



# NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL SPRING NEWSLETTER

'We Intend to Serve the Community with  
Openness, Honesty and Integrity and Ensure  
Value for Money as a Top Priority'



WEBSITE: <http://www.essexinfo.net/noakbridge-parishcouncil/>

Spring 2018



## NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL INSTALL BOULDERS & BOLLARDS ON WASH ROAD PLAYING FIELD

In response to residents' requests to install defence barriers on the South Wash Road playing field the Parish Council investigated suitable methods to deter any further unauthorised traveller encampments. Bollards and Boulders were assessed and found to be the most suitable deterrent, while also being aesthetically pleasing and in-keeping with the area. Basildon Council granted permission to use their land. Funding was agreed at the February Council and the barriers were installed in March. We are pleased to respond positively to a crucial Parish issue.

## PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2018 - 2019

Noak Bridge Parish Council has set its Precept for 2018-19 at £43,548k. Council have worked hard to keep costs down and has set its budget with enthusiasm and determination to serve the Parishioners of Noak Bridge. Council are in an unusual position as this year there is a reduction in the annual Parish charge. For a Band D property, the charge is 0.42% lower from the previous year (£42.32 Band D equivalent for 2018-19 against £42.50 for 2017-18), despite this year no longer receiving the Local Tax Support Grant. For 2018-19, Council have set a community focused budget. £30k has been budgeted specifically for community projects and this will be funded from the Council's Reserves. Projects planned for 2018-19 include: \*supporting village hall improvements \*fencing and gates around Dog Agility Course \*small grant awards towards community projects \*a fixed asset maintenance programme \*4 newsletters per year \*funding towards public events and \*Christmas Decorations. Noak Bridge's Precept for 2018-19 equates to just over 2.48% of your total Council Tax charge.



**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES**  
**NOAK BRIDGE VILLAGE HALL 7.30pm**  
**April 17th, May 15th, June 19th**  
**July 17th, September 18th**  
**October 16th, November 20th**

Parish Council meetings are open to the public & press. We welcome residents to come along and put forward suitable ideas on spending the precept to improve Noak Bridge Parish.

## NOAK BRIDGE BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Cllr. Terri Sargent Chairman	Finance, Newsletter, Projects	<a href="mailto:terriken@aol.com">terriken@aol.com</a>
Cllr. Jane Bunting V/ Chair	Data Protection, CCTV, FOI	<a href="mailto:janebunting@blueyonder.co.uk">janebunting@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
Cllr. Vicki Jarvis	First Aid, PRoW, Health, Safety	<a href="mailto:vjarvisnoakbridge@outlook.com">vjarvisnoakbridge@outlook.com</a>
Cllr. Mark Cottrell	Planning, ABLC, Parish Liaison	<a href="mailto:mark.cottrell2@virginmedia.com">mark.cottrell2@virginmedia.com</a>
Anna Bain	Parish Clerk RFO	<a href="mailto:noakbridgepc@gmail.com">noakbridgepc@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Stuart Allen	Basildon Borough Council	<a href="mailto:start.allen@members.basildon.gov.uk">start.allen@members.basildon.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Terri Sargent	Basildon Borough Council	<a href="mailto:terri.sargent@members.basildon.gov.uk">terri.sargent@members.basildon.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Malcolm Buckley	Essex County Council	<a href="mailto:cldr.malcolm.buckley@essex.gov.uk">cldr.malcolm.buckley@essex.gov.uk</a>
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## THE LOCAL PLAN - THE EFFECT OF HOUSING ON NOAK BRIDGE - URBAN SPRAWL

Basildon Council have agreed the Local Plan and Regulation 19 consultation will take place around **mid-May** before submitting for Inspection. Although Local Plans deal with health, transport, education, housing etc, residents' concerns are focused on the housing numbers and the negative impact they will have on existing infrastructure. The proposals for Noak Bridge are 750 high density housing on the green belt. Policy H10: Land East of Noak Bridge (400 ) and policy H11: Land North of Noak Bridge (350). Significant buffers will be required to defend and protect the green belt; both developments will require robust boundary screening to prevent coalescence with other Parishes. With limited detail and no guarantee on infrastructure provision, residents harbour concerns, aware of existing pressures on education, health services and the local road network. The Parish Council have asked Basildon Council to provide details of dates to respond to the consultation and we will keep residents informed via our **website and notice boards**. The Local Plan is an important document; residents are urged to respond when the consultation opens.

## OUTDOOR GYM - REMOVAL OF THREE ITEMS

The outcome of the consultation in the Autumn newsletter last year on the usage of the Outdoor Gym was very clear - the equipment is underused and in need of maintenance. Monitoring found there was no regular pattern of usage. The few residents who did respond either did not use it or used it very occasionally. Taking this information into consideration, the Parish Council decided to remove three items of equipment that were not up-to-date with current standards. The Rower, Rider and Twister have therefore been removed and a review of the remaining equipment will be carried out within six months.

## DOG AGILITY COURSE FENCING & GATES

Basildon Council funded and installed the dog agility course on Wash Road Field. A Parish Council consultation received residents' requests to install fencing and gates around the course. The Parish Council have agreed to fund the project which will be installed in May 2018.

## NOAK BRIDGE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Noak Bridge is blessed with several miles of picturesque Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which the Parish Council has a responsibility to ensure are well maintained and accessible. The PRoW are to the north of Wash road and connect Barleylands road and Great Burstead Parish. The Parish Council has recently been surveying the condition of the routes and has been liaising with the PRoW officer for Essex County Council. Several improvements have been suggested, including the replacement of a bridge into Great Burstead Parish. The PRoW officer has also been liaising with landowners to ensure paths are reinstated after crops are harvested. Several poorly signposted areas will also be improved. We intend to organise a walk along the PRoW to encourage their use and do some light maintenance. Anyone interested in getting involved please contact the Parish Council.



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016 - 2018

### Parish Council Election May 2016

Following the Parish Council election in May 2016 Terri Sargent was the only Parish Councillor to take office. Basildon Council had to intervene and appoint Borough Councillors Stuart Allen and Andrew Schrader to assist Terri to continue the business of the Council and appoint a temporary Clerk until a By-Election was held. At the first Parish Council meeting in June 2016 and upon receipt of the Parish Council's belongings, the newly appointed temporary Clerk reported the iMac computer contents had been deleted, the hard drive had been damaged and the back-up drive broken beyond repair. The internal audit had not been started and an Internal Auditor had not been appointed. During the audit process it came to light documents were in disarray many were missing, money was owed to HMRC for previous years' salaries, VAT had not been claimed, neither was a grant from Essex County Council. The audit therefore had to be delayed and was carried out on best endeavours.

### Parish Council By-Election July 2016

A By-Election in July 2016 brought forward new Parish Councillors willing to tackle the issues inherited and put the Council back on track. In August 2016 the Parish Council resolved to report the state of Council's financial and administrative affairs to the Police.

### Back on Track by 2017

Over a year later in October 2017, the Police investigation concluded "insufficient evidence, no further action". After the initial expense of putting the Parish affairs in good order and to prevent the Council from future negligence, rules and regulations were adopted and published. The Council issued a mission statement:

*"We Intend to Serve the Community with Openness, Honesty and Integrity and Ensure Value for Money as a Top Priority"*

### What Have We Done Since May 2016

\*Set up meetings in the Village Hall \*Reduced telephone and internet costs  
\*Replaced CCTV \*Restored the iMac \*Awarded grant aid to the Pre-School, Nature Reserve Society & Residents Association \*Installed a Petanque Court in the Village Hall Garden \*Invested in new Finger Post Signs \*Leaf Swept Hot Spots Areas  
\*Held a Spring Consultation Event and Summer Event \*Removed redundant outdoor gym equipment \*Installed Bollards & Boulders as protection measures on Wash Road Playing Field \*Produced 4 Newsletters \*Employed a new Clerk.

### Parish Council Proposals for 2018/2019

After setting a balanced budget and precept in March 2018 we resolved this year to spend the accumulation of Reserves on community projects; aim for timely audits; public inspection and publication of accounts. We also aim to continue to serve the community according to our mission statement. After two difficult years, the Parish Council is now in a vastly improved financial position. Assisted by the Clerk we intend to continue to support and improve the Noak Bridge Parish.