ISSUE 73 – JAN 2022

UPDATE

THE NORTHAW AND CUFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Chairman's Welcome

It's been a busy year dealing with the final (or so we hope) stages of the Local Plan and formulating our own Neighbourhood Plan. At the time of writing, we seem to be facing a showdown on the Local Plan between WHBC and the Inspector with "non-negotiable deadlines" being imposed by the latter. After almost 6 years of examinations and hearings this shouldn't come as a surprise. By the time you read this we should know the result (… but I've said this in the past and nothing has happened) and we will either be in the middle of another series of hearings or the whole process may be wound up. I wouldn't dare try to predict which way it goes. Just when you think the direction of travel is clear, something happens to send it off course.

Whatever happens next, 2022 promises to be a busy year, as its expected that the Neighbourhood Plan will be concluded, and we will continue the fight to challenge over development; be it through the WHBC Local Plan or the Enfield BC Local Plan (and the potential for 7,500 homes at Crews Hill).

In 2021, the most emotive subject was the summer festivals. As you will probably know, the proposal for another site to host events for up to 5,000 people was refused and I would like to thank everyone who submitted their objections to this as it showed the strength of opposition. We are expecting a similar challenge from WHBC to the current site that caused so much mayhem and nuisance so we will let everyone know what the timetable is for this when it's published.

In the meantime, a very happy New Year to everyone.

Councillor Barry Knichel

What's been happening in Maynard Place?

Refurbishment of 7 Maynard Place

The Parish Council offices at 7 Maynard Place were closed for refurbishment for a 4 week period during October/November.

Over this period all the internal structures were removed, and replaced, to create a new, flexible, meeting space at the front, and a secure office space at the rear for the council staff.

Please do pop in. We are open Mon/Thurs Mon/Thurs 1pm – 5pm, Tues/Wed/Fri 10am – 2pm, but these hours are dependent on staff availability.

Planting in Maynard Place

Those of you who live, work or shop around the centre of Cuffley will have been observing the ongoing work to remove the palm trees from the brick planters in Maynard Place. The palm trees had outgrown their planters and it was agreed that allowing them to remain in situ would endanger the integrity of the brickwork. Advice was therefore sought and the decision was taken to remove the palm trees, and shore up the planters, at the beginning of last year.

Attempts to remove the palm trees revealed roots so large that the only way to remove them safely was to remove the vegetation, allow the roots to die and then to dig out the remnants. Unfortunately, the palm roots had their own plans, and, despite various applications of herbicide, were reluctant to cooperate.

In September, the decision was taken to cover the planters in the hope that by depriving them of light over an extended period of time they would have to retire from the lists gracefully. The polythene will remain in situ until Spring 2022, when we will peel back the layers and find out if we have been successful.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan has recently been the subject of formal public consultation. We received 41 responses, each of which has been considered in detail. We are currently revising the Draft Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the consultation feedback.

The revised document will then be put to both the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Parish Council for final approval. Subsequently the Draft Plan will be formally submitted to Welwyn and Hatfield Council who will put it out to further public consultation, and appoint a technical independent expert who will assess fitness for purpose and compliance with the various statutory requirements.

As part of the formal consultation conducted by Welwyn Hatfield Council all residents will have a second opportunity to make further observations which will be considered by the independent expert appointed.

Once the Draft Plan is assessed by the independent expert as being fit for purpose it will then be put to a local referendum, organised by Welwyn Hatfield Council, allowing all residents to vote on whether the Plan should be formally adopted and come into force.

The key advantages of having a Neighbourhood Plan are:

- Securing additional financial contributions from developers directly focussed on projects within the Parish and controlled by the Parish Council
- Establishes clear local planning policies to restrict inappropriate development
- Provides the community with more influence over the determination of planning applications
- It sets out key projects and policies that the Parish Council will pursue to maintain the essential character of the Parish

Based on the recent community consultation response we are confident that the Neighbourhood Plan meets the community's aspirations and we hope that at the appropriate time you will vote accordingly in the local referendum.

Councillor Bob Stubbs

For more information on the Neighbourhood Plan process, and to see the current draft plan, please go to our website at https://northawcuffleypc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/ where you will find information and links to assist you further.

If you wish to view a hard copy of the Neighbourhood Plan document, this can be made available by appointment with Sally Griffiths our Office Manager, who can be contacted by phone on 01707 875825, by email on officemanager@northawcuffleypc.org.uk , or by visiting the Parish Offices at 7 Maynard Place, Cuffley, EN6 4JA.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

2nd -5th June 2022

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, is planned to allow a National celebration in the form of public events, community activities, and national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

There is a dedicated Government website to allow you to find out about related events across the UK. This can be found at **https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/**

Please be aware that if you're planning to have a street party or event on a public road, you'll need to get permission to close the road from Hertfordshire County Council. Most closures should be free, if on a residential street and not affecting a bus route.

Applications can be made online at:
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/changes-to-your-road/street-parties-and-special-events.aspx
Please make sure that you apply before 21 April to allow processing time.
We would love to hear from you if you are arranging an event within the Parish.

Hertfordshire Home Library Service

The Hertfordshire Home Library Service delivers books to some of the most vulnerable and isolated people in the county. The Home Library Service currently supports around three hundred residents, and is made possible with the support of over a hundred DBS checked, trained, and dedicated volunteers.

For housebound residents the service is a lifeline. Not only because it provides reading material, tailored to personal interests, but that it is delivered by a familiar face allowing for regular social contact and a friendly chat.

The Home Library Service supports people who are unable to get to the library, for example those who:

- have a physical disability which prevents travelling to a library
- have a learning disability or mental health condition that makes it difficult to leave home alone
- are registered blind (severely sight impaired)
- are frail or in poor health which means they can't get to a library
- are a carer looking after someone affected by any of the above, and their caring responsibilities prevent them from getting to the library.

If you know of anyone who is eligible and would like to receive the Home Library Service, please contact your library via the Customer Service Centre on **0300 123 4049** or share the link below to apply.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/other-library-services/home-library-service/home-library-service.aspx

To help develop this service further, Hertfordshire Libraries have launched the "Reading Friends" scheme. This enables library staff, or volunteers, to have a telephone call with Home Library Service customers about their favourite books, television programme or any topic of interest. The initial response to these befriending telephone calls has been very positive and demonstrates the importance for this work to expand.

When customers are enrolled to the service they will also be offered the opportunity to join the Reading Friends scheme.

If you are aware of anyone who may be considering becoming a Home Library Service volunteer, please share the link below to the volunteering pages on the council website for more information and how to apply.

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/support-your-library/volunteering-at-your-library.aspx

The Ron North Pond, Northaw

The Ron North Pond is a spring fed pond, located off Judges Hill, Northaw. The pond is thought to have originated as a gravel quarry and to have formed part of the Manor of Northaw.

In late 2006 the pond was dedicated in the memory of Ron North, a volunteer warden who had taken care of this location for over 30 years prior to his passing earlier that year.

The pond was referenced on the Northaw Tythe map in 1849, showing land allotted under the enclosure act. This map shows that the land lay adjacent to, but was not included in, the property forming Nyn Park and was not in the register of Common Land at that time.

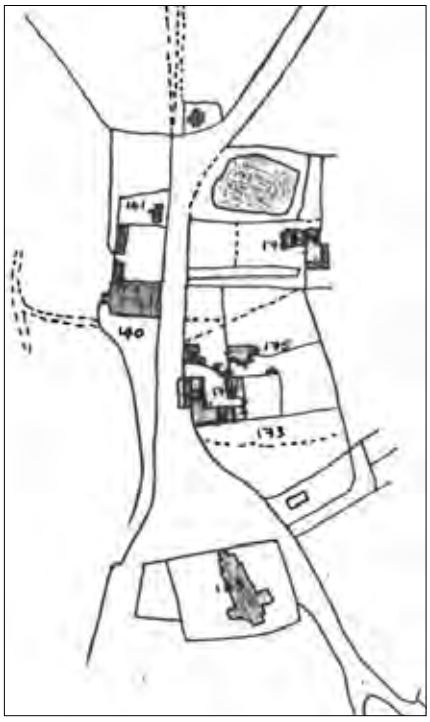
Few formal records of it's previous ownership have survived as, from the minute book covering 1894 – 1899, we understand the original titles were held in the vestry at Northaw Parish Church and were destroyed when this building burnt to the ground in 1881.

Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council formally received title of this land in November 1991, using statutory declarations from long standing residents of the Parish, references from minute books and historical maps of the area, to uphold their claim of long standing management of the site.

There are several references to Parish Council works being carried out at this location from the minute book covering 1933-1959, where it is referenced as the "Pond at West Hall".

West Hall, built in 1873, was originally called Sans Souci, which translates as "without worry" or " free of care".

However, in 1884, the County historian John Cussans described the house as being situated "by the side of a large pestiverous pond " and there are records of complaints in 1910 of an "evil smell" from the pond causing several of the household to fall ill with sore throats therefore, alas, this naming appears to have been more aspirational than apposite. Fortunately, the implementation of sewerage resolved this unpleasant situation for the residents.



Copy of extract from Northaw Tythe Map 1849 showing Ron North Pond at top right.

In late 1945 the Parish Council "… agreed that the pond near West Hall be fenced in and notice shown prohibiting fishing without a permit", however the existing safety barrier around the site was originally erected in 1991 under the auspices of the Northaw Conservation Society.

There are two visitor's benches at this location. One, a hand-crafted bench seat, was made and installed by the pond's namesake in 1991, and the second, a metal bench dedicated to his memory, was installed in 2007 after his passing.

After several seasons of neglect, groundwork was carried out by the Parish Council in the Summer of 2021, opening up access to this site again for visitors. In October 2021 a throw line and rescue bag, with 25m of line, was additionally installed at this location.

Northaw Playing Fields

Playground Repairs and Maintenance

AVA Recreation carried out a extensive program of maintenance and repair works, improving the safety of the play equipment at Northaw Playing Field in November.

Significant repairs were carried out to the equipment during this week-long schedule of work, including rotating the basket swing, to comply with requirements relating to falling space, and increasing the size of the enclosed play area by relocating the fence and access gate to align with the path.

Additional work was carried out to rectify safety issues with the Junior Multiplay, the Roundabout, and the Toddler Swings.

Vandalism

An unfortunate spate of vandalism at Northaw Playing Fields has meant that two wooden benches at this location have been destroyed in the last 12 months, at a cost of nearly £900 to the Parish.

The wooden benches have now been replaced by a metal bench, which hopefully will prove to be more suitable for this location.

Community News

Hertfordshire bowler celebrates 50 years in the sport

John Dowler of Northaw and Cuffley Bowling Club celebrated 50 years of bowling with a match against the Hertfordshire Bowls President's team on 7th September 2021.

John started bowling at Rosedale in 1970 and won their championship the following year. He went on to win Club championships with Rosedale, Cheshunt and Northaw and Cuffley on 11 occasions and won numerous other County and District honours.

He has been a regular member of the County side and played in the County Middleton cup team for over 30 years.

A bowling colleague said he was 'for twenty years, the best bowler in Hertfordshire'

John is continuing his bowling career at Northaw and Cuffley where only last Sunday he was part of the successful side which won the East Herts Bowls association fours competition.

John's club presented him with an inscribed watch to mark the occasion and the County president, Terry Barker of Potters Bar bowling club, presented him with a commemorative trophy."

Press contact Ray Brewer ray. **brewer15@gmail.com**

CANCER RESEARCH UK

Notice from Cuffley Friends of Cancer Research UK

Margaret Jarvis, a very valued and longstanding committee member, passed away on Wednesday, 15th December 2021.

As well as a hardworking member, Margaret was our Press Secretary for many years and will be greatly missed.

A message from your local Sergeant

My name is Sergeant Dan Bales and I lead your local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), covering Cuffley and Northaw. The SNT are your traditional 'bobbies on the beat', tasked with tackling local neighbourhood issues that affect you.

Since the last newsletter, we've been carrying out lots of community engagement work in the local area. In October, we joined together with Barclays bank in Cuffley to promote digital safety and protection from scams. This is an important issue which I would like to re-highlight as cybercrime has grown rapidly in recent years. If you receive a call you're not expecting, you should be suspicious.

The vital things to remember are that your bank and the police would:

- never ask for your bank account details or PIN number over the phone, so do not disclose these to anyone, no matter who they claim to be
- never ask you to withdraw money and send it to them via a courier, taxi or by any other means
- never ask you to send your bank cards, or any other personal property, to them via courier, taxi or by any other means

If you are not happy with a phone call and are suspicious of the conversation you have with the caller then please end the call and report it to us.

Finally, please remember, when reporting a suspicious phone call to us, wait at least five minutes before attempting to make the call to ensure you're not reconnected to the offender.

Remembrance Day 2021

Images courtesy of Diane Cracknell, Group Scout Leader, 1st Cuffley Scout Group

After lockdown last year meant public observations of Remembrance Day were heavily restricted, residents of Northaw and Cuffley braved the weather and took to the streets to commemorate in 2021.

Service of Remembrance

The Annual Service of Remembrance was held on 14th November at St Thomas à Becket Church, Northaw and was marked by a Parade from Northaw Village Hall by members of the 1st Cuffley Scout Group and 1st Northaw Scout Group.

Wreaths were laid at the war memorial, and the Act of Remembrance read by members of the various organisations in attendance, including Councillor Stubbs who laid a wreath on behalf of the Council.

Leefe Robinson Memorial, East Ridgeway, Cuffley

Paola Munns, Poppy Appeal Organiser for Cuffley & Northaw, Collecting this year at Cuffley Railway Station

Poppy Appeal – 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion

This year our local Poppy Appeal, organised by Paola Munns, raised an amazing £4,378.62, with special mention given to the staff and pupils of Cuffley School and Northaw C of E Primary School both of whom raised tremendous sums of money for the charity.

Two commemorative Tommy Figures, inscribed with the motto "Lest we Forget", were purchased from the Royal British Legion by the Parish Council and located at Northaw Green and the Millennium Gardens, Cuffley.

Tommy Figure at Northaw Green, surrounded by poppies made by the Beavers from 1st Cuffley Scout Group

Tommy Figure at Millennium Gardens, Cuffley

Paola Munns also produced this stunning display at Cuffley Community Library, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Royal British Legion.

Christmas Lights In Northaw and Cuffley

Parish Council Christmas Lighting Ceremony

Festive Spirits ran high when residents gathered on Friday, 26th November to take part in the Parish Council's Annual Christmas Lighting Ceremony, which was held in the Millennium Gardens, Cuffley.

To begin the proceedings residents attending were entertained with festive songs, courtesy of the Year 5 pupils of Cuffley School, which was followed by a few words on the occasion from Councillor Sue Harden.

A Countdown was then enthusistically led by Joshua Hamilton, in memory of his Grandmother Shirley Whales, the former Head Teacher of Northaw C of E School. Mrs Whales had retired from her role with the school earlier in the year, but then sadly passed away during November.

As in previous years, the lighting and engineering expertise were supplied by Lamps and Tubes Illuminations Ltd, who illuminated the two conifers in Millennium Gardens, and mounted decorations from the street lights on Station Road.

Mince Pies and drinks were kindly donated by the owner of Piyaz Bistro at 1 Maynard Place.

Northaw Christmas Tree

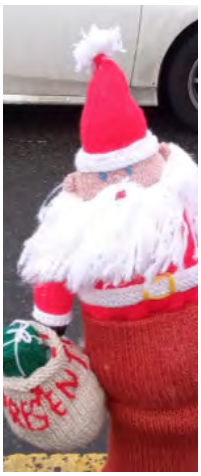
The Christmas Tree provided by the Parish Council for the Green at Northaw, was also installed and dressed, by Ricky Tyler Landscapes, during the week of November 22nd, with the Parish Church, once more, kindly supplying the electricity for the lighting.

Mystery Knitter

As always, a huge thank you goes out to our Mystery knitters, who outdid themselves last quarter with their displays around Cuffley Village.

Firstly, we were treated to a gorgeous Poppy Themed topper for the priority post box for Remembrance Day, with bollard covers representing the men and women of the Armed Services.

For December, the knitters stepped up to brighten up a dull and wet Station Road with a stunning display of seasonal themes, including this wonderful nativity scene on the priority post box and a range of cheery and colourful bollard toppers spanning the globe from Santa, complete with elves and reindeer, fresh from the Frozen North, via Robins and Snowmen, to Penguins all the way from the South Pole.



Dog waste

Did you know that, apparently, the average dog produces an astonishing 100 kilos (220 pounds) of waste each year?

Did you also know that, under The Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, and The Clean Neighbourhood Environment Act 2005, it is an offence for any person in charge of a dog to allow it to foul in a public place and not clean it up?

This means that if you walk a dog, even one belonging to someone else, you are responsible for clearing up after it.

It is no longer required to separate dog waste from other waste, therefore you can dispose of your dog waste using either a standard litter bin or one of the many dedicated dog waste bins situated around the parish while you are out. If you cannot find a suitable bin you must take your bags of waste home with you, where it can be placed in your black bin.

No matter how clean your pet, a single gram of dog waste contains an average of 23 million bacteria, as well as parasites, and can cause diseases such as Toxocariasis which can lead to serious illness, including blindness, and is a particular risk for small children.

This is why we ask you to never leave dog waste (bagged or not) on the ground, hanging on a fence, or on trees. Not only is this behaviour unpleasant, you are also endangering the safety of the children in the Parish.

This behaviour is currently a particularly problem at KGV Playing Fields, with the Parish Council regularly spending time and resources having to remove and dispose of this waste.

How to get in touch with us

Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council, 7 Maynard Place, Cuffley, EN6 4JA

Dependant on current government guidelines, the Parish Offices will be open for enquiries Mon/Thurs 1pm – 5pm, and Tues/Wed/Fri 10am – 2pm. However, these hours are dependent on staff availability, so please see notices in the office window for weekly updates.

Councillors can be contacted using the Council Members page on our website: **https://northawcuffleypc.org.uk/council-members/**

Our Office Manager, Sally Griffiths, will be happy to assist with any general enquiries and can be contacted on **01707 875 825** or **officemanager@northawcuffleypc.org.uk.**

Our Clerk, Lisa Chaplin, can be reached on **07375 962 772** or **parish.clerk@northawcuffleypc.org.uk**

You can also find useful information, both on the Council and on Local Resources, at our website **www.northawcuffleypc.org.uk**

If you would like to keep up to date with regular news from the Parish Council, including general items of local interest, please go to our website and sign up for our newsletter. You can unsubscribe anytime. **www.northawcuffleypc.org.uk/newsletter/**

Contact details for the Borough and County Councils are listed below with details of responsibilities for each council.

Your other local councils and their responsibilities

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk
email: **contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk**
Tel: **0300 123 4040**

Responsibilities:

- Highways and Transport (Street lights, traffic lights, potholes)
- Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Adult and Children's Social Care
- School admissions, school meals and transport
- Children's Centres
- Fostering and adoption
- Disability support services
- Disabled parking (Blue badges)
- Libraries
- Trading standards
- Fire and rescue

WELWYN AND HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

www.welhat.gov.uk
Email: **contact-whc@welhat.gov.uk**
Tel: **01707 357 000**

Welwyn and Hatfield Borough Council deals with issues relating to:

- Waste and recycling collections
- Fly tipping, litter and graffiti
- Allotments, woodlands and green spaces
- Anti-social behaviour
- Council Tax
- Parking and council car parks
- Council housing
- Homelessness
- Cemetery Services
- Benefits
- Public health and protection (Air and noise pollution, food inspections, H&S at work, licensing)
- Planning and building