

## July updates

### Parking

DPC is continuing to explore ways to improve the parking situation in the village, especially on Bank Holiday weekends when there are very many people visiting Dedham. One of our greatest concerns is the unsafe parking on the access roads to the village, particularly on the Suffolk side of the Mill Lane bridge. Unfortunately there is little we can do to control this although we continue to try to engage with relevant authorities. In Essex, parking control has been delegated to the North Essex Parking Partnership, but in Suffolk, the responsibility remains with the police. It would be very helpful if residents who are concerned about safety on days when cars are parked on both sides of the road leading to Stratford St Mary would take the time to report this to Suffolk police, either on 01473 613500 or phone 101 and ask to be put through to Suffolk Police. DPC is of the view that the problem will only be taken seriously if reported every time it occurs.

### Play equipment

We are committed to providing appropriate play and recreation equipment for all age groups and we would especially like to hear from young people who have outgrown the playground equipment and their parents. What would you like to see on the playing field? We will be working with Dedham Primary School and the Youth Club to gather ideas. Please let us know!

### Planters

The War Memorial planters and the tubs along Brook Street have been replanted for summer and are being cared for by Parish Councillors. If anyone would like to help us with our watering we would be very grateful!

### Digital Inclusion

A number of residents have indicated that they would be interested in one to one support from Michael Smith, CBC's Digital Access Officer to learn how to use their electronic device. We have arranged for Michael to be at the Parish Office in the Dedham Art & Craft Centre on Thursday 6 September 10am and 12 noon. If you could book a slot with him via the Clerk in advance that would be great. Otherwise, please feel free to drop in.

### Annual Parish Assembly

This took place on 31 May when the Chair gave her annual report on Parish Council activities for the preceding year. We welcomed Josie Watson from Colchester Borough Council to talk about tourism in the local area and also a group of local First Responders who gave a demonstration of a typical response scenario. First Responders are based in the local community and are often first on the scene in the event of a 999 call. Their duties range from the critical – giving CPR and maintaining life until an ambulance and paramedics arrive on scene – to the important task of supporting loved ones in the event of a medical emergency. They are all volunteers who are trained for the role. The local team are actively looking for volunteers. If you would like to find out more please get in touch via the Clerk.

### Next meetings

The July Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 2 July 7.30** in the Assembly Rooms (Reading Room). There is no meeting in August. The September meeting will be held on **Monday 3 September**.

The Parish Office, in the Art & Craft Centre is open every Tuesday & Thursday morning 10-12. Please call in!

*Nicola Baker*

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