

Dedham Parish Council

Elections

No apologies for mentioning this again! This year's local elections, which were originally scheduled for May 2020, are still expected to go ahead in May. A number of current councillors will be standing down, most having served for nearly nine years.

It is vitally important that enough local people stand for election. There are a total of nine seats on DPC. Without a minimum of six elected Councillors the continuing work of the Parish Council will be in jeopardy. Please, please take a moment to consider whether you could serve your community as a parish councillor. Parish Council work is voluntary, rewarding and wide ranging. Under normal circumstances we would hold an open session at which we would hope to meet interested residents. Clearly this is not possible at present, so anyone interested in standing for election is encouraged to get in touch with either the Clerk or any of the Councillors (contact details may be found on our website). If there are insufficient nominees then Colchester Borough Council could be asked to step in!

The Drift

At its meeting on 8 February DPC voted to install bollard lighting along the Drift from the Sports Club to the toilet block and also to re-surface the Drift. We now have a preferred contractor and it is expected that the work will be completed in the Spring. This project has been the subject of much discussion, with strongly held

views both for and against. DPC has obtained all necessary consents and has researched extensively to ensure that the lights we have chosen will have minimal environmental impact. We hope that the lights will make those people needing to access the village centre on foot after dark feel safer. The lights will have passive infrared sensors so that they only come on when pedestrians approach and will be on a timer so that they are not activated during the night. Full reports are available on the DPC website.

Highways

We are still trying to make some progress on the inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking on Lamb Corner and are asking the North Essex Parking Partnership to consider parking restrictions here.

We continue to monitor the progress of the installation of additional yellow lines along the B1029 and have recently heard that more lines on the Suffolk side are expected soon. Hopefully this will be in good time for the forthcoming summer season.

A recent flooding problem down Shoebridge Hill is proving tricky to resolve, but our Clerk and our Essex County Councillor are doing their best to get to grips with the problem, which involves a number of agencies and landowners.

Remote meetings

We will continue to meet remotely using 'Zoom' for the foreseeable future. Meetings are normally held at 7pm on the first Monday of each month.

Full details are on our website and we welcome any member of the public who would like to attend.

Peter Gibbins

Councillors were very sorry to hear of the death of former Parish Councillor Peter Gibbins. He undertook a number of tasks around the village, including building the octagonal flower troughs which adorn our war memorial.

Clerk

And finally, Councillors are sorry to note that our Clerk, Emma Cansdale, will be leaving us towards the end of

March to pursue other opportunities. Emma has been with us for the past nine years and many of you will have come into contact with her about the village. We all send Emma and her family our best wishes for her new project.

We will be recruiting a new Clerk and are seeking someone with experience of parish council work.

Nicola Baker

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