



Doddinghurst Parish Council



Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)

Church Lane, Doddinghurst,

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Seasons Greetings

Doddinghurst Parish Council would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We shall continue our work in 2012 with the many other community organisations to protect our village.

Quality Parish Council Status Renewed

Doddinghurst Parish Council is pleased to announce that it has been re-accredited with quality parish council status for another four years. Chairman Debbie Dicker and Parish Councillor Diane Rogers-Harrison attended a ceremony at the Essex Association of Local Councils where the presentation of the certificate was made. It is now proudly displayed on the wall of the Parish Office.

Parish Council Elections May 2012

How would you like to see Doddinghurst shaped for the future? In May 2012 the whole Council comes up for re-election at the end of its four year term. We hope many existing Councillors will decide to stay on, but some may feel it is time to step down. It would be good to know that the village had some community minded residents keen to fill any seats that become vacant. We would strongly encourage anyone interested to have an informal chat with the Clerk and discover the difference that you can make.

Future Parish Councillors?

In September Cllr. Dicker and the Deputy Clerk gave a presentation at the Junior School on Democracy and

Future Parish Councillors? **Cont'd/.....**

Citizenship. Both the way in which the parish council is funded and what it does in the village was explained to the children who all displayed a keen interest in learning more about their community.

Anti-Social Behaviour Update

An extremely distressing incident took place on October 31st near the Village Scout Hut. Youths decided to throw fireworks at young children and their parents as they were leaving Beavers. Attending Police were also subject to a bombardment of fireworks. At the time of writing there are still several days to go until Bonfire Night so it is to be hoped that last night was not the start of another campaign of anti-social behaviour by a group of small minded and stupid individuals. Another section of the Teen Shelter has been vandalised and left in an unsafe condition which means that yet more youth facility is likely to be withdrawn as a direct result of crass antisocial and criminal behaviour.

Anti-Social Behaviour Update **Cont'd/.....**

We would continue to impress upon residents the importance of reporting any incidents that they witness to the police, in confidence if necessary.

Diamond Jubilee **Celebrations - 3rd June 2012**

We are in the process of making the final arrangements for our fun-packed family day to celebrate this historic occasion next year. Please put the date in your diaries, Sunday 3rd June 2012, and come along to support this essentially free village event. There will be something for all ages! So far we have archery and a climbing wall, Gilbert Giggles the magician, donkey rides, circus skills, a disco, go karts, bouncy castles and a brass band. There will be a tug of war competition for the strong amongst you and the school children will be putting on a pageant in the Village Hall. All this fantastic entertainment will be accompanied by a barbecue and cream teas.

**Parking outside Peartree
Recreational Field opposite
Middle Green.**

The verge area adjacent to the entrance of Peartree recreational field has been badly damaged by vehicles parking on the verge to the point where the ground has sunk and been churned over. The area is between two field access points, one to a farmer's field and the other to the recreation field.

In order to enable the area to be repaired and prevent further damage the Parish Council is considering the use of wooden bollards to stop cars and vans mounting the verge to any significant degree whilst still permitting access for large vehicles to the two fields in question.

What is your view? Should the Parish Council install some 30 wooden bollards to prevent parking in this area? Will it cause problems in other areas instead? We would welcome your thoughts on the matter, so please contact us at the Parish Office by letter, phone or email.

Winter Salt Bag Scheme

Essex County Council have provided us with one tonne of salt to be used during wintry weather conditions. This salt is only for use on the public highway, i.e. pavements and roads (not private drives and pathways) and we are making them available to Doddinghurst residents **free of charge**.

If you feel that a bag would be useful in your road then please call in and collect it at the Parish Office during opening hours. Be warned, the bags are rather heavy (20 kg) so you will need a strong pair of arms to lift them into your vehicle! The salt is mixed with molasses which makes it a strange brown colour but we are assured they will do the job of making icy pavements and roads safer.

Supplies are strictly limited to one per household and they will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. If you require any further information then please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 01277 824245.

New Bus Shelter

The rather elderly bus shelter at the top of Doddinghurst Road is due for replacement very soon. In fact, it may even be in situ by the time you are reading this newsletter!

Dog Fouling

We are still getting reports about owners not clearing up after their dogs. Particular problem areas are the unmade road between Lime Grove and Peartree Lane and the burial ground. Please show consideration for other villagers and clear up after your dog. Also, dogs must always be on a lead when in the burial ground and certainly never be permitted to roam over the plots.

For further information on any of the items in this newsletter please note our office opening times are Tues, Weds and Thurs mornings 9.30 – 12.30. An answerphone service is available outside these hours.

Parish Council Office

Roger Blake
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For more information about the Council and the Village.

Doddinghurst Parish Council

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