

Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

April 2021



Notes from the Chair

Change is certainly in the air, from the onset of warmer weather to the tentative stirrings of the dawn chorus, there's so much to enjoy as the natural world springs into life. For me, the flowering of daffodils, like those on the front cover, confirm that spring is just around the corner and provide a welcome lift to the spirits.

Just like spring, the vaccine rollout and the easing of the government restrictions provide a promise of brighter things to come. It has now been a year since the initial government instructions to significantly limit social contact and the first lockdown. It has been a year like no other, but the coronavirus pandemic is likely to have a lasting impact on our way of life, society, and the economy as whole and also closer to home. With this in mind, the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has launched a new residents survey, which can be found on the centre pages of this newsletter or the Parish Council website. The aim of the survey is to understand how Covid has impacted local lives and if it affects the way we see Hemingford Grey, interact with its facilities and our surroundings. Please take time to complete the survey before the 25th April as the Council will use this information to influence our future plans.

The good news is that the roadmap out of lockdown has also enabled many of our village societies, groups and facilities to start making plans to restart or reopen – some of these have provided details which can be found inside the newsletter.

Finally, while the flooding that we witnessed at the beginning of the year has receded, the Council's new Flood Working Group is working to develop an emergency plan for the future. We're also continuing to liaise with other tiers of local government, the Environment Agency, and Anglian Water regarding areas of concern, surface water, and the villages sewage infrastructure.

Keep safe!

Cllr Richard Allen – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Parish Council Updates

Environment Working Group

The PC has asked our handyman to keep the riverside footpaths swept as they were becoming slippery with mud or leaves. We're also monitoring the condition of the grass along the moorings in front of the Manor and will take action to reseed if necessary.

Lockdown has seen an increased use of our litterbins when people have been out exercising themselves and/or their dogs! The PC has received requests for more frequent emptying (already twice a week for parish bins) and for more bins (e.g., in Gore Tree Rd) and/or bigger bins (e.g., outside the Reading Room and the School). The EWG are currently reviewing the situation and will be bringing a proposal to the next PC meeting in April.

There will be some changes to the maintenance of Daintree Green this year with more areas spared from close mowing as well as the planting of more trees and hedges. Most of the allotments are now let and looking very well cared for! A new noticeboard has also been erected for communication with and between the allotment holders.

Rest your mower this May

Every year the charity Plantlife runs a 'No Mow May' campaign to encourage people to leave their lawn uncut during May. Letting the flowers bloom on your lawn helps to provide a vital source of nectar for bees and other insects. The Parish Council will be looking at the areas of grass it manages to identify ones which can be left uncut during May and is also asking residents to take on this special challenge.



Plantlife are also asking us to survey a square metre of our lawn by counting the number of flowering plants. They will then be able to calculate how many honeybees are supported by our lawns. So why not join in:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/no-mow-may-how-to-get-ten-times-more-bees-on-your-lockdown-lawn>

Planning committee matters

The Parish Council has no direct planning powers but is consulted by and can make representations to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC). It is HDC's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications. Residents are urged to make their own comments on the HDC website.

At its October 2020 meeting the Parish Council considered an application from Liquid Skillz at Lake Ashmore. The council recommended refusal to HDC and voted to speak at the relevant Development Management Committee (DMC) meeting, as the application had already been called in. The Parish Council considered a separate application from Liquid Skillz at its March meeting. We understand that this application has also been referred to the DMC at HDC, and that the two applications will be considered at the same meeting.

Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC reference	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Former car showroom, London Rd, St Ives – development 62 dwellings	Commented	In progress
20/00285/FUL	Vindis site, Low Rd – demolition of structures, erection of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress
20/00675/FUL	29 High Street (St Francis House) – change of use to form 3 dwellings	Approval	Approved
19/02280/FUL	AMENDED Land north of the How – redevelopment including new houses	Refusal	In progress
FMW/072/19	AMENDED New Farm Rideaway - changes to conditions for waste management	Refusal	In progress
19/02087/FUL *	Waters Edge, Meadow Lane - Variation of condition 2; to amend plans	Approval	In progress
20/01193/CLPD	The Maltings Studio House, Church St - removal of section of wall for car access	Refusal	In progress
20/01621/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore, Gore Tree Rd - construction of various buildings, change of use for an area to cafe, and diversification of existing activities to water-based activity centre	Refusal	In progress
20/80269/COND	8 Madeley Court – C7 Biodiversity method statement	Noted	Cond reply
20/01950/HHFUL *	7 Dendys - single storey and two storey extensions	Supported	Approved
20/01784/LBC *	31 Limes Park - remedial damp work	Noted	In progress
20/80321/COND	Water's Edge, Meadow Lane - conditional info C3 & C4	Noted	Cond reply
20/02494/LBC	40 High Street - retention of replacement window	Noted	Approved
21/00044/FUL	Liquid Skillz, Lake Ashmore - construction of 2 nd wakeboard line and assoc buildings	Refusal	In progress
21/00102/HHFUL	14 Church Street - single storey rear extension	Approval	In progress
21/00147/LBC	Limes Park - retrospective replacement roof finish	Approval	In progress
21/00194/HHFUL	1 Lea Rd - erection of brick wall to replace fence	Approval	In progress
21/00234/HHFUL	6 Apple Orchard - proposed garden room extension	Approval	In progress

20/00164/OUT	Land west of Wychwood Hilton - Outline application for rural exception housing	Not suitable	In progress
20/01546/FUL	The Willows Guest House, 45 High Street - change of use to 2 dwellings	Approval	In progress
21/80058/COND	8 Madeley Court – conditional information for conditions 3 & 4	Approval	In progress
21/00310/HHFUL	16 Marsh Lane - proposed one and a half storey extension at rear, loft conversion	Approval	In progress

The changing situation with regard to Covid means that the Parish Council is restricted in how it evaluates planning applications. Due to the Lockdowns some applications were not considered at a council meeting (identified by *). Instead, councillors submitted their opinions on the applications to the Clerk who submitted a response on the council's behalf - hence the change in wording. Official site visits are not currently being made to the applicant or neighbours. From September a notification sheet has been hand delivered to applicants and neighbours informing them of the application and how the Parish Council will be considering it; at a meeting (Zoom) or by Parish Councillors individually submitting their opinion to the Clerk. As lockdown restrictions are eased, we hope to resume our visits, but safety will be our priority.

Hemingford Grey Neighbourhood Plan Residents Survey 2021

*By Cllrs Robin Waters and Anne Meredith,
co-convenors of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG)*



The residents' survey distributed in March 2020 could not foresee the huge changes our village would experience through the recent pandemic. As a result, some aspects of our lives may be changing for the foreseeable future, e.g., homeworking, shopping locally, use of our green spaces and the river, and forms of exercise.

The Neighbourhood Plan team would like to understand how Covid is impacting local lives, and if it affects the way you see Hemingford Grey. Are there changes that should be considered in our future Neighbourhood Plan? This plan enables us to have control over developments within the parish through policies which complement Huntingdonshire's Local Plan.

We're therefore asking residents to complete and return our 2021 survey which can be found over the next two pages by April 25th.

Residents Survey 2021

Has Covid-19 altered the way you use the village facilities and green spaces? Please tick the appropriate box below and add any additional comments at the end.

You and your surroundings	More	Less	Same	N/A
Use of Facilities				
Shop				
Post Office				
London Rd filling station				
When Open -				
The Cock				
The Community Cafe				
Pavilion				
The Manor & garden				
Liquid Skillz				
Playgrounds				
Public footpaths				
Fishing lake walk				
Riverside walk				
Green spaces / playing fields				
Activities				
River based				
Running				
Walking				
Cycling				

Are you doing anything new in the community e.g., joined new groups, activities or volunteering?

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What activities and/or facilities in and around Hemingford Grey have you missed?

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.....

Due to Covid have you had to work from home? Yes/No

If Yes, do you think you will continue homeworking? Yes/No/Don't know

If Yes, can you suggest any facilities you would like?

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As a result of the changes in your life in the last year are there things you would now like the Neighbourhood Plan to include or to emphasise?

Please give details below:

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.....

If you would like to be involved in further consultations, please give us your contact details.

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.....

Ways to complete this survey by 25th April 2021

- Online - Parish Council website.
- Drop off this paper survey at one of the addresses below:
 - 10 Skylark Place, (YES estate)
 - Maristowe, London Rd
 - 30 Marsh Lane
 - Applemead, 18 Hemingford Rd
 - 38 Church Street
 - 18 De Vere Close
- Scan and email to Anne Meredith:

anne.meredith@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Thank you

Community Matters

School's photographers snap up wildlife prizes



Hemingford Grey Primary School's Key Stage (KS) 1 and 2 children recently took part in a bird photography competition run by the HemingfordHub.

The winners were: Thomas Cousins (KS1) – “Seagull eating bread,” and Jovian Heerah (KS2) - “Swans in the field”.

Nick Churchill, KS1 teacher and Outdoor Learning Lead at the school said, “The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part.”



Hemingford Park Cricket Club

The Hemingford Park Cricket Club junior section are preparing for the new season and are looking forward to welcoming kids back into cricket after a very long winter.

However, we desperately need volunteers to fill important positions, without which we may not be able to operate some age groups or even at all.

- Safeguarding officer. NO CRICKET EXPERIENCE NEEDED
- All stars activator. Without an activator we will not be able to offer cricket to 5- to 7-year-olds.
- Club Chairman.
- U13s assistant coach.

Please email frostystoo@gmail.com, if you are able to volunteer or help.

Hemingford Bowls Club

Subject to the Government guidelines the Hemingford Bowls Club proposes to open its green on Friday 16th April.

Why not come along at 10am and give us a try. (The current membership comprises people aged between 14 and 92 – so don't think you are too old or too young!). Club members will be on hand to offer friendly advice and guidance. Equipment will be provided – we just ask that you bring along a pair of flat shoes (no heels) - but slippers would be fine too!

Regular Club/friendly games are arranged throughout the summer. Please contact Ken Martin on 01480 301596, 07952843744 or Email: kennjenmart@msn.com for more details.

Hemingford Grey Gardening Society *by Mike Henderson*

Winter and early spring are a quiet time in any garden. They are cold, drab and wet places, except for a few who manage to keep some colour and interest going. What we tried to do in HGGs was to keep interest flowing in the same way for all our members. We had excellent speakers via zoom in January (from Devon) and February, followed a few day ago by our AGM and garden quiz. Not everyone enjoys zoom, with the lack of social contact, but it does have some advantages, especially in accessing speakers from far away, expanding their range and expertise.

February saw the first edition of our new magazine called Hemgards (work it out), which has a monthly blog on environmental issues from Peter Quest, plus garden photos from anyone who feels like sending any in. We now await warmer weather, lighter nights and a relaxation of covid rules.

St James' Church - Easter Mystery Trail, Saturday 3rd April

This will be a fun interactive treasure hunt style trail through the village of Hemingford Grey. Suitable for Children 3 and up.

Reading Room

In line with current guidance on lifting lockdown restrictions regarding Village Halls, we will not be able to open the Reading Room until 17th May at the earliest.

Hemingford Pavilion

The good times are coming back, and the Pavilion will be opening again in phases as follows (subject to the Covid rules):

- **The Bar:** will be opening on 12th April, serving just to tables outside, with shelter from those showers that are predicted for that month. Serving to tables inside will be allowed from 17th May, although maybe not necessary because there will only be fine weather by then!!
- **Football, Tennis, Bowls:** can start from 29th March. Please refer to the [website](#) for details.
- **Hall Hire:** indoor activities are allowed from 17th May. Art, exercise and dancing classes and communal activities such as Hemlocs, Memory Lane, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers etc will be restarting soon after that date.

We've been doing lots of decorating and cleaning during the lockdowns, and new toilet furniture will also have been installed by 17th May, which we hope will enhance everyone's enjoyment of the facility. So, come and join us, all are very welcome.

Hemlocs *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

So far this year we've had talks on 'Geographies of the Hemingfords', 'Market Towns of Eastern England', 'Cambridge, Cradle of the Leisure Revolution' and 'Mrs Cromwell's Cookbook'. Fantastic variety, all very interesting and well attended. We have two talks in April: 'Behind the Scenes at the Fitzwilliam' on the 1st, and 'Sherlock Holmes in Cambridge' on the 15th. Bridget Flanagan will give our final talk of the season on 20th May. As ever, these talks are open to everyone free of charge on zoom. They start at 7.30pm. Please contact Stuart Harrison on 466094 or info@hemlocs.co.uk if you are not a member and would like to attend. Members will be sent the relevant links as a matter of course.

During the summer we are planning to refresh the website with a redesign and new content documenting the Hemingfords in lockdown, and to work on cataloguing the archive. We are also planning a party to celebrate freedom from social restrictions, and a real live visit to an actual local place of historic interest (fingers firmly crossed on both counts!). Perhaps most of all we are looking forward to resuming our regular monthly meetings in the Pavilion in September. Please join us.

Bee Swarms

Our bees are currently having a very difficult time. They are assailed on all sides by pests and diseases, some of which are alien to them and against which they have few defences. This has made their chances of survival in the wild very poor, with UK's bee population being reliant on beekeepers managing them in their beehives. As bees only travel 2 or 3 miles, when you see a bee in your garden the chances are it will be one of the 60000 bees that live in a hive or wild colony located in the Hemingfords.

From time-to-time bees swarm, usually at the end of April or during May and June, which is no more than the bees looking for a new home. In doing so they will often settle on a temporary site while 'scout' bees seek a permanent home which may be in an inconvenient place such as a chimney or attic. Although a swarm might seem a little concerning if found in your garden you are unlikely to get stung as this is when bees will be at their most docile. This is a good time to capture the bees and house them in a hive to start a new colony and maintain the numbers of this valuable insect. As less than a quarter of swarms survive to start a new colony, capture is their best chance of survival.

If you see a swarm that can be collected, or are interested in bee keeping, please contact Philip Turon on 01480 496516 or 07493664214

The Hemingford Action Group *by Iain Muspratt, Chair*

'Astro Turf Site' – Application Reference FMW/072/19: A key focus of our attention. CCC await the additional information they requested from MGL some months ago. We have disputed the creditability of traffic flows measured during the lockdown periods and have stressed that guidelines for approaches from Rideaway to the entrance do not meet 40mph requirements let alone those for the 60mph limit which applies

New Draft Waste and Minerals Plan: We wrote to the Inspector requesting further changes, his decision is awaited but if not given by March 25th, the new Plan cannot be adopted until after the May elections.

E-mailing lists - Please provide any updated/new details to:

audra.green@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk

We continue to strengthen our Board and in particular would like to hear from Property Professionals. If interested, please e-mail:

iain.muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk

Hemingford Grey Parish Council



Parish Council meetings are normally held on the second Monday of each month, with the next meetings scheduled on the 12th April and 10th May. All meetings are currently being held online and agendas are posted on the HGPC website, village notice boards, and at the village store. Information is also available on our social media pages:

Website: www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc

Twitter: www.twitter.com/hemgreypc

Parish councillors:

Richard Allen (chair)	Maristowe, London Road	494783
Doug Dew	4 Weir Road	469814
Sue Duma	The Grange, 1b Hemingford Rd	469795
Riva Elliott	38 Church Street	494142
Janice Flint	30 Marsh Lane	07816 438765
Nick Irish	10 Skylark Place	464665
Tony Jackson	12 Madeley Court	07973 751679
Sarah Jakes	Meadow View, 99 London Rd	466813
Anne Meredith	18 De Vere Close	465774
Tim Puttick	3 Skylark Place	509481
Robin Waters (vice-chair)	18 Hemingford Road	07833 901680

All our councillors can be emailed using the following format:
firstname.lastname@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk

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The next edition of the newsletter will be out in June

Editorial Team: Richard Allen and Janice Flint