

Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2010

Parish Plan Initial Results Edition



Outside the Brick and Tile, 1936.

Published on behalf of Eight Ash Green Parish Council

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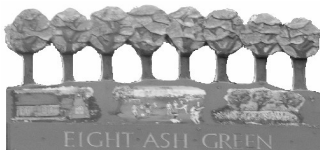
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Eight Ash Green Parish Plan Group
Consulting on the future of the Village

EAGPP



01206 248628
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DENNIS WILLETTS
Publicity Officer



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WINTERBOURNE
Committee



JOHN ALLCOCK
Committee



STEVE BROWN
Committee

Parish Plan Group Quarterly Report.

By Dennis Willetts, EAGPP Publicity Officer



At the end of January 2010 we reached a major milestone in the Parish Plan Project. You will remember that the Questionnaire was launched at the Village Festival in July 2009. It was delivered to every house and asked some 50 key questions about the planning, services and facilities of the village, and how our community should develop over the next 10 years.

By end of January almost 400 questionnaires had been returned and entered into the Parish Plan Database. Our analysis shows that at least one questionnaire was received from 40% of houses in the village. We had hoped that we might reach the 50% mark. Nevertheless, the Eight Ash Green result is still much better than that achieved by many of the other villages nearby that are also preparing a Parish Plan.

The EAGPP Group is now analysing the results in detail. Where the questions were in the form of a “Yes or No” tick-box, it was a quick process to tot-up the score. But for those questions where a text answer was sought, the analysis is more lengthy and complicated.

We have produced some initial results for the village’s most topical subjects. These are shown on pages 12 and 13 of this issue of the newsletter. More will follow in the July 2010 issue.

The next milestone for the main project is to publish all the results in a technical report. If there is sufficient demand, and the Parish Council has sufficient funds, we will distribute an “easy reading” version to the whole village.

The EAGPP Group has also issued two other questionnaires to gather additional information for the Parish Plan. With the help and assistance from the local secondary schools, we launched a “Young People’s” questionnaire seeking their views on the future of the village. We also sent a Business Questionnaire to the 60 companies and businesses that operate from the village.

Finally, a BIG thank you to everyone who filled-in a questionnaire. It is really appreciated.

SKIP LORRY NEWS

In 2008, the proprietors of Colchester Skip Hire applied to Essex County Council for Planning Permission to redevelop their site in Wormingford.

Application: Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford, Colchester

Reference: ESS/14/08/COL

Proposal: For the resubmission of application ESS/14/07/COL for the redevelopment of existing established recycling centre to provide new waste management facility and offices and the conversion of existing buildings to provide a vehicle and plant maintenance workshop and also additional storage areas, landscaping, hard-standing and rainwater harvesting system and associated change of use of land.

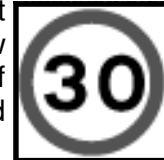
In December 2009 this Planning Application was refused by Essex County Council for 6 lengthy technical reasons that would occupy more space than can be allocated in the Village Newsletter. The main reasons for refusal were that the proposed application would create an industrial development within an unsuitable location outside the urban area of Colchester which would affect the amenity of the surrounding area.

The Company can continue to use their existing waste disposal buildings and equipment. The refusal does not reduce the number of skip lorry movements though the village.

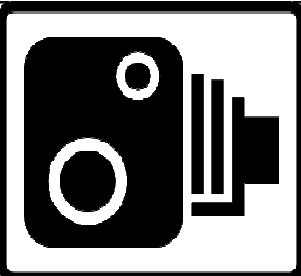
Contact Cllr Dennis Willetts (01206 240314) if you require a full copy of the notice to refuse planning approval.

SPEED MEASUREMENTS IN SPRING LANE

The automatic speed and volume surveys were carried out in Spring Lane during November 2009. These show average speeds of 34-35 mph and 85th percentile speeds of 39-40mph. The 85th percentile speed is a frequently used benchmark and is the speed exceeded by 15% of vehicles.



George Ward, Senior Engineer, East Area office, Essex County Highways



In the last edition we reported that The Parish Council was trying to form a Community Speed-watch Group. Interested people are trained to use a speed-gun and go on patrol in groups, sometimes with a police officer. **We still do not have all of the 6 volunteers needed to run the training course.** For more details contact Amy Harness, Parish Clerk, on 01206 729200.

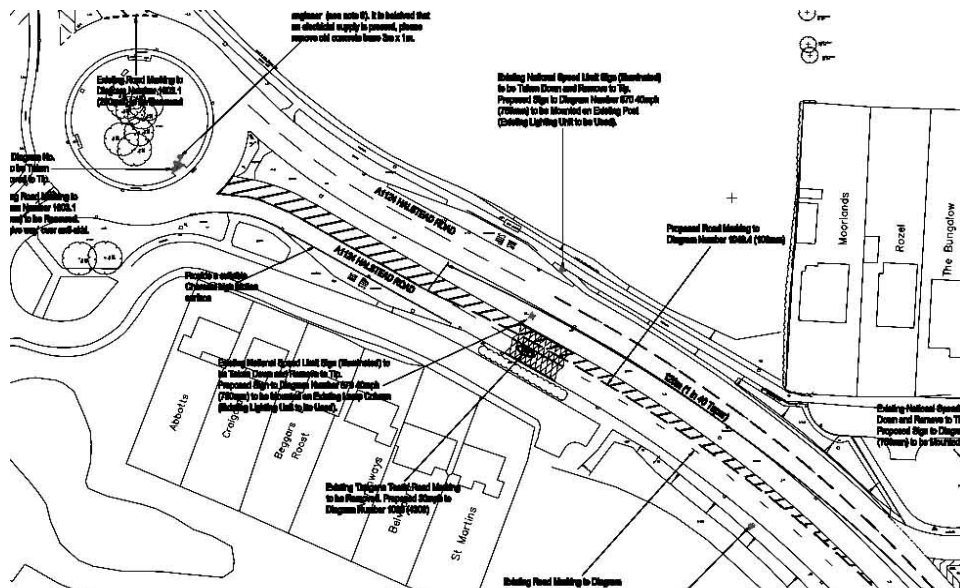
Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor.

I write with regard to the new traffic scheme that has been implemented on the A1124 as it approaches the Holiday Inn roundabout. Whilst I have no objection to the imposition of a new speed limit and would welcome attempts to reduce speed on approach to the village, the restriction of the existing dual carriageway to a single lane on approach to the roundabout suggests a lack of understanding by the powers that be on how that junction operates at busy times.

As those of us that use it in the morning or evening rush hour know, it takes very little disruption of the main road (parked car, road works etc) for the queue to stretch back up towards the A12 junction and this is with two lanes in operation. Now all those people u-turning at the roundabout to head down towards Chitts Hill will have to join the queue as well! It seems to me that the wrong approach has been used to tackle those few instances where vehicles have lost control on the roundabout and all of us are now likely to suffer as a result.

A concerned resident.



Remap is a national charity, where voluntary members give their time and skills to undertake the challenge of adapting aids and making one-off inventions. These inventions are all designed to assist individual disabled people to gain more self sufficiency and greater independence. We need more help at our Colchester branch, so if you have the time, we would value having your skills, technicians / engineers/ designers/ craftspeople/some one to take the minutes. The final delivery of a piece of equipment, which the client receives, is free of charge. Local contacts; Chairperson Lynne Ashkham 07906 256118 or Sue Tye 01206 792182. www.remap.org.uk

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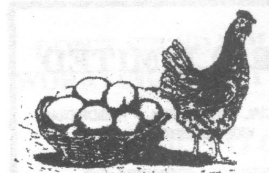
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**LEN LUFF, VILLAGE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
with an eye for the erroneous, an ear for the
egregious and a nose for nonsense.**

Here's your chance to let off steam about the things that irritate YOU in our village. If you'd like to have a moan – in the strictest confidence – just email the Newsletter's special correspondent, Len Luff, at lenluff@tiscali.co.uk and we'll print your comments!

Hardly surprisingly, most of your moans this issue concerned snow, and the effects thereof!

"In view of recent warnings of colder winters (despite global warming!) and bearing in mind how badly the village suffered in December and January, could we not have bins containing grit or salt situated at various points in the village, especially Heathfields, Searle Way, The Walk and The Rise, where they could be used by residents?"

Good point indeed; perhaps the Parish Council could take this on board, and advise us in due course?

"Sorry to come back to the 'parking in the road' problems mentioned last issue, but I was amazed how many people, during the recent snow and ice, still left their cars in the road, making it almost impossible for neighbours to leave their own driveways, and greatly increasing the risks of an accident!"

What can I say? Idiots will be idiots! If and when we find ourselves snowbound again, I suggest taking a photo of such offending vehicles. It might be very useful in the event of any subsequent insurance claim, should an accident occur.

"We have four ponds in this village (Abbots Lane, Seven Star Green and two at Fordham Heath) and all of them are a mess. Who's responsible for maintaining these? Could we organise some summer working parties so that residents could keep them clean and tidy?"

A good point, and I'll ask the Parish Council for some details on this. Sadly, I hear of similar proposals that have failed because of Health and Safety requirements (honestly!) but it seems a good idea!

"Can I just say thanks and well done to all those people who DID clear the pavements of snow in front of their houses, and the private residents who put down sand and grit at their own expense during the winter freeze!"

Indeed you may, and I'll heartily endorse that. Incidentally, next time bear in mind that a bag of cat litter in the boot is invaluable in a freeze!

"I haven't seen the mobile police station in front of the village hall lately; will it be coming back?"

I understand the rota for this was severely disrupted by the recent bad weather, but I believe it will be coming back in due course.

The Parish Council do as much as they can to keep Eight Ash Green a village in which we can be proud to live, but we are also a Community. If every person gave some thought, showed some consideration for their neighbours, most of these problems would not arise!

We ALL have a responsibility for the Village – let's do our best to live up to them!



Eight Ash Green Village Festival Committee



Eight Ash Green Festival, Saturday 17th July, 2010

Planning has started for the 2010 Village Festival, so fingers crossed for a hot sunny day so we can all have a wonderful time. Over the winter the Festival committee has been working hard preparing this year's festival.

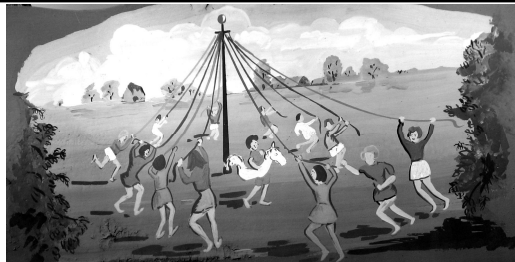
The aim of the Festival committee is to continue to hold a free event for everyone to enjoy. This is made possible by fund raising, massive sponsoring by our local surrounding businesses and the backing of our Parish Council.



The 2010 Festival will be bigger and better. We will have live bands playing throughout the afternoon alongside many events and displays. At the end of the evening we will finish in great style, with a Firework display.



EAG May Fayre Seven Star Green May-day Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2010 10.30 am for 2 hours



Maypole dancing dates back to the time when the Romans occupied the British Isles. The beginning of May was a very important five-day feast for the Romans. It was devoted primarily to that time when flowers break into bloom and crops begin to grow strongly.

After last year's very successful event, the Parish Council has again issued a licence for maypole dancing to take place on Seven Star Green on May Day Bank Holiday. We hope to have a demonstration by the village primary school, followed by maypole dancing for children, adults and senior citizens. There will also be a line-dancing demonstration and many other attractions. The Scouts will provide a scrumptious barbeque. Any other EAG organisations and village groups are most welcome to set up impromptu stalls or give demonstrations. Phone 210959 for details.

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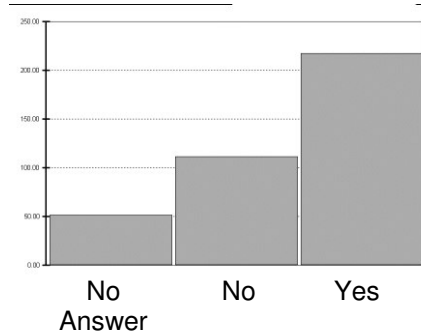
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Some initial results from the Parish Plan Questionnaire

Larger versions with more detail on the EAGPP on-line news page at www.eightashgreen.com

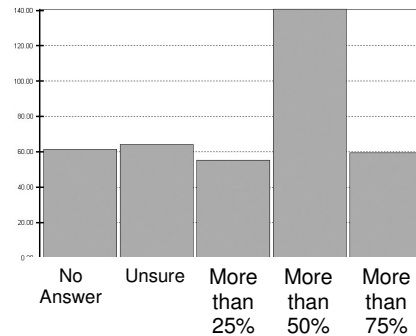
Question 10.

Looking at employment potential opportunities in the village, do you want to see more local employment?



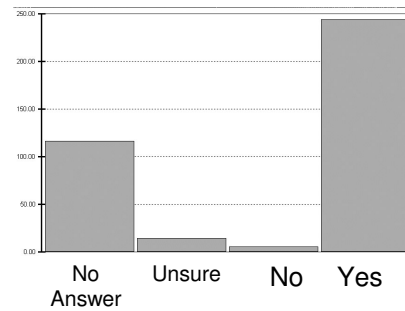
Question 22B.

What proportion of motorists do you think exceed the existing speed limits in Spring Lane?.



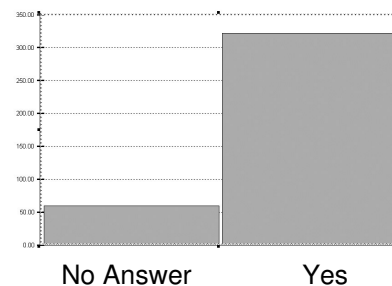
Question 27A:

Currently, there is only one dedicated pedestrian crossing in the village, near to the Brick and Tile. Should there be one near to the petrol station by Wood Lane?.



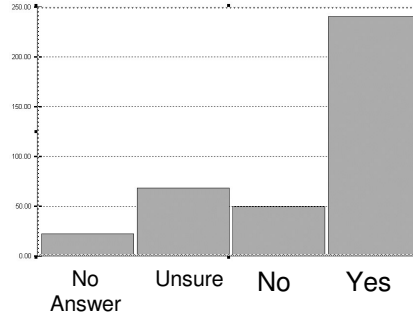
Question 29F:

What other facilities would you like to see in the village. Would you like the return of a Post office?.



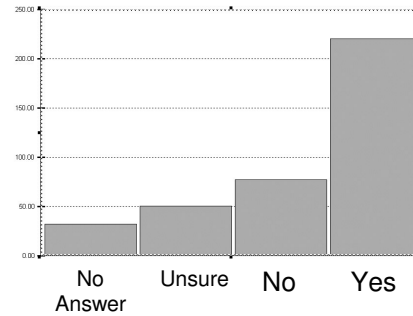
Question 30A.

Considering play areas for children in the village, would you like to see a new children's play area in the village?



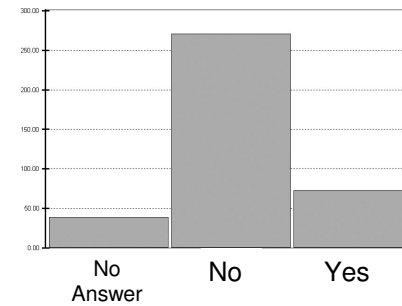
Question 30B.

Do you think a children's play area should be provided on the Heath opposite the Cricketer's Public House?



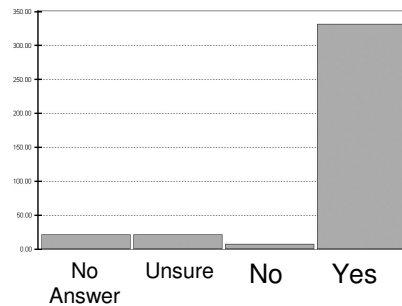
Question 36.

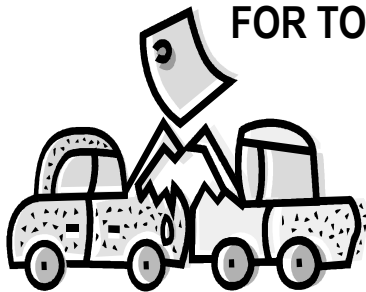
Household Rubbish collection. Do you want to see the introduction of wheelie bins?



Question 38.

Do you think that the Countryside in and around the village should be protected?.





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girls in the lead

Report from Eight Ash Green Brownies

In December, as well as all the usual pre-Christmas activities, we were lucky enough to be donated 30 saplings from the Woodland Trust via the Sainsburys Active Kids Scheme. With the help of Derek Franklin and Ken Free from the Parish Council we spent an enjoyable morning planting the trees into the grounds of the church and on Seven Star Green. With the permission of the Parish Council we also “planted” a time capsule on Seven Star Green.



Brownies started 2010 with our big centenary adventure, together with over 2000 girls from the Anglia region, 14 girls from Eight Ash Green journeyed to Butlins Skegness for the Starburst 2010 Centenary Celebration. We had been eagerly awaiting this event since last January and it did not disappoint. As well as the chance to meet up with Brownies from all across the region the girls had the opportunity to try out a wide variety of activities including cheerleading, swimming and bowling, we even had special guest visitors in the form of Same Difference. It was a remarkable event to celebrate Girlguiding's centenary year and has hopefully provided the girls who attended memories to last a lifetime.

Back here in Eight Ash Green we have been equally busy with a jam-packed term planned. So far this term we have enjoyed an ice cool evening, where we made ice cream and completed the Liverpool Girlguiding Penguin Challenge. We have visited Colchester Fire Station to learn about fire safety and the work of fire fighters. To complete their fire safety interest badges the girls have been challenged to complete an escape plan from their homes. Making use of our Active Kids vouchers we learnt some rock 'n' roll dance moves, and have even been on a night hike around the village!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



The year started with a talk from the keepers of Colchester Zoo who spoke about the intricate breeding programme undertaken by the Zoo for animal conservation. There were so many questions from the members, that the keepers were quite late in leaving at the end of the evening. Not that they minded - a really enthusiastic group of people and totally committed to this invaluable work!!

Tuesday 6 th April	The City of Westminster
Tuesday 4 th May	The Animals of Springstep Dairy
Tuesday 1 st June	A Paramedic and his Unusual Experiences

We had another delightful evening at our February meeting which was entitled 'Singing from the Heart' where we all joined in the songs old and new.

This was also so enjoyed that once again the meeting overran and the ladies in charge of the teapot had to be prompted to put the kettle on!!!

Our next meetings for this year are all at 7.30pm, Fordham Village Hall.

For further information, please call our Secretary, Audrey Crees, 01206 241293, or just turn up on the night. You can be sure of a warm welcome!!

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EAG ACTION GROUP

At the AGM held on 24th February, the meeting decided to keep the Action Group and its funds in place until the Borough Council's 15-year plan for development of the town and surrounding villages has been approved by the Government's Planning Inspector. The Planning Inspector has been appointed and work starts at the end of March. It is expected to finish in summer. A further public meeting will be called when the outcome is known.

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Colchester, North Station, Forecourt ➡																				2230
Colchester, Bus Station	0600	0627	0745	-	0945	1045	1145	1245	1345	1445	1545	1615	1620	1645	1705	1745	1750	1845	2040	2240
Lexden, Halstead Road Corner	0610	0637	0758	-	0958	1058	1158	1258	1358	1458	1558	1628	1631	1658	1718	1758	1803	1858	2050	2250
Stanway, Beacon End, Lucy Lane South												1602	-	1634	-	-	1807	-	-	-
Eight Ash Green, Brick and Tile	0614	0641	0804	-	1004	1104	1204	1304	1404	1504	1604	1634	1636	1704	1724	1804	1809	1904	2056	2256
Fordham Heath, Cricketers												1606	-	1639	-	-	1811	-	-	-
Haymillis Estate, Fiddlers Folly												1608	-	1641	-	-	1814	-	-	-
Haymillis Estate, Fiddlers Folly	-	-	0805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fordham Heath, Cricketers	-	-	0807	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight Ash Green, Brick and Tile	0724	0751	0810	0805	0922	1022	1122	1222	1322	1422	1522	1622	1727	1814	-	1851	1919	2016	2208	0001
Lexden, Halstead Road Corner	0730	0757	0816	0811	0928	1028	1128	1228	1328	1428	1528	1628	1733	1820	-	1855	1923	2020	2212	0005
Colchester, Bus Station	0743	0810	0829	0824	0941	1041	1141	1241	1341	1441	1541	1641	1746	1833	-	1908	1933	2030	-	0015
Colchester, North Station, Forecourt ➡																				2225

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LOCAL WALK No2 (6 miles) by Peter Jones and John Allcock

From the Village Hall, turn left and then turn left into Huxtables Lane. Follow this all the way round and cross straight over Heath Road. **BEWARE OF TRAFFIC**. Go down the road and immediately before the first house on the LHS, turn left. Follow the track through the metal gate, going straight on. At the signpost by the hedge, take the path down the hill, passing through another metal gate. At Porter's Lane, turn right and then immediately left through a kissing gate. By the footpath sign, turn right and go across the field and over the stile. As you go down the hill, head for the middle pillbox of three. At the pillbox, turn left on to a narrow animal track aiming for the small, lone tree in the field. From there, you will see a hedgerow forward left with two large trees, one at each end. Keep parallel with this but head for a gap in the hedgerow *directly in front of you* by the side of the road. Go through another metal kissing gate and turn right, moving along the right hand side of the road.

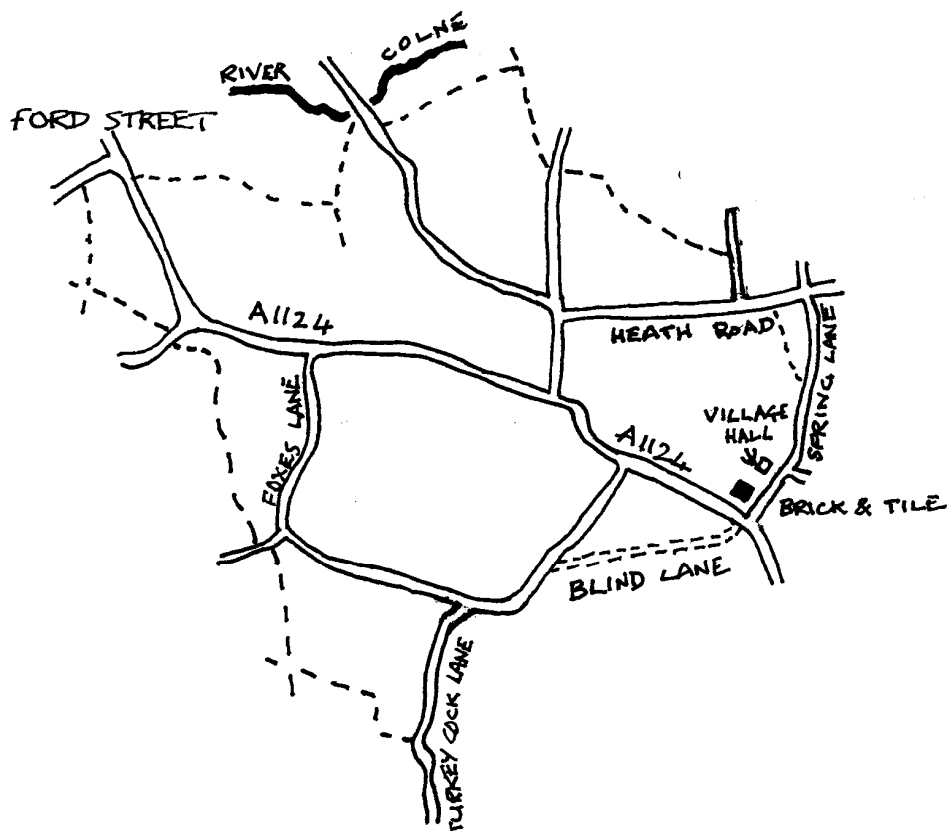
Just before the bridge, with the lay by on your right, cross over the road by the footpath sign on the LHS **BEWARE OF TRAFFIC**. Walk across the field and go up the RHS of Fiddlers Wood. Half way up, turn right keeping to the left of the hedgerow. Follow the hedgerow and go through the gap at the end, over a footbridge. Turn right and follow the edge of the field round to the left with the river to your right.

At the A1124, turn right and cross the very busy road **BEWARE OF TRAFFIC** and almost immediately, turn left by the signpost to Aldham Church. Keep to the left and up the hill, before the right hand bend, turn left by the white sign "Andy Belcher, Blacksmith". Go *straight up the hill* passing another pillbox on your left near the brow of the hill. At the top, turn left before the wooden footbridge and follow the path. Arriving at Cross Gallows Green road (pond to your front), turn right. By the bend in the road, bear left passing along the right side of the houses keeping to the edge of the field. Carry on until you see a bridge with metal handrails on your left, slightly hidden in the hedgerow. Stop, turn 90 degrees to your right and cross the field in front of you, heading for the footbridge and stile. Go over these and follow the edge of the field to your left, passing a number of taps on the left. Go directly, *straight through* the yard at Thurgoods Farm, passing numerous horses on your right. (Do NOT try and follow the rather complicated footpath signs around the buildings.) At the end, crouch/go through a large wooden, open square gap in the hedgerow and turn

left along the road. Passing some tall Cypress trees on your left along with a cottage in need of some renovation (!!!!!), at the bend, turn right by the footpath sign, crossing a stream. Turn left and walk along the edge of the open field.

Follow the edge, turning left by a very distinctive wooden footpath sign and move along the right hand edge of the field. Pass through a very big, wooden kissing gate, cross the field and go through another very big, wooden kissing gate. Turn immediately right through a row of new trees, turning left very soon over a footbridge going straight through Barnplants Garden Centre car park.

At Turkey Cock Lane, turn left and walk alongside the road. **BEWARE OF TRAFFIC.** Nearing the A1124, bear right and walk down Blind Lane. If you remember, Walk No 1 ended by the Brick and Tile public house and surprise, surprise, this Walk emerges at exactly the same place!!



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(money raised will go to support Eight Ash Green Cricket Club)**

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Colchester

This is part of an occasional series
of social events put on by Fordham
Parish Church which include a brief
explanation of the relevance of
Christianity for life today.

a passion for life

VILLAGE HALL NEWS



The village hall was completed in 1948. Since then it has been used and hired for a variety of events, and also by an wide array of different organisations. These include toddler groups, karate, line dancing, Christian service meetings, carpet bowls, funeral receptions etc. The Village Hall also hosts a new youth club for the village run by Parish Council Chairman, Mr Franklin.

The rates of hire are always kept a low as possible, thus keeping it a most popular venue, and good value. Recently, the hall has been given a 'face lift'. The plaster outside was renewed and painted. The windows have been double glazed, not only modernising the outside, but also ensuring improved security. To keep heating costs as low as possible the Hall has been fully insulated

Inside, new curtains have recently been purchased, as the old blue ones were literally falling apart and badly faded. A disabled toilet has been installed. These projects all take time to arrange, as we have to comply with new health and safety legislation requirements.

We are grateful to the small committee, chaired by Mr Alden who give their time voluntarily to organising, and assisting with all aspects of running the hall, even to checking everything is ok after some of the more 'lively' parties!

The village realised the value of having a central meeting place during the "park and ride" problems when the hall 'came into its own'. It was wonderful to see so many residents attending the meetings. The hall was absolutely packed, and we sensed a real community atmosphere, a rewarding feeling for those that give their time to looking after the Village Hall.



ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD

The village correspondent for the ECS Rural Life column is Colin Fairweather, 01206 562860, 48 The Walk, Eight Ash Green, CO6 3QG. Reports from local organisations should be sent directly to Colin for publication in the Essex County Standard.

The Editor's page

One of the major talking-points in the village at the moment are the "potholes" where our roads have been ravaged by the freezing weather. Most of it is caused by "Shoddy Workmanship". The roads are dug up by a variety of public utilities, who never seem to achieve a water-proof repair. Water seeps in and freezes, breaking up the area around the repair. If you see any potholes that you consider to be dangerous and need immediate attention, please report them without delay to the County Council's East Area Highways Office on 0845 603 7620.



In this issue I am delighted to publish several letters to the Editor. Might I encourage more villagers to use the Newsletter to express their views on topical matters. I am quite happy to publish letters anonymously provided they are not political or slanderous. I have a suspicion that at least one letter in this issue might be a spoof, but provided it is a "good read" the EAGPP editorial committee is quite laid-back on the matter.

Our mysterious Village Special Correspondent, "Len Luff" also continues his good work in this edition, reporting on the major issues about which the village is gossiping. Len's identity is a closely guarded secret. But it means that an off-hand remark at the bar, or the cheery remark voiced across the road to a neighbour might well make it onto the Newsletter's pages.

Although we hear criticism that there is nothing to do in the village, I am amazed at the number of organisations and clubs that we have here. It is obvious reading the Newsletter that some clubs are much better organised at advertising their existence and getting their activity reports to the Editor. Perhaps those clubs and societies from whom we rarely hear should make a new-year's resolution to tell the rest of the village what they do and why people should join. Have you considered a stall at the May Fayre??

Finally might I express my thanks on behalf of the EAGPP Group to everyone who has supported this edition of the Village Newsletter, particularly the correspondents from clubs and activity groups who provide articles, the advertisers who contribute to the Parish Council over half the cost of printing, and the diligent band of volunteers who deliver it.

The next edition will be distributed in July 2010. Topical articles, letters and news should be sent to The Editor by 20th June 2010, details below.

Cllr Dennis Willetts, Publicity Officer, Parish Plan Group.
Tel 01206 240314, e-mail: dennis.willetts@btinternet.com,
The Retreat, Wood Lane, Fordham Heath, CO3 9TR

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Parish Council for their ingenuity in tackling the speeding issue on the A1124 Halstead Road.

During the last two weeks I noticed a crack-down on speeding within the village. Only the other day I saw two (yes I did say Two) yellow coated figures standing prominently by the A1124 at Seven Star Green sign chatting.

This was a major surprise to me as I thought that Eight Ash Green had been completely forgotten by our wonderful law enforcement community. But it appeared that I had been a little hasty with my assumptions.

However on my return from a well known supermarket some 2 hours latter, I observed that the two figures had not moved an inch. But the fact that the traffic was slowing down showed that they were certainly achieving the desired effect.

I have now tumbled the ruse. Congratulations firstly to whoever came up with the idea and secondly, kudos to the person that sourced such realistic mannequins in yellow Police coats.

They were good enough to fool me and many other motorists into thinking that the police had rediscovered Eight Ash Green!

Yours sincerely
Tinram Thirwg.

P.S where are the Parish Council storing them and maybe we could put them along some other busy spots in the village!

Letter of complaint to the Editor

Dear Editor

It has come to my attention that persons unknown recently moved two of my Police Officers from Seven Star Green and placed them at the notorious speeding black-spot in Spring Lane. This is tantamount to obstructing a police officer in the course of his duty, which is a serious offence. Secondly it is very inconvenient because, should we need to react instantly to emergencies elsewhere, my Control Room has great difficulty keeping track of them if they have been moved. The correct procedure is to wait until they have finished their two-hour private conversation, then politely ask them to proceed to Spring Lane.

Yours sincerely
Chief Constable.

POND NEWS: Three of the village ponds are in need of clearing and dredging. The Parish Council had scheduled this work for February 2010. Because of the wet weather and soggy ground, it was not possible get the mechanical equipment onto the banks without doing serious damage. The work has been re-scheduled for Autumn. Thanks to Len Luff for raising it!.

“SNOW, SNOW, SNOW” Article by John Allcock

How many of us, of a certain age, will remember those words from the 1954 classic film “White Christmas” with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney? What a great film. Well, this winter, we had good cause to remember the snow. Scotland had its’ coldest December and January for 100 years. And it wasn’t just the UK that had problems. Over the weekend 30/31st January, dozens of roads were closed in Germany with hundreds of accidents and 3 deaths occurring nationwide. Planes were delayed or cancelled and their public transport system ground to a halt. Yes, it happens over there as well!

At first, the snow looked lovely especially when accompanied by clear, crisp sunny days. The Heath – the jewel in the crown for our village – looked fabulous with pristine snow, hoar frost on the trees and at the right time of day, deliciously quiet. Lovely views could also be found by walking down to Cooks Mill, through the gate and looking right across the fields to West Bergholt where, if you were very lucky, you could see the deer and the rabbits running round. Up the track to West Bergholt Hall provided another all white and stunning vista and a chance to iron out the cobwebs. How many of you took the children/grandchildren out to look at the animal tracks in the snow to see if you identify them and see where they went? It is good fun and educational as well.

We all had different perspectives. Humans liked the look of the snow from inside a warm house, hated the ice and the slush and endured difficult travelling conditions, the dogs loved running about, our cats hated it and wouldn’t go out and the birds struggled to find food. The wise old hedgehogs were fast asleep and warm as toast amongst the leaves and moss, under the ferns in our back garden.

But when the deep snow arrived and settled, followed by freezing overnight temperatures, the fun really began. Roads became treacherous especially those that didn’t get any grit. Heathfields became like a skating rink with drivers having to make two or three attempts to get up the hill from the Searle Way end. Cars got stuck, inexperienced drivers tried to get their cars moving using first gear and spinning the wheels – better to start off in second gear and keep a light and consistent pressure on the accelerator - vehicles span round in the middle of the road, selfish people simply dumped “their” snow up against other cars. You could judge how bad the frost was each night by how long it took your neighbour to use his scraper to clear his windscreen in the morning. It was even better when you could then turn over and stay in the lovely warm bed for another half an hour because you didn’t have to get up so early!

Do you remember the worries (or was it panic) about the grit running out which wasn’t helped by thieves who stole a two ton grit bin in East Renfrewshire and other, selfish people who stole grit out of a roadside bin near Wood Lane here in Eight Ash Green, very early in the morning so they could use it on their drive. (Oh yes, you were overheard when you kept saying “Shoosh” to your fellow thief!!!) Blow everyone, else, I’m alright jack.

But it wasn’t all bad news. Neighbours were seen going out to help stranded motorists, people made sure their elderly neighbours were OK and lets’ face it, the children had a great time making snowmen (or should that be “snowpeople?”) and going tobogganing in Hilly Fields. For the parents it wasn’t always so good having to arrange additional child care when the local schools closed down.

Overall, we probably enjoyed the snow but are grateful it only happens for a short while, once a year. Roll on the spring and summer!

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All Saints Church Update

The Rectory, Wood Lane. 01206 243265

A recent highlight, and some upcoming events

Friendship Club 21st Birthday: Congratulations to our group for older people on their 21st birthday. They meet monthly, and new members are most welcome to the varied programme of events.

Mothering Sunday – 14th March: This is a special Sunday for many, and you are most welcome to our Mothering Sunday service for the combined Eight Ash Green and Fordham congregations, 10 am at Fordham Church, where we give out posies of flowers.

A Passion for Life – 20-28th March: This is the title we're giving to a week of special events – including a quiz at The Cricketers Pub – to which we invite the whole parish.

Holiday Club: Looking further ahead, the dates for this year's Holiday Club for primary aged children are the mornings of 23rd-26th August.

Moving on: On a personal note, I will be moving-on over the Summer to become the Vicar of Laleham, just south of Heathrow on the River Thames. I will have completed seven years here in Eight Ash Green, which is an unusually long stay for an assistant minister. It has been a great time, and a lovely place to live, both personally and as a family, and it will be very sad to leave so many friends.

Rev Andy Saville

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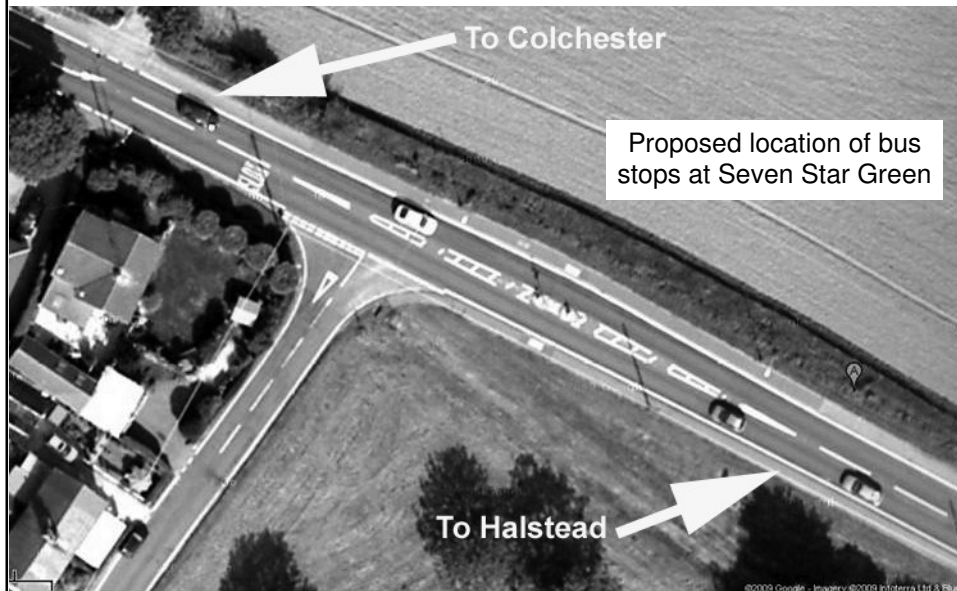
Colchester Borough Council and Essex Police now provide you with a direct line on which to report anti-social behaviour: 01206 282731. It will operate 8.30am - 5.30pm Monday to Friday. You can speak to a team of dedicated specialists who can talk through your problems and deal with your call more efficiently. Callers outside these times should leave a message, but emergencies, urgent calls and threats to life should still ring 999.

BUS SERVICE NEWS by Christine Willetts, Parish Council Transport Representative. 01206 240314.

I have two matters to report. Essex County Council have agreed to provide a proper raised-kerb bus stop at the bus shelter outside Porters Cottages (towards Colchester) although we still have a very limited service on that bus route.

ECC are consulting on the possibility of a raised kerb on the opposite side of the road near Fiddlers Folly for passengers returning from the Town. Because of the very limited parking for residents on that side of the road, I have asked for a site visit during evenings or weekends. ECC will see where residents park, and have an opportunity to hear views on where a raised kerb would cause the least inconvenience to everyone.

Traditionally there have been bus stops at Seven Star Green. In recent years they have fallen into disuse and the signs have been removed. Some bus drivers on the No 88 service are now reluctant to make stops here at all. Following a thorough safety analysis, ECC have now agreed to re-instate the Seven Star Green bus stops at slightly different points, as shown below.



EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor Derek Franklin. Parish Clerk: Amy Harness

Chairman's Report

There are reports of dog fouling on the village footpaths and we ask all dog owners to pick up after their dogs. Once again this is a small minority of people causing a problem for the majority. We have requested the attendance of the Borough Dog Wardens to visit the Parish and dog owners should be aware that there is a £70 fixed penalty for offenders.

A quick update on bus shelters: Two new shelters have now been erected and the two existing Parish shelters are to be repainted in the near future.

Pot holes are causing big problems this year and many have been reported to the Highways. If you are aware of any that seem to be outstanding please report direct to Highways department by calling 0845 603 7631

The Parish Council continues to consult with the Cricket Club and the Football Club regarding the management of Fordham Heath.

Concerns have been raised regarding unauthorised parking on the heath, Vehicles driving along the Huxtables Lane Bridle Path and the placing of objects on Fordham Heath, these matters are all subject to ongoing discussions.

I represented the Parish Council at the opening of 2 new classrooms at Doucecroft School. This was an excellent addition of this much needed facility. The ribbon was cut by a former pupil. I would like to thank the residents of Abbots Lane for their hard work in maintaining the pond and surrounding area.

The Youth Group.

The youth group meets in the village hall on Wednesday evenings and has been running for over a year now. Dates and times of the club are published on the village notice board.

At the moment the membership is static and there are vacancies for new members. The cost for the evening sessions is increasing to £1.00 from the first of March. The club accepts any one from the age of ten to nineteen. Currently the average age of the members is around 12-years and this is an equal mix of boy and girls.

If the Youth Group is to continue further assistance is required, so we are appealing for any parent or adult interested in youth work, who would like to help out, (even if its only for 2 hours a month) please ring 01206 210959 to discuss further.

The club recently received a grant from Colchester Borough Homes and has purchased WII equipment for 4 players, in addition to the Table Tennis, Darts and other activities provided by the Club. We continue to participate in the Essex association of Boy and Girl Clubs sponsored events, which include Indi Kart racing and other outdoor activities.

Parish Clerk's Page, Amy Harness, 01206 729200

Household Rubbish & Fly Tipping!

Were you aware that if you continually place your bin bags and recycling out too early you could be fined?



Colchester Borough Council currently issue two letters to a household following complaints that waste is placed out too early. If you receive two warning letters and still place your rubbish out early then you may then be liable to a Penalty Charge Notice of £100. Repeat offenders may be taken to court where the fine on conviction can be anything up to £1000!

Do you know where your rubbish ends up?

Businesses are legally responsible to ensure their waste is disposed of correctly. But were you aware that as an individual you also have this responsibility? Sure you don't need to hold onto your waste collection receipts for a minimum of two years but you do have to make sure your waste is disposed of correctly.

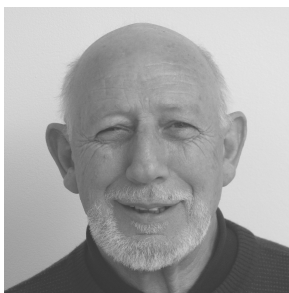
Any person or company that removes waste from a domestic property (garage clearances, landscaping, etc.) must be registered with the Environment Agency as a waste carrier. You can check whether they are or not by telephoning the Environment Agency (08708 506506) or by checking their website enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk If a person or company is not listed with the Environment Agency, please be cautious as they may in fact use illegal means to dispose of waste which could have implications for you in the future. If you fail to take reasonable steps to ensure that waste from your property is legally collected and disposed you may find yourself the subject of direct Court action if evidence is found fly-tipped which identifies the source

Help to keep our village looking lovely and please remember:

Fly tipping fines go up to £20,000 and/or 6 months' imprisonment. There is no limit on a fine should the case go to the Crown Court or a sentence of up to 2 years' imprisonment could be imposed. If the fly tipped rubbish is of a hazardous nature this sentence could be increased to 5 years.

Householders are responsible for their own waste and must ensure that it is collected and disposed of legally. Householders are liable for any fly tipped waste that is discovered and will be investigated accordingly.

THE PARISH COUNCILLORS



Cllr Derek Franklin (Chairman) 210959. derekfranklin@btinternet.com. I moved to the village in 1968. I formed the EAG FC, playing in the Colchester Sunday League. I later ran the Scout group football team for a season. As a Parish Councillor I help as much as possible to retain the sense of a rural community. I have an interest in supporting anything which enhances the activities of young people in the village and providing support for the elderly which I believe can only be to the benefit of us all.



Cllr Richard Brown, 07894789107, richard.e.brown@hotmail.co.uk. I am Vice Chairman. I have lived in Spring Lane for the past 45 years. My interests lie in maintaining Eight Ash Green's character and identity, looking after its Footpaths, Heaths and Greens, to be enjoyed by us all for years to come. At the present the village has some volunteers who work with the Parish Council and the County Youth Services to start a village Youth Club, early signs of this are looking very positive, but we do need more volunteers to help out.



Cllr Andrew Cook, 07977 075761, handacook@yahoo.co.uk. Being comparatively new to the role of Parish Council when compared to a number of my colleagues, the last year has been a steep learning curve. I have however had a very enjoyable twelve months involved in the parish plan group and its work, together with moving forward on the seemingly endless quest to establish a new play area within the village.



Cllr Ken Free, 01206 210598, kenfree@tiscali.co.uk. After 12 years on the Parish Council at the end of the last century with a particular involvement in planning matters, I stood down believing that new people bring new ideas. I came back in 2001 and this time was mainly concerned with the heaths and greens and new government rules on how Parish Councils should run. I was Chairman 2003-05 at a time when the very existence of the Council was in doubt due to lack of people willing to stand. We have now worked through that and have some excellent new (and young) blood on the Council.

Eight Ash Green Parish Council



Cllr Chris Gray, 07909 926811, harold.c.gray@btinternet.com. In 2009 we set up the Youth Club which has been quite a success largely due to the efforts of Derek Franklin. We also obtained funding which enabled us to buy a TV, Wii equipment and games. I am now focussing on the development of a new Web Site for the Village which I hope to implement sometime in the Summer.



Cllr Will Ralph, 01206 213509, debwillralph@aol.com. I have lived and worked in the Village all of my life. I farm in partnership with Debbie my wife in Turkey Cock Lane. I have an in-depth knowledge of the village and its inhabitants. I am a practical hands-on person who is out and about in the village most days. As a farmer, I care deeply for Eight Ash Green and the local environment. My special concern is the natural environment and wildlife. I particularly enjoy serving on the Heaths and Greens subcommittee.



Cllr Liz Warren, 01206 240626, johnwarren18@live.co.uk. I am the newest member of the Parish Council. I have lived in the village for most of my life. My main interest is the natural environment. I feel extremely lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the county. I have joined the Heaths and Greens sub committee. Heaths and greens should be accessible to as many people as possible. I am often found riding my horse around the village or walking the footpaths and bridleways with my dogs.



Cllr Christine Willetts, 01206 240314, christine.willetts@btinternet.com. I moved to the village 12 years ago and joined the Parish Council a short time later. I am a member of the sub-committee that examines all planning applications for the village, from small extensions to large developments, so I really welcome the production of a Parish Plan. My greatest interest however, is local public transport. I represent the village at the Parish Transport Coordination meetings at County Hall, where we are battling to get decent bus services for the villages on the outskirts of

Village Contacts

Essex County Council	0845 743 0430
Colchester Borough Council	282222
Eight Ash Green Parish Council	729200
Holy Trinity Primary School	240880
Stanway School	575488
Village Hall booking	562860
Police Sergeant Mike Lee	07966 197134
Revd Dr Andy Saville (Church of England)	243265
Revd Ruth Ridge (Methodist)	210141
Monsignor Arthur Barrow (Catholic)	576898
Zen Dental Clinic, Tollgate	762417
Tollgate Heath Centre	710030
The Brick & Tile	540468
The Cricketers	240666
Bernard Jenkin. MP	01376 564292
Cllr Anne Brown, County Councillor	321241
Cllr Jill Tod, Borough Councillor	366454
Cllr Dennis Willetts, Borough Councillor	240314
Derek Franklin, Chairman, EAG Parish Council	210959
Richard Brown, Parish Councillor	07894 789107
Andrew Cook, Parish Councillor	07584218280
Ken Free, Parish Councillor	210598
Chris Gray, Parish Councillor	07909 926811
Will Ralph, Parish Councillor	213509
Liz Warren, Parish Councillor	240626
Christine Willetts, Parish Councillor	240314

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19.00 Carpet Bowls Club, Village Hall
19.30 Ladies Monday Club, Methodist Church
20.00 ABT Blast, Keep Fit, Holy Trinity Primary School
- Tuesday — Explorer Scouts (ring 0845-0946-208 for details)
16.00 French lessons, Village Hall, (term-time only)
19.30 Line Dancing, Village Hall
19.30 WI, (1st Tuesday) Fordham Village Hall
20.00 Harley Davidson Club (1st Tuesday), The Cricketers
- Wednesday 18.30 Up Beat Wind Band, Holy Trinity Primary School
— Village Youth Club (except 1st Wed) Village Hall
19.00 Wednesday Club (1st Wednesday) Village Hall
19.30 Parish Council (2nd Wednesday) Village Hall
20.00 Quiz night (alternate Wednesdays) The Cricketers
20.00 Mini Club (1st Wednesday) The Cricketers
20.00 VW club (alternate Wednesdays) The Cricketers
- Thursday 10.00 Daisy Beaders, (2nd Thursday) The Cricketers
— Cubs (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue)
11.00 Holy Communion, (2nd Thursday) All Saints Church
19.30 Christadelphians Bible Class, Village Hall
- Friday 10.00 Little Pickles, Village Hall
16.30 Karate Club, Village Hall
— Beavers (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue)
19.30 Mens' Club, Village Hall
- Saturday 09.30 King Fu, Village Hall
- Sunday 10.00 Worship, EAG Methodist Church
10.00 Worship, Fordham (EAG and Fordham congregations)
11.15 Morning Prayer, All Saints EAG (1st Sunday in month)
14.15 Christadelphians Memorial meeting, Village Hall
16.15 Christadelphians Bible Talk, Village Hall

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Opinions appearing in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Parish Plan Group or Eight Ash Green Parish Council.