



# WAKES COLNE PARISH COUNCIL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WORKING FOR YOUR PARISH

Chairwoman's report

February 2023

Towards the end of the council year in April and the beginning of a new one in May there are a few relatively good news items, the usual works in progress and some dates for your diaries.

Residents will be pleased to know that the precept for Wakes Colne has been set so that there will be no increase to households in that part of the community charge. As I write, we do not yet know of Colchester City Council's (CCC) or Essex County Council's (ECC) charges.

At last, after deciding to purchase a Vehicle Activated System in October 2021, and finally obtaining the necessary permissions from ECC for its location and the pole installation, outside the village hall where the Speed Watch team do checks, we have been able to place an order for the device. As there is a 4–6-week lead in time, it may be connected in April.

Also, after many months without a councillor, we have been able to co-opt Frances Hounslow. We welcome her, with her knowledge and love of Wakes Colne, to the team of seven.

Several matters are still ongoing: we await the flooding alert signage promised by ECC for Chappel Corner by the Post Office, and the Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicle signage for each end of Lane Rd; replacement of the solar lighting in Station Approach, should be undertaken by Greater Anglia; the solar light at the bus stop on the village hall side has been removed to investigate repair; a revised, updated, local walks booklet, including the new walk safely up Tyburn Hill, is in progress and, on publication, will be made available for free to residents.

We should be grateful for your help in replenishing the book stock in the telephone book exchanges; please leave just a few at a time; they will then be stamped. A small team plans to replant the four planters at the bus shelters in May. We should welcome help with watering during the summer months; there are water butts and watering cans at each location. Please contact the parish clerk ([parishclerk@wakescolne.org](mailto:parishclerk@wakescolne.org)) if you would be willing to be added to a watering rota.

Dates for your diaries:

From 13<sup>th</sup> March it will be necessary to book a visit to any ECC recycling centre to deposit waste. The booking system will be available online from 27<sup>th</sup> February on the CCC website. Residents are being asked to report any fly tipping on the website.

A public meeting on Solar Energy is being organised by Jill Bruce, our local Climate Change Ambassador, in the village hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 19.00.

The annual parish meeting, organised this year by Wakes Colne Parish Council (WCPC), is an opportunity for both WCPC and Chappel Parish Council to make an annual public report and to hear about the activities and events of all the local organisations represented. We cordially invite the organisations, residents who kindly undertake tasks which improve our community, and villagers to share in this event on 26<sup>th</sup> April at 19.15 in the village hall, where we shall celebrate all the many contributions with refreshments.

Further ahead, the Memories Project, which is recording residents' memories of living here over the decades and collecting memorabilia, will hold another get together on 20<sup>th</sup> July in the village hall. The team will report back on progress to date and offer opportunities for villagers to share their recollections together and with us. Work is proceeding steadily as we uncover a lot of local history to be lodged at the Essex Records Office and the University of Essex and select key material for a booklet. If you would like to make a contribution please contact the parish clerk ([parishclerk@wakescolne.org](mailto:parishclerk@wakescolne.org)).

Finally, by early April parish councillors will need to register for the local elections to be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>. As my colleagues have been aware for some time, I shall not be standing again for election. Having been elected to WCPC in January 2012 and been its Chairwoman for the last 2.5 years it has been a privilege to serve the village I have had a strong connection with for over 60 years. Serving in this voluntary capacity is frustrating in that nothing happens quickly or straightforwardly, determination and attention to detail are required; given that individuals' interests are often concerned, decisions can be controversial and there can be more brickbats, from which there is little redress, than support or even plaudits; but there are also opportunities for creative projects to benefit and take care of the community. I trust that my colleagues will go forward from strength to strength with the roles we have put in place to address, with due consideration and fairness, the responsibilities which the council has placed upon it.

Monica J. Taylor (Dr.) Chairwoman WCPC.