

# Hemingford Grey Parish Council Newsletter

February 2021



# *Notes from the Chair*

Just like the bright yellow Aconites which have already started to flower in my garden and provide a tantalising herald to the spring to come, today's snow reminds me that winter is not done yet. And so, it is with Covid. Whilst the roll-out of the vaccination programme progresses and points to a brighter future, we must remain vigilant to stem the latest surge of infections. The reality is there are still difficult months ahead and we all need to continue to follow the government guidelines to protect the NHS, ensure the wellbeing of our community and protect those at greatest risk.

The flood warnings that were issued during the Christmas period gave many of us cause for concern. Luckily, in the end the flood defences that were put in place fourteen or so years ago, protected us from the damage that has befallen many others within the district and further afield. They did however highlight weaknesses in both communication from various bodies involved and in our readiness for such events. The Parish Council have fed back our experiences and concerns to those other parties and have also established a group to develop an emergency plan for the village and would love to hear from anyone who would like to be involved.

Yet again, I'm delighted to report that at our last meeting we were able to co-opt yet another new councillor. This month, Nick Irish, who lives on the Yes Estate joined our ranks. We still have further two vacancies, so would be pleased to hear from anyone else who would like to join us.

As the next edition of the newsletter will be published at the end of March, I also wanted to highlight that the census is coming. Census Day is Sunday 21 March 2021. It's really important that you fill in your census questionnaire because the information you share will help to inform decisions on the services that shape our community, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes for the next 10 years.

Thank you once again for your continued support and patience in following government guidelines to keep yourselves, your families and our more vulnerable villagers safe.

***Cllr Richard Allen*** – Chair, Hemingford Grey Parish Council

# *Parish Council Updates*

## **A Wet Christmas!**

On Christmas Eve the Great Ouse at Hemingford peaked at 7.45m (AOD), about 0.55m (1ft 10ins) below the height of our flood defences - the same as the Easter 1998 flood level, when 65 properties in the village were flooded. Thankfully the flood defences and pumps at Victoria Terrace, which were implemented after the latter event, worked to plan. The village also experienced a lot of immediate surface water flooding in the usual places, not least almost the whole width of the High Street outside the new Budgens.



Undoubtedly, the flood warning released by the Environment Agency (EA) at lunchtime on Christmas Eve was very alarming to many and implied almost immediate flooding in the whole of Hemingford Grey. The Council contacted John Hesp, formerly an EA engineer living in the village, who advised his ex-colleagues and us that flooding was certainly not imminent and in fact most unlikely given that the rain had then stopped. Based on the information provided by John, the Parish Council tried to reassure residents that flooding was unlikely but appreciate that this was a confusing situation for which we had not planned. We have subsequently established a group to help prepare an Emergency Plan for the Parish and if you'd like to be involved please let us know.

The EA, County and District Councils are all investigating the responses, including the way in which flood warnings were issued, and the Parish Council have submitted both verbal and written reports based on the village's experience to them all.

At time of writing, the meadow is again flooded but it appears that the recurring problem with closing the penstock at Meadow Lane may have been solved. Sadly, the very high-water levels have also contributed to overflowing sewers in some parts of the village. Anglian Water are dealing with a faulty pump at The Thorpe but this has required a noisy tanker lorry parked in the road at any time of the day or night.

## New village defibrillator installed



You may have already noticed, but last year the Parish Council installed a defibrillator on the wall outside the school entrance. This is the second defibrillator in the village, the other being at the Pavilion. Although not currently possible, the Council will be organising a training session in due course. In the meantime, the suppliers of the defibrillator have drawn our attention to an [online training session](#).

## Native hedge for Daintree Green

We're all aware of the impact of climate change on the world and the Parish Council is committed to doing what it can to protect and enhance our natural environment. Our tree and bulb planting community projects are two examples of what we can achieve.

Last year the Environment Working Group, Tree Wardens and allotment holders discussed planting a native hedge along the western boundary of the allotments.

This area of Daintree Green already features a wildflower strip where the mowing regime encourages wildflowers. The hedge will consist of native species such as hawthorn, spindle and hazel providing food for insects and birds, and will be fenced off to protect it from rabbits and other animals. The contractor will water the hedge regularly for the first six months and replace any of the trees that fail in the first year.



The Parish Council has agreed to this proposal, with a future project to plant fruit trees in the strip of land between the allotments and the tall trees separating the allotments from the play area.

The council is keen to hear of any ideas for green community projects that it could support.

## 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 the district council's responsibility to inform neighbours of planning applications. Residents are urged to make comments on the HDC website.

### Outcomes of recent planning applications

HDC reference	Description	PC Rec	HDC Dec
18/02726/FUL	Car showroom, London Rd – development 62 dwellings	Commented	In progress
20/00285/FUL	Vindis site, Low Rd – development of 106 dwellings	Refusal	In progress
20/00675/FUL	29 High Street – change of use to form 3 dwellings	Approval	In progress
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
20/01605/HHFUL	11 Langley Way - ground and first floor extensions	Approval	Approved
20/01193/CLPD	The Maltings Studio House, Church St - removal of section of wall for car access	Refusal	In progress
20/01774/HHFUL	42 High Street - single storey extension	Approval	Approved
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	In progress
20/00234/COND	16 Langley Way - C2 Landscaping plan	Noted	Cond reply
20/01950/HHFUL*	7 Dendys - single and two storey extensions	Supported	In progress
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	In progress
20/02297/NMA	8, Madeley Court - amendments to approved application	Noted	Approved

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) - as the application had already been called in. As of mid-January, the application has not yet been referred to the DMC.

Due to the current pandemic, the Parish Council is restricted in how it evaluates planning applications. During the lockdowns some applications were not considered at a council meeting (identified by \*), but Councillors submitted their thoughts to the Clerk who submitted a response on the council's behalf - hence the change in wording. Official site visits are not being made to the applicant or neighbours. From September a notification sheet was be hand delivered to applicants and neighbours informing them of the application and how the Council will be considering the application; at a meeting or by Councillors individually submitting their opinion to the Clerk.

# The Neighbourhood Plan

## Conserve Enhance Evolve

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



Since our last report in the Parish Council Newsletter we have been busy doing what we can while adhering to Covid regulations.

- Residents' Survey Report – a summary of the report is below, and the full report can be found on the website.
- Preparing and carrying out a consultation with Landowners, Businesses and local organisations. We have gathered a list of local businesses from various sources and will be seeking their views on the state of the parish and their aspirations for the future. We have identified at least four groups of businesses with interests in the parish: Farmers and significant landowners; Other businesses with visible premises and/or employees; Businesses based in residential properties and people working from home due to Covid; Local (not for profit) organisations such as the Pavilion, sports clubs, the Church, WIs, Scouts, Hemlocs, etc.)
- The Neighbourhood Plan website is taking shape and we hope to launch it in March.

## Residents Survey March-April 2020



Hemingford Grey  
Neighbourhood Plan  
Steering Group



### Residents Survey

Our parish council want to make sure our community is somewhere we really enjoy living. To do this, first we want to understand what you think about living in Hemingford Grey by answering the three questions overleaf.

Sharing your views will help develop your neighbourhood plan. We really want to hear from people who know and love the area. Examples of what a neighbourhood plan includes are overleaf.

We appreciate that individuals in each household may have differing opinions and want to submit their views. We would encourage you to do so please use additional sheets as required or go online.

You can either

- complete this form and return via the Freepost envelope or
- by putting it in one of the collection boxes at Hemingford stores, the Parish Centre, or the Esso Garage in London Road or
- you can complete online at the Parish Council website [www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

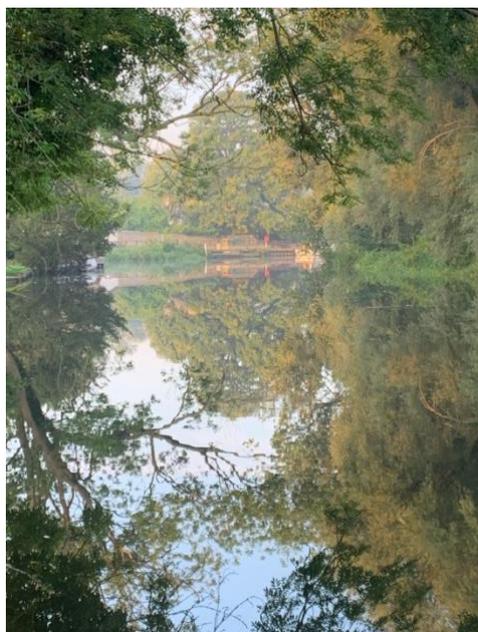
The deadline for completed surveys is 9 April 2020.

Thank You  
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

In March 2020 a residents' survey was delivered to all households in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Children aged 9 to 11 at the local primary school also completed the survey in class time.

The survey asked residents and children three open questions: what they like about living in Hemingford Grey, what could be done to improve it and how they would like Hemingford Grey to be in 10 years' time.

221 Households replied (16%). This was lower than we hoped for and was probably due to the impact of the Lockdown due to Covid 19 pandemic that commenced on March 23rd. In addition, the absence of any perceived threats to Hemingford Grey also meant that residents were perhaps less likely to respond. The response rate was less than 10% in the developments along London Road - perhaps an issue of identifying with St Ives rather than Hemingford Grey.



The results show, in general, a very positive view of the parish as a place to live with the sentiment of 'keep it as it is' being clearly articulated by nearly 40% of respondents. Another commonly expressed sentiment was 'peaceful', 'tranquil' or words of a similar meaning.

The most positive comments on the analysis were applied to the facilities provided in the village including the shop, pub, pavilion, parish centre and reading room. The most negative comments were concerning the roads and traffic – in particular the reduction in bus services, car parking and speeding.

The children, 67 in total, had a very positive view of Hemingford Grey with many commenting on its friendliness and it being a quiet and calm place to live. Not surprisingly the children mentioned the green spaces, parks, river, shop, and sports facilities. There was also a desire to improve the natural landscape that surrounds them.



The results from the survey along with the results from the business consultation will underpin the development of the Neighbourhood Plan including planning policies and actions for the Parish. Further consultation with residents and local interested parties will be undertaken to explore the results of the survey in more detail.

When we drafted and delivered the survey we had no idea of the impact Covid would have on our lives and we would like to hear whether your views on Hemingford Grey have changed. The next issue of the Parish Council Newsletter will contain a Covid survey.

The full report can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the parish council website. Paper copies of the report can be obtained from Cllrs Anne Meredith and Robin Waters.

### **The Next Steps**

- Produce the report summarising the results of the consultation with landowners, businesses and local organisations
- Apply for Grant Funding for 2021-2020 to include the scoping workshop where we determine the vision and objectives for the Neighbourhood Plan
- Develop the planning policies for the NP
- Further consultation with residents on specific topics or areas of Hemingford Grey
- Regularly update you through the website, Parish Council Newsletter and Neighbourhood Plan Updates and community events (Covid permitting!)

### **Can you help?**

Do you have expertise in planning, conservation, community engagement, and design? If so we would welcome your help for specific tasks such as designing posters, running community events.

### **Want to find out more or have questions?**

Look at the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the website where you will find details of meetings (held on Zoom at present)

Or contact Anne Meredith or Robin Waters (details on back page of this Newsletter)

# Community Matters

**We're scouting for talent**  
**Do more. Share more. Be more.**



1st Hemingfords Scout Group helps local young people enjoy fun and adventure while developing skills for life. The last 10 months has seen our dedicated team of volunteers continue to run an exciting programme online for children aged 6 – 14 years old. There have been sessions on drawing cartoons, first aid and cooking. Other activities include quizzes, science experiments and star gazing. Congratulations and thanks should be expressed to the leaders for adapting to a completely new way of running things and continuing to provide weekly meetings.

With a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack and Scout Troop, our friendly leadership team is always on the lookout for new adults to join the team. At the moment we particularly need people to help lead the Beavers and the Cubs as vacancies have arisen in these sections. If interested, please contact Tony Rogers on 01480 383330 / [tony.rogers1@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.rogers1@ntlworld.com) #SkillsForLife

## **The Hemingford Pavilion**

Because of the lockdown and, before that, the Tier restrictions, there has been virtually no activity at The Pavilion. There was some football and tennis played and a little social activity (art and dancing classes, with strict social distancing) in early December, but the bar has been closed for several months.

The building closure has provided an opportunity to carry out much needed repairs and decorating, particularly in Hayward Hall, Chris Page Room and the entrance hallway and staircase, which would have been much more difficult in normal times.

Hopefully, it won't be too long before the rules allow us to open again.

## St James' Church

The church building is open daily, during day light hours, for private prayer - please follow the guidelines. Links to all our Zoom church services can be found on the village Facebook page, please do join us. If you would like to receive a fortnightly Church At Home Broadsheet from the vicar, Peter, please phone the Parish Office on 467250 and leave a message with your name and address. If you feel you would like to speak to Peter, then please call the Vicarage on 394378 - if you leave a message, he will call you back. Finally, please send any prayer requests to [prayerrequest@churchbytheriver.org.uk](mailto:prayerrequest@churchbytheriver.org.uk) where they will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## **Hemlocs** *by Simon Clemmow, Chair*

The Hemingfords' Local History Society's zoom meetings continue to go from strength to strength. Our November talk on 'Pye in Cambridge' was very interesting and very well attended. In December instead of our usual Christmas Party we had a Hemlocs Christmas Quiz, which was hotly contested and narrowly won by Bridget Flanagan – well done to her. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our January talk (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>) on 'Geographies of the Hemingfords' by Robin Waters, and our February talk (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>) on 'Market Towns of Eastern England' by Tony Kirby.

So popular have our talks been and so accommodating our speakers that we are sometimes in the position of being able to offer two a month. In March, for example, we have lined up a talk by Nigel Fenner on 'Cambridge, Cradle of the Leisure Revolution' on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, and one by Stuart Orme on 'Mrs Cromwell's Cookbook' on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are not a member of Hemlocs and you would like to attend any of these talks, please contact Stuart Harrison on 466094 or [info@hemlocs.co.uk](mailto:info@hemlocs.co.uk). They all start at 7.30pm.

Finally, we have copies of Hemlocs' latest publication, 'Sketches of Hemingfords' History' by Bridget Flanagan, still available. Please contact Stuart if you would like to purchase a copy. They are £8.

## **The Hemingford Action Group update** *by Iain Muspratt, Chair*

### **'Astro Turf Site' – Planning Application Reference FMW/072/19:**

Refusal of this application remains a critical concern. CCC continue to very thoroughly consider our view that the current application contravenes the 'red lines' (i.e. boundaries) laid down in the original 2000 consent. CCC have as a result postponed vibration tests and are consulting HDC colleagues. The traffic measurement equipment on Rideaway Drive was removed in early December with a guarantee that the reduction in normal traffic levels due to Covid restrictions will be taken into account in any of the limited readings which were gathered.

### **New Draft Waste and Minerals Plan – Main Modifications:**

We are very pleased that the significant changes we proposed are now incorporated, but have asked for a further change to the co-location policy to ensure those same changes apply to that

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](mailto:iain.muspratt@hemingfordsactiongroup.co.uk)

## **Hub helping more villagers as vaccinations roll out**



Covid-19 vaccinations have started in earnest for our elderly residents. We've sent out newsletters on how the system works to those we currently help and our volunteers. We can send copies by print or email if you, or someone you know, would like to receive one.

Our A14 funding for environmental projects is paying for bird tables and hedgehog houses to be distributed to relevant Hub households. Please contact us to nominate someone to receive one of these.

We're holding a competition for our schoolchildren, run by Mr Churchill, the environmental projects teacher, to photograph winter birds visiting gardens to feed. Hub clients will judge the winners and runners up. Prizes include a selection of educational goodies bought with A14 funds.

We still here to help with shopping, prescriptions, post, dog-walking, making friendly phone calls, personal advice, providing bird seed, lending jigsaws and contacting handymen who can fix broken things ... you just have to ask. T: 07308 035416 E: [hemingfordhub@icloud.com](mailto:hemingfordhub@icloud.com)  
[www.hemingfordhub.co.uk](http://www.hemingfordhub.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 8<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March.

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](http://www.hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc](http://www.facebook.com/hemingfordgreypc)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/hemgreypc](http://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***

**Parish Clerk:** Gail Stoehr  
30 West Drive, Highfields, Caldecote, CB23 7NY  
Tel: 01954 210241  
Email: [parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@hemingfordgreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

***The next edition of the newsletter will be out in April***