

# THEYDON MOUNT PARISH COUNCIL

## Traffic Calming Edition

November 2023



### Chairman's Report

Welcome to your Parish Council's Winter Newsletter.

During the year we have continued to concentrate our efforts on traffic calming and speeding initiatives. Please see the detailed report below.

Also, as a result of the chronic problems with water leaks on and near the hill in Mount Road we have engaged with our MP, Alex Burghart, as well as Councillor Tom Cunningham who is the cabinet member for Highways Infrastructure & Sustainable Transport at Essex County Council.

As many of you know only too well, Affinity Water, who are responsible for our fresh water supply and Essex Highways, who are responsible for roadside drainage, gullies etc, have been blaming each other for many years or the leaks. I am confident we will see action on these issues, especially as Alex Burghart has expressed frustration with the responses received from the two authorities.

We have complained about potholes and the condition of the roads through our parish and I expect to see repairs to the carriageways in Mount Road and Epping Lane in the near future.

Looking forward, we are planning a litter pick in the New Year when our residents can help to maintain the appearance of our roads and verges. See details below.

We are also expecting to plan another parish social event next year to promote the spirit of community in the parish. More information will follow in the New Year.

The next formal meeting of the Parish Council is planned for the 18<sup>th</sup> December. If you have any issues you wish to raise with us, please make contact via [theydonmountparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:theydonmountparishcouncil@gmail.com)

In the meantime, best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Peter Connell

Chair. Theydon Mount Parish Council

### Traffic Calming Initiative

Did you know that motor traffic can legally speed along our winding country lanes at 60mph? Even lorries 44 tonnes in weight and 2.5m wide and 16.5m or more long!!!

Our lanes are mere cart tracks in origin, but residents will be aware that over time they have become high speed rat runs for commuter traffic. We need, therefore, to make our lanes as safe as we can for residents and users while keeping their rural charm.

The parish council **has no power** to alter the status or usage of these roads but is trying, instead, to mitigate the worst effects of speeding and unsafe driving by the implementation of speed reduction measures. Extensive documentation has been submitted to Essex Highways regarding the numerous accidents that have happened. Disappointingly, Essex Highways are unwilling to concede that, historically, serious accidents have been commonplace

Traffic safety initiatives can only be undertaken by, or with the prior approval, of the local highway's authority – in our case, Essex County Council. The ECC, in its turn, does not have bottomless funding for

roads, requiring the parish to submit the most compelling case possible when requesting safety measures.

### **This is where we need your help.**

Following two separate accidents at the junction of Banks Lane and Mount Road within 3 days of each other in October, TMPC asked Councillor Jaymey McIvor to escalate with great urgency the concerns of TMPC to the risks associated with this notorious junction to appropriate decision forums with a view to reassessing the signage, road markings and permitted speed.

At the time of writing the newsletter a further accident occurred at Banks Lane and in a separate incident a car ended up in a field off Mount Road due to part to speed and the poor condition of the road.

We are urging all parishioners who happen upon any vehicle accident within the parish to safely capture images of the accident and its date and time of occurrence.

### **Please do not put yourselves at risk whilst capturing this information.**

Send your images and notes to our Clerk Rod Angood at [rod.angood@gmail.com](mailto:rod.angood@gmail.com)

The parish council takes road safety very seriously and is making every effort to reduce accidents. Your support for this is imperative and highly valued



**Recent accidents at the notorious Banks Lane black spot**

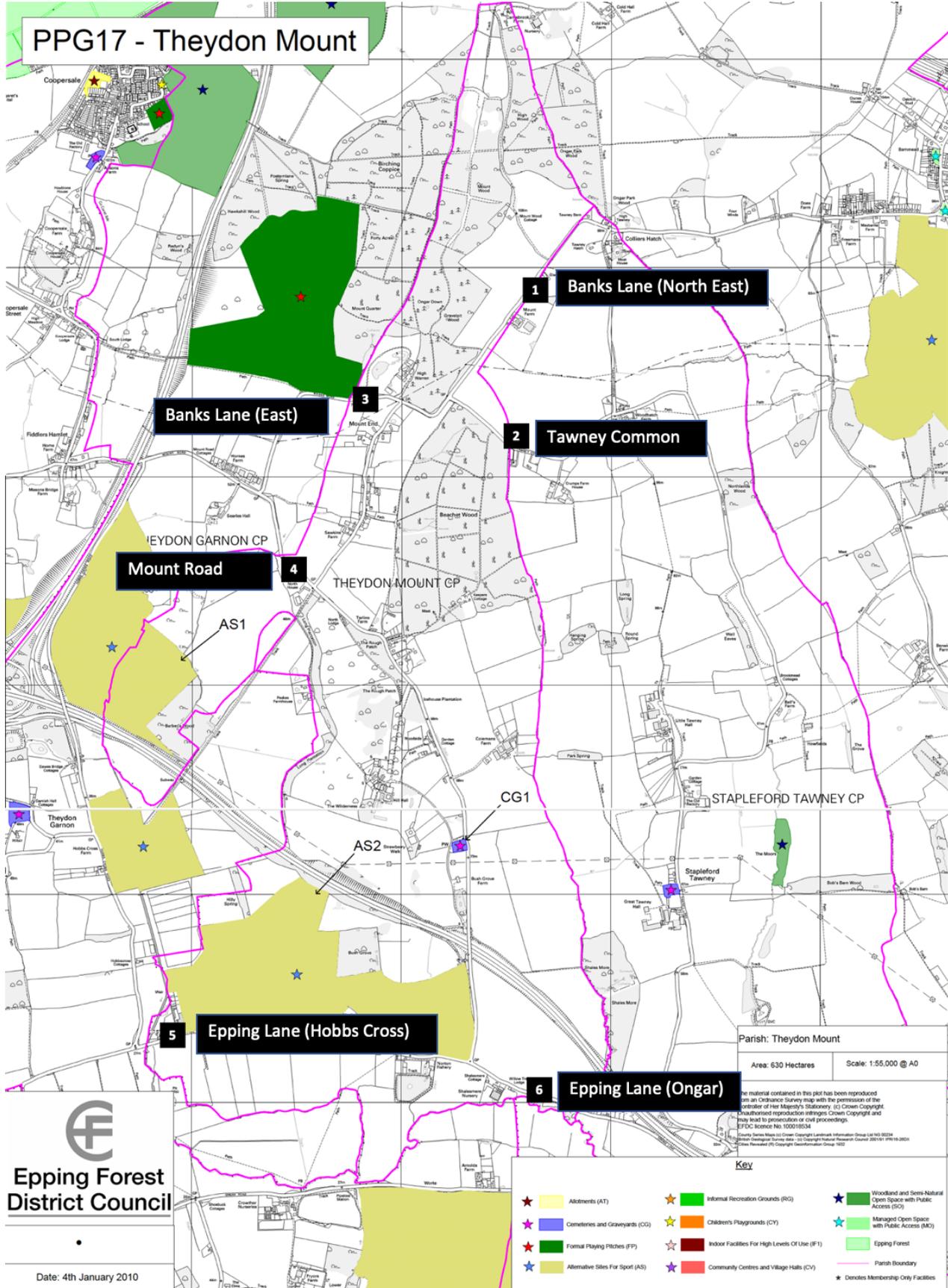
### **SO WHAT CAN TMPC DO IN THE MEANTIME?**

#### **Parish Entry Gates**

As an update to our last newsletter, our Gateway project is moving ahead.

On 16<sup>th</sup> October TMPC submitted our application to Essex Highways for the licence to instal 6 Gateway signs at road entry points throughout the parish.

**Nominated locations:**





## Parish Finger Posts

Our program of replacing and re-furbishing our Parish finger posts has been completed. This has been a community effort with special thanks to Hilliard Brewitt, Joanna Owen, David Cole, John Fradd and Pat Bamford for their help

## Further Initiatives

### Street Sign Cleaning

Our existing signage needs cleaning and we plan to organise a work party to undertake this.

### Litter Pick, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

We are looking for volunteers on Sunday January 2024 between 10:00 & 12:00 for a parish wide litter pick. Please meet up outside Councillor Brady's house, 11 Mount End, where high viz jackets, litter pickers and bags will be provided.

Looking forward to seeing you there

## Community Project(s)

### Our Red Phone Box

A bid has been submitted to EFDC for capital funding to completely refurbish our iconic red telephone box. The funding is provided through the Rural England Prosperity Fund Program – part of the Government's "Levelling Up" initiatives.

If successful it will facilitate a complete refurbishment including new sockets to power our Christmas tree lights.

## Theydon Mount Parish Council Website

Full of Parish information and how you can report issues such as fly tipping

[www.evoice.org.uk/theydonmountparishcouncil](http://www.evoice.org.uk/theydonmountparishcouncil)

We aim to keep this site refreshed with new and important information on a routine basis.

**Happy Christmas and a very happy New Year from your Parish Council**

