through lifestyle change. This is a project run jointly by the County Council and East Herts with support from Leeds Becket University. It is recognised that access to recreation and open spaces is important in planning as well as maintaining opportunities for walking and cycling.

Leisure and Culture update

East Herts is currently consulting on options for a new Arts Centre in Bishops Stortford as part of the regeneration of the Old River Lane/Causeway site. The Rhodes Birthplace Trust along with Bishops Stortford Town council and East Herts Council have signed Heads of Terms to signal cooperation in this venture. On 12th May at 11:30 there will also be an opportunity for people to give their views on the matter at a consultation event to be held within the Rhodes Centre.

East Herts is also beginning the procurement process for a new leisure contract across the District. The aim is to substantially improve the leisure offering and to turn a net cost to the council into a service that provides an income. Grange Paddocks in Bishops Stortford will be replaced by an entirely new centre and improvements will be made to Hartham in Hertford. East Herts is continuing to have discussions with the schools concerning the joint use pools, including Leventhorpe. The procurement process will include the option for Leisure Providers to provide a variant bid to run the joint use pools. Currently 40% of the cost of running the school owned pools comes from the Government via ESFA funding.

Eric Buckmaster May 2018

GILSTON AND EASTWICK VILLAGE HALL

Chairman:	Mr Patrick Wood	419838	V Chairman/Tru	stee: Mr Keith Harvey	410435		
Booking Officer/Trustee							
Treasurer:	Mr Trevor Brown	423676	Trustee:	Mr David Jackson	n 419404		

For any bookings and queries about the Village Hall please contact the Bookings Officer Patrick Wood on 01279 419838 or email him on: <u>patwood032@btinternet.com</u>.

Eastwick & Gilston Parish Council C161 Update

On behalf of the residents of Gilston your Parish Council has, over the years, made regular representations to Hertfordshire Police and Highways regarding the problem of speeding traffic and enforcement of the weight restriction on the C161 which runs through our village at Pye Corner.

The Parish Council's view on control of speeding traffic is that the only fully effective solution would be the installation of permanent speed/safety cameras. The interim traffic calming measures and Vehicle Activated Signs that have been put in place although of help have not solved the problem overall.

The latest response from the Police, which also addresses enforcement of the C161 weight restriction and enforcement generally is copied below:

"With regards to enforcement of speed limits there have been surveys conducted in the village in 2005, 2010 and 2016. Whilst these do show a degree of non-compliance, the collision history does not meet the criteria for the attendance of Roads Policing resources. Additionally, any local enforcement is unlikely given conflicting demands and the fact that officers are required to adhere to safety criteria which the village does not meet for roadside enforcement. I have requested traffic management discuss alternative options with HCC Highways to see if sustainable, proportionate solutions are possible with regards to the issues you raise.

The parish may wish to consider Community "Drivesafe", which High Wych have operated successfully for some time. Further information on this can be found on the Police Crime and Commissioner's website. Your local Community Support Officer can support you in initiating this.

With regards to the weight restriction. The surveys mentioned indicate low levels of non-compliance. The 2016 survey showed only 1.77%. To enforce this, officers would need to follow the vehicle into the restricted area, passing the required signage, through and out the other end to negate any exemption claim of delivery etc. The driver would need to be interviewed. The penalty for non-compliance is a low level non-endorsable (no points on license) offence.

The allocation of police resources is subject to assessments considering Threat, Harm and Risk. At present, it is unlikely either problem will result in the allocation of police resources."

And recently from Highways on the installation of cameras:

"the primary objective for using safety cameras on the highway is to reduce deaths and injuries on roads by reducing the level and severity of speeding and red-light running. I have checked the collision records for the 30mph section through Gilston and in the latest three-year period there have been two separate collisions that resulted in slight injuries to those involved, meaning the location does not currently meet the criteria for a safety camera to be considered."

"I am aware that unfortunately there was a fatal collision earlier this year that has yet to feature on the data I have access to (hence I only referred to two slights). However, I believe there were no factors attributed to the highway and therefore would not alter the safety camera considerations."

Unfortunately, this means we are not eligible for speed cameras or police operated speed checks but there are actions we, as a Community, can take.

Commissioner's Community DriveSafe Volunteers needed!

The Police and Crime Commissioner promotes the Community DriveSafe Scheme to empower communities to monitor traffic speed through their locality. Details of vehicles not adhering to the legal limits are sent to the local constabulary who will then write an "advisory" letter to the offending drivers. Those who speed frequently could receive a visit from a police officer.

Approved Community Schemes are provided with training and equipment to undertake roadside speed monitoring, as well as being introduced to a Volunteer Advisor.

At least 10 volunteers are needed before approval can be sought. 2 of the volunteers need to act as "Lead Volunteers".

A Lead Volunteer is responsible for organising monitoring sessions, collecting and returning equipment from a police station, recording and sending data for processing, calling the Force Communications Room on 01707 354558 or 101 before and after each session and acting as the main point of contact for that group.

More information at:

www.hertscommissioner.org/community-drivesafe-scheme-hertfordshire

Come to the next Parish Council meeting, 8:00pm Monday 9th July 2018 to hear more about the scheme and sign up.

Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group

Response to the Gilston Area Highways - Options in Pye Corner Event - Monday 21 May 2018 led by Places for People

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The joint Neighbourhood Plan Group (NPG) welcomes this consultation and the opportunity to discuss issues relating to Pye Corner and Terlings within Gilston. The event was organised and led by Places for People and took place at the Gilston & Eastwick Village Hall on May 21st 2018.
- 1.2. We have previously recorded our great disappointment that the Eastern Crossing is now promoted by East Herts Council (EHC) in the Draft District Plan as a new strategic road link that is intended to provide congestion relief to the commercial areas along Edinburgh Way at the expense of the residential areas in Gilston village. We support the Report to the EHC Executive Committee of 12 June 2018 that states clearly that Gilston is considered to include Terlings Park, Pye Corner, Gilston Lane, Gilston Park and surrounding dwellings and recommends that severance and other impacts are studied in more detail before progressing the Outline Application of the Gilston Area development.
- 1.3. Within this context, we wish to thank the promoters of the development and their consultants who came and listened to concerns and local level issues. As many of the questions raised by the attendees could not be answered on the day, we are grateful that a new date is being considered for July in order to provide progress and further detail.
- 1.4. The NPG, mandated by the Parish Councils of Hunsdon and Eastwick & Gilston, has agreed to coordinate the response of the community and to collate the key questions that we would like to see addressed in the forth-coming event. Because of the huge impact of the proposal, these notes are intended as a helpful setting out of local views and as a way to guide future discussion.
- 1.5. The interactive format of the event was greatly appreciated, but sadly many of the local residents could not attend at 6pm on a weekday, a time that is not suitable for families with children and not appropriate for anyone who does not work locally. Given the importance of the issue, copies of the slides, or a recording of the event and details of the feedback given should be provided especially for residents unable to attend.
- 1.6. The consultants were focussed on the immediate Pye Corner issues and we assume for that reason were not prepared to discuss and present the big strategic highway and transport issues that will affect our community. Technical analysis of strategic alternatives was presented in summary format and it is hoped that a fuller discussion can take place on these issues at the planned July seminar. As the community was left with big questions unresolved and unanswered we believe it would be extremely helpful if you can arrange the attendance of representatives of the two County Councils (Hertfordshire & Essex) at the Saturday 7th July seminar to help answer them.
- 1.7. The discussion should be articulated into two clearly distinct parts:
 - The strategic issues, part of a collective Q&A session we recommend that sufficient time should be allocated to it, as it has never been presented before; and
 - The best arrangements for the local community and local area.

2. The strategic issues still to be addressed

- 2.1. The NPG and the community are vehemently opposed to any suggestion that now, or in future, an extension to the A414 sub regional/cross county strategic road is driven through the middle of an existing residential village community. We have made relevant objections when the proposal of a 'relief road' to Edinburgh Way in Harlow was included in the Main Modifications to the Draft EH District Plan without consultation nor reference to any evidence base. This proposal seems to us to be at odds with the Leader of EHC assurance that the Gilston Area project will be designed to the highest standards, a view also put forward in the August 2017 consultation by the promoters.
- 2.2. We are extremely disappointed that the proposals have progressed as far as being included into the District Plan policy, and now progressed into more detailed study without any of the assessments and evidence being pro-

vided to the community about the increases in traffic, including HGVs, that will be potentially routed through the middle of the village community.

- 2.3. The proposed Eastern Crossing creates a natural desire line between Hertford and the future Junction 7a on the M11, which will attract a level of traffic that will go well beyond the requirements to serve the Gilston Area existing and new communities, effectively imposing on the residents of Gilston not only a development of 10,000 new homes, but also regional traffic between Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The questions on traffic numbers and vehicle types raised by the community at the event have remained unanswered and should be addressed in the July event.
- 2.4. In order for the community to gather an informed view of the implications of the proposed Eastern Crossing, we invite Places for People and EHC, possibly with the support of Hertfordshire & Essex CC, to address at the July seminar the following:
 - a. A detailed analysis of the current A414 and why it cannot be changed to accommodate the traffic flows better.
 - b. Forecast of level of traffic on the future road link for a peak time work day period. Ideally this should be split by local traffic (Gilston Area existing communities and new at completion) and strategic traffic including future development in Harlow and Junction 7a. This should include the traffic generated by a future relocated Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) as an option.
 - c. Comparison with current level of traffic on Eastwick Road / C161
 - d. Expected congestion relief in Harlow / Edinburgh Way in absolute terms and as a % of overall traffic
 - e. Visualisation of the current and future traffic flows using traffic modelling tools such as VISSIM or PAR-AMICS (before and after for at least two main options)
 - f. Presentation of modelling studies and data for air quality, noise and light pollution impacts (before and after for at least two main options). Consideration of noise and light pollution impacts at night, particularly including blue light services directed to a potential PAH relocation.
- 2.5. The community has never been presented with a comparative evaluation of the current A414 with improvements, the Eastern and Western Crossings. We have been repeatedly told that the County Councils favour the Eastern Crossings because it will direct strategic traffic through Gilston rather than Harlow and provide better access to Junction 7a. The community has the right to consider the bigger picture and to know how decisions affecting their lives are being taken:
 - a. What benefits are accrued in Harlow and in the wider area by each of the two options and what are the disbenefits generated by either option, especially on existing communities.
 - b. Which of the two options (if any) better supports the efforts to achieve 60% modal shifts towards sustainable transport modes in the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

3. Main Local Issues

- 3.1. Most of the local residents are convinced that the transport consultants have not adequately considered local issues and have taken decisions that will have huge local consequences without fully understanding them. Examples include:
 - a. The Burnt Mill Lane junction was not shown but connects village facilities, and a local pub.
 - b. Rights of way are shown but no thought seems to have been given to their crossing of proposed roads. These are historic pathways and recorded on the County Highways maps.
 - c. The crossing for cyclists and pedestrians within the existing village setting seems to put them at a sever disadvantage when removing the weight restriction will attract HGV's etc.
- 3.2. Gilston is a dispersed village formed of several groupings of houses including: Terlings Park, Gilston Park, the areas around St Mary's Church and Gilston Lane, The Channocks and, of course, Pye Corner. All these residents are represented in the same Parish Council and share facilities like the village hall, the play area, the pub, church and memorial as well as walks and rights of way. The village has numerous heritage features that will be directly affected by the proposals.

All of the options / proposals will create massive severance within the village, as well as routing significant through-traffic through the centre of the village. All options and combinations of options appear to be designed to encourage and serve through traffic at the expense of local connectivity. This is contradictory to the aspiration to create 'separate and interdependent villages' and a cohesive community as stated in the vision and objectives of the development. The identity and perception of proximity within Gilston will be altered forever, as the access to various parts of the same village will be via very different routes (even up to four different access routes in some options).

3.3. We suggest that the transport consultants focus their development and presentation of the options to consider:

- a. Suitability of the option to the village character of Gilston and fit to the design character aspirations of the Gilston Area vision of villages.
- b. How to deliver improved or equivalent levels of accessibility to the residents of Gilston by all modes of transport
- c. No severance within the village and no unacceptable impacts in terms of worsened air quality, noise and light pollution
- d. Safety measures to protect all current and future residents enjoying the countryside and local facilities (including current and future rights of ways, cycle routes and community facilities) and provide safe and convenient crossings
- e. Appropriate speed limits, weight restrictions, noise restrictions, traffic calming
- f. Land take from Terlings Park
- g. Measure to control commuter parking in Gilston people using Gilston to access the station or a possible future hospital.
- h. We understand from the discussion with your team after the presentation that a new elevated pathway and cycle route will cross the A414 at Eastwick Hall Farm to serve the proposed population but no details of how this will work have been put forward; we had assumed one such metal girder bridges which are monuments to poor urban design. We need to know what is being proposed

4. Conclusions

- 4.1. We greatly welcome the longer seminar being planned for the Saturday 7th July to look at these issues in the round. We strongly commend to P4P that they fund a truly independent facilitator with relevant experience to chair the session so that the community feel that real discussion can take place rather than being told what the consultant team working for the promoters wish to tell us about.
- 4.2. Although the 21st May event was overall well attended and people participated actively in the discussion, further discussion and information is needed before the community can form a considered view on the proposals: key information about the strategic issues, level of traffic expected and open evaluation of the benefits of the Eastern Crossing compared to a Western Crossing are needed.
- 4.3. On the basis of the material and data provided, we have formed the opinion that the proposed road will create catastrophic impacts on the village, by re-routing (or allowing the routing) of substantial and heavy through traffic through the middle of an existing rural village affecting hundreds of families.
- 4.4. We consider the likely impacts created by the proposals completely unjustified and unacceptable. Benefits potentially accrued elsewhere are not demonstrated and cannot therefore be said to outweigh the impacts created at Gilston.
- 4.5. The promoters of the Gilston Area scheme have not yet demonstrated that they have identified, and presented the full range of possible options that protect local access and local character so that informed choices can be made.
- 4.6. We look forward to working with the promoters and EHC to hold a further seminar that addresses these issues.

5. IMPORTANT NOTE

- 5.1. We have made the case that we should be given funding to employ a technical specialist help us understand these complex technical issues and so contribute to the discussions in a more effective manner. We are very disappointed that EHC have declined to support this while at the same time:
 - a. Have not consulted us on the changes to the Local Plan suggested in the Modifications put to the Inspector. (**Note** EHC have also proposed a business park which would be in conflict with their CDF document which impose additional traffic; yet again they have not participated in any consultation on this proposal or provided any information to support this unwelcome addition).
 - b. Not give the community directly affected by these disastrous proposals and guidance on the supporting technical case including evaluations of why the current A414 is incapable of being improved; surely that is the starting point.

Anthony Bickmore, Chairman Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Group

St James the Great High Wych Present

Women through the Ages Flower Festival & Afternoon Tea

Saturday 7th July 18 – 10am to 4pm Sunday 8th July 18 – 12noon to 4pm Children Tent Ice Biscuits Tombola Sand Art

Benefice of High Wych and Gilston with Eastwick Church website: stjameshighwych.org.uk Church Services for July 2018

1 st July	Trinity 5	8.00am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych	2 Samuel 1.1,17-end, 2 Corinthians 8.7- end, Mark 5.21-end
		9.30am	Family Service	St James, High Wych	
8 th July	Trinity 6	9.30	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych	2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10, Corinthians 12.2-10, Mark 6.1-1
		11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Gilston	2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10, Corinthians 12.2-10, Mark 6.1-1
15 th July	Trinity 7	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych	2 Samuel 6.15,12b- 19, Ephesians1.3-14, Mark 6.14-29
22 nd July	Trinity 8	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych	Song of Solomon 3.1- 4, 2 Corinthians 5.14- 17, John 20.1-2, 11- 18
		11.15am	Holy Communion	St Botolph's, Eastwick	Song of Solomon 3.1-4, 2 Corinthians 5.14-17, John 20.1-2, 11-18
29 th July	Trinity 9	9.30am	Holy Communion	St James, High Wych	2 Samuel 11.1-15, Ephesians 3.14-end, John 6.1-21

Weekday Services:

Tuesday 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St. Botolph, Eastwick Wednesday 9am. Morning Prayer at St. James, High Wych Friday 6.30pm Evening Prayer at St. Mary, Gilston

PRIEST IN CHARGE: Rev Wendy Carter, The Rectory, High Wych, Sawbridgeworth 01279 726476 READERS: Joy Galliers-Burridge, Readers, 41 Hart Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HL

01279 444870Roger Burridge, Readers, 41 Hart Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HL 01279 444870Judith Denton, Path Cottage, High Wych Lane, CM21 0JP01279 723714

LAY LEADER OF WORSHIP: Jan Bellingham					
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Letter for July 2018

Greetings from one of your Reader's

I have been asked to write your parish letter for the month of July, and as I sit here enjoying the sunshine and surrounded by the wonderment of all God's creation, seen in the beauty of the trees and flowers, listening to the songs of the birds and watching them fly overhead. It reminds me of how we take these things for granted. We are so blessed to live in such a lovely part of the country and in such a peaceful environment. So many places in the world are torn apart from injustices where people live in fear, facing the unknown, removed from home and family, hungry and without hope, including refugees with a need to find a safe haven. All factors we do not face or perhaps understand, so please keep them all in your prayers. Continue to thank God for the many blessings that we receive from Him every day, the gift of life and all that that encompasses.

This month I thought I would share with you the role of a 'Reader. 'In the early church a reader was a person capable of clearly expounding the word (able to read and speak clearly), good morals and benevolent intentions.

When I felt I was called to be a Reader, I had feelings of inadequacy and of not being worthy of the role, I'm sure many of you can relate to these feelings. What I discovered during my five years of training was that those feelings never left me and I still feel that I am lacking and not quite good enough to preach and teach the word of Jesus Christ, but because He called me I still keep trying.

After the years of training and preparation I was admitted and licensed by the Bishop, not only to our parish of High Wych, but also Gilston and Eastwick, additionally I can serve anywhere in the diocese of St Albans. As a Reader I am licensed to take funerals, to lead services to preach, to visit the sick at home or in hospitals, visit the elderly, and those who are lonely. The main things Readers are not able to do, is to bless the sacraments, marry and baptize, these are roles for the ordained ministry only. A Readers role is one of diversity, a bridge between the people and the priesthood. And I continue to work with Wendy our parish priest and Joy and Judith my fellow Readers.

As part of community outreach, some of the events undertaken by our church families during May were Messy Church at Eastwick and John and Beverley's Disco Themes at High Wych, both events were greatly enjoyed, as was community dog walking at Gilston.

In June at High Wych we enjoyed 'The Great Get Together' painting hubcap flowers in readiness for the Scarecrow festival. This day set aside to remember the murdered M.P. Jo Cox whose desire was to bring communities together and we do this in her memory.

St James, High Wych has a Flower Festival and cream tea event with activities for children on Saturday and Sunday 7th and 8th July, please come and enjoy.

The village hall has a Bingo night on 28th July, another date for your diary.

Finally, may the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us all and those we love. Roger

WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF YOLANDE CLARKE THE WIFE OF THE LATE JOHN CLAKE I AM RE PRINTING ALL THE ARTICLES JOHN WROTE ABOUT OUR VILLAGES. A WALK AROUND GILSTON – BY JOHN CLARKE 2016 –

High View is a large detached house with attendant riding stables, continuing a time-honoured tradition of horse husbandry: horses were always of major importance in Gilston.

The last houses in Gilston are Marlers and Pole Hole Farm. Marlers, Pole Hill, is an old house, possibly of mid-Victorian date or earlier which had a connection with local gamekeepers. It took its name from a 20th-century resident. Pole Hole Farm is a small establishment that lost its independence early, and by the time of my youth was being run by the farmer at Channocks. Today a few outbuildings survive in commercial use and there is a Hodgson cottage of 1885, presumably once the farmhouse. More recently there was a small attractive goat farm, but sadly its life was short.

From the north end of Gilston and stretching behind Pole Hole towards Redricks Lane, were once extensive gravel pits. Gravel was extracted from many points in the village in the past. All operations came to an end for a while, and then recommenced. At the time of writing they are anticipated to cease once again. Now back to the pub, and let us walk up Church Lane. Pause to look carefully at No. 87 on the right, which will give you a very good idea of what all Hodgson houses were once like. It is half of what was once a particularly fine Hodgson example, bearing, like all other Hodgson houses incidentally, a date plaque. In this half, little has spoilt the original design; here in all their glory are the diamond-paned windows, red bricks and roof tiles, and tall chimneys. In a shed behind this house Mr Brace once provided, on Sunday mornings, a barber's service for the men of the village.

Slightly further up the road, and in the wood on the left, lies one of Gilston's great historical sites. This is private land and not visible even from the public footpath that now crosses the park from the gate in the lane; but buried deep in the nettles and thistles there is a high mound of soil surrounded by a dry moat. This is no less than the original site of Giffards manor, one of the three farmsteads set up by our founder in 1135, and the only physical evidence of the three now remaining. What catches the eye is the relatively small size of the site. But it is an outstanding survival. Lower down the wood there was once a deer farm. The sight of the beautiful deer must have been an attractive one, as it is these days on occasions; but at that time they were, unfortunately, destined for the pot.

On the opposite side of the road, near the stables, is the point where the parachute mine landed in the Second World War. The resultant blast shattered every window for a great distance around. I used to toboggan on the 'mountain' it created, and play hide-and-seek in the crater.

Further up Church Lane, again on the left, is an overgrown field – quite hard to see these days now that the hedges are so tall. But it is the site of Giffards Farm which lay the other side of the brook, the route of which is visible as it flows down the edge of the park to run adjacent to, and just below, the lane. This was a big farm which closed in mid-Victorian times, and it is therefore all the more surprising that nothing exists of it today except a faint trace, the hol-lowed-out course of the path that led across the field from School Lane to the farm, crossing the brook at the front of the buildings.

Along the roadside here there was a fine row of immensely tall Lombardy poplar trees – all became victims of gales. Before the grass grew so much, the field was once filled with glorious wild flowers: buttercups, daisies and lady's smock. The 17th-century Mrs Williams would have approved. Behind the farm once lay the grass parklands, now all under cultivation. Here in 1814 was kept a large flock of Wiltshire sheep (all with horns). An old sheep shed still survives in the park.

Further on, we come to a narrow wood on the left (Baker's Belt), which was planted in the 18th century to act as a screen for Gilston Park. Behind this lies Gilston Lake. This was a magical place for children, but dangerous, as few could swim in my day. The lake is artificial and dates back to the early19th century. It was formed by damming Golden Brook and flooding the low-lying land as a result. In its heyday it had a boathouse, giant fish (pike and tench), and lots of waterbirds: swans, herons, kingfishers. The herons, after a long period of absence, are reported to be back, but the lake is not now accessible to the public and is anyway past its prime. Silting up is a major problem: great flocks of Canada geese periodically descend and strip bare the aquatic plants, and the spread of bulrushes is noticeable. Watch the geese in formation flying in Vs and line astern: the Red Arrows could not do better.

The water leaves the lake by a waterfall, which may be heard and sometimes even glimpsed when water levels are high and surrounding greenery thin in winter. (It is opposite School Cottages.) Here at the waterfall in the early 1900s Arthur Bowlby the squire conducted some early experiments with hydro-electric power, with the aid of a turbine. Using cables, he successfully provided Gilston Park and the church with electricity.

I commented on the waterbirds of the lake, and I am reminded of the vast flocks of birds that once used to visit the village. Flocks of starlings (estimated by experts to be in the region of hundreds of thousands) would descend into the woods for brief visits. There were also periodic invasions of beautiful lapwings and golden plovers, now all but memories. But the gorgeous barn owl has re-established itself in recent years and the magnificent buzzard is now also a resident.

Trees are greatly in decline, but still a few noble specimens survive. Gilston was once full of fine trees. The oldest surviving trees are probably oaks, going back to the early eighteenth century.

However, creatures that have prospered in recent years include the delicate muntjac deer (barking deer) and the badger. You may not see them often, but they are here and in some numbers.

Returning to our village walk: continuing on up Church Lane from School Cottages, on the right is High Gilston, the old village school and head teacher's house, built in 1856 and probably the most attractive of all the surviving Hodgson houses. It is a real gem and alterations have been sympathetically done, although it has lost its front door. Here, for just over 100 years, primary education was given to the village children and, in latter days, also for those from Eastwick following closure of their school. It was a long and honourable achievement. Surviving documents suggest that it was a hard task to educate children in the early days of universal education, contending with the problems of a cold basic classroom, limited resources, bad behaviour, truancy (children helped with the harvesting), and parental prejudices.

I was educated there and blotted my glorious career by running away on my first day. My bid for freedom was cut short prematurely by being captured by a big girl: a mortal shame for any boy. We were taught in the single-storey classroom on the left of the building, being staged from left to right in ages (5 to 11), with girls in front and boys behind.

Teaching was by the traditional methods of the time, using blackboard and chalk, with upright desks, exercise books, and pens you dipped into inkwells. Pupil numbers were small, never more than about a dozen while I was there; but remember, we were always taught by just one teacher. The seniors would be set to their lessons while the teacher would then be free to concentrate on the infants who obviously required more individual attention.

We were taught well and discipline was good. Any insurrections were speedily crushed by the threat of dispatch to the bad boys' school. Not bad girls' school, you note – girls were always very good, although they did take part in scrumping the Rector's apples. This was not well received, and resulted in stern lectures all round. Playtime was held in the school yard or in the adjacent paddock, where there was a tree to climb.

Continues next month

ST JAMES CHURCH - HIGH WYCH SCARECROW FESTIVAL SATURDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-4PM SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 12NOON – 4PM

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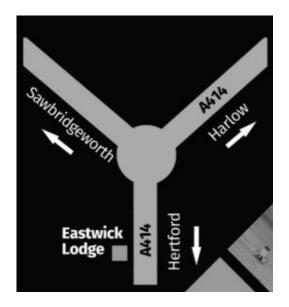
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