



# HOCKLEY NEWS

Issue No.78

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## “NEW ALLOTMENT SITE FOR HOCKLEY MOVES CLOSER”

The Parish Council is moving forward with the new Allotment site in Hockley. Land in Folly Lane has been allocated to the Parish Council and an Allotments Working Group consisting of the Parish Clerk, councillors and residents have made several site visits. Boundaries have been established, parking spaces have been provided and water is being connected. Work will now progress to finalise the lease and start marking out the site.



**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019** Hockley residents at the Parish Assembly received an Annual Report on the work of the Parish Council over the last year. A presentation was given by Jon Fuller, Group Co-ordinator from South Essex Friends of the Earth on environmental matters and how we can all make small differences to global warming.



Following a successful grant application from Hockley & Hawkwell Social Centre for the Older Person, the Parish Council was delighted to present a cheque for £5000 to Ian Foster, Chairman and Carol Warren Vice Chairman towards their refurbishment programme at the Centre, which provides a valuable service for many of our older residents.



## How difficult can it be to spend a penny?

Following announcements from Rochford District Council of their planned intentions to close local toilets in the District, Hockley Parish Council has jumped to the rescue and made arrangements with Rochford District Council to lease the Hockley toilets from them for a period of 10 years. There is of course an argument this is in some respects double charging, as any costs involved would therefore be added to the Hockley Parish Council precept and distributed through the precept for collection from Hockley residents. In the mean time Rochford District Council do not appear to be reducing their claim on rate payments as a result of such closures, but this is a story you will hear up and down the country in various matters. The fact is, whilst we could continue arguing the rights and wrongs of this so-called double charging, the bottom line is that the residents of Hockley have made it quite clear that they wish to have usable toilet amenities in the heart of our village. Very roughly, the cost of such a facility equates to around about 85 pence per resident per year, obviously more than just spending a penny, but we hope will agree a worthwhile contribution for such an important service.

Hockley Parish Council is finalizing the legalities. At this point the plan is for the District Council to fully refurbish the existing toilets, reducing current capacity down to just two workable toilets, both with totally modern facilities and electronic locking systems to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum. This part of the plan has already been approved by the Parish Council and agreed with Rochford District Council who will then hand over the refurbished building on completion. Within the lease agreement, we are ensuring that Hockley Parish Council has the ultimate opportunity to continue at the end of 10 years to supply this worthwhile service for the residents of the community. The council has regretfully found that there is a certain amount of back peddling on the part of Rochford District Council, who now seems a little reluctant to follow through on the agreements made with the Parish Council. We are working hard to remedy this situation, but please be assured we will do everything in our power to ensure that what was agreed by Rochford District Council gets delivered upon. As this project develops, we will of course bring you more news, but rest assured we are doing our very best to make certain that good quality toilet facilities are available in the heart of Hockley for a long time to come.



**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2019 2pm to 6pm Hockley Open Gardens:** Hockley Parish Council is sponsoring an Open Gardens Afternoon. Programmes cost £4.00 for entrance to all 7 gardens and are available from Cllr Shirley James 01702 205050 or the Parish Office.

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Wild Woods Day, 11am to 4pm:** Hockley Woods. Come along for a fun day out with the family and visit the council gazebo to see a photographic display of Hockley in days past.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 2pm: Remembrance Service, Southend Road Hockley**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 3pm to 6pm: Hockley Christmas Lights. The light displays will be switched on at 5.30pm with a Street Event in Spa Road. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to book a stall.**



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019 9am to 12pm: Christmas Village Market at the Parish Hall.**

## AROUND THE VILLAGE

**HOCKLEY RAILWAY STATION:** Artwork from Greensward Academy is on display at the Station and Hockley & Hawkwell U3A with "Men in Sheds" have created wonderful floral displays which are well worth a visit.



**SPA ROAD:** Essex County Council have relaid a section of Spa Road with a skid resistant surface as an aid to safety and are to upgrade the lights at the pedestrian crossings in Hockley.

**KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR OPEN SPACES** Parish Councillors are allocated their own open space to visit and report back on the situation as found, especially in our play spaces and nature reserve. It is through these visits that we get to meet members of the public and hear at first hand their views or suggestions for improvements. Our members will be pleased to pass on any matters which may need attention to the Parish Clerk who will ensure the council is kept informed.

**Rochford & Castle Point Community Policing Team** has had a boost in numbers as a result of the increase in the 2018/2019 precept. Five officers joined the team at the beginning of April to assist in reducing crime & disorder and deal with anti-social behaviour across the Districts. Without abstractions we now have ten police officers split into two teams. The new officers have already spent many hours out on foot patrol engaging with the community as well as attending incidents and accidents. We need the public to support this work by identifying those responsible for causing harm within our communities. There are a number of ways to contact us; by non emergency telephone number 101, email [castlepointandrochfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:castlepointandrochfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk) or using the 'Do it online' facility at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk)



**The Old Fire Station in Southend Road** is a distinctive venue, owned and maintained by the Parish Council for the benefit of the community and is centrally situated within the village of Hockley. Set in a former Fire Station, this venue offers a choice of two rooms for hire, suitable for a wide range of activities, meetings and functions. The ground floor room is fully accessible, with disabled facilities and parking. There is a well-equipped

kitchen. **The upper room is ideal for training, seminars or talks with use of an overhead projector and screen.** A hearing loop facility is installed at the hall. Whether you want to book a room, organise a function, join one of the user groups or attend one of our events, we will always do our best to help you. New groups are welcome. If you would like to take a look, please telephone to arrange a convenient time for us to show you around. **For details of availability please contact the Council's Hall Manager, Nicola O'Riordan Finley on 01702 205340 or email [bookings@hockleyessex.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@hockleyessex.gov.uk).**

## HOCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** The new Council year has come around and the Annual Report aims to summarise the progress of Hockley Parish Council over the past year, during which we have had to overcome several challenges. I would like to express thanks to my Vice Chairman Cllr Veronica Randall, my fellow councillors and all our staff who together form part of a team who have shown commitment, professionalism and support. During the year we have appointed a new Clerk, Mrs Kelly Holland, and Mrs Margaret Saunders joined us to take on the post of Responsible Financial Officer. Their combined experience and insight have already proved invaluable within the office and Council and we are now moving forward.

Hockley Parish Council is currently at full strength with 15 members serving the community. It is run through a committee structure to manage local services and develop projects to meet the needs and priorities of the residents, which ensures the council meets its statutory functions. The Full Council then approves the committee recommendations and actions are progressed. In addition we have members who are delegated to work with outside organisations and groups. This may sound very formal and indeed it has to be, so that democracy can be seen to be done in a consistent manner. However, that does not stop us from being a very approachable group of people who all live in the community and donate many hours of their free time addressing village day-to-day issues and activities, Over development; not enough parking; speeding traffic; overhanging trees; not enough bins on open spaces; street lights failures; inconsiderate parking; anti social behaviour - these are just a handful of the comments and complaints we receive which are common to all Parish Councils. In most matters we could be described as “waving our hands in the dark” but we do have powers to act in law and, where we can, aim to improve things and certainly try to liaise with other organisations to help in as many areas as possible.

Essex County Council published their 2019-2024 Libraries Strategy Consultation in November 2018 and a strong challenge to the proposed downgrading of our library was launched by the local community and the Parish Council supported by our MP and County Councillor. However, despite everyone's best efforts the opposition was voted down in March. We are now awaiting the outcome of the consultation analysis and, where possible, the Parish Council will continue to maintain pressure on the County Council to retain a fully funded library service in Hockley.

### OUR COMMITTEES

**The Resources & Procedures Committee is responsible for coordinating the Parish Council's budgetary process and recommends a Precept to cover the annual expenditure of the Council which is determined at a Council meeting in January each year.** Rochford District Council must provide sufficient funds to cover the budget, which is called the Precept. This money is sourced from the Council Tax which all residents have to pay and Hockley Parish Council has maintained its Precept at its current level for the last 6 years. A significant part of the Parish Council expenditure goes towards keeping the village environs in a satisfactory condition. This last year we were offered land for a new allotment site and agreed to take on the maintenance of the public toilets in Southend Road; both projects have been budgeted for in our earmarked reserves. Along with a reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant from Central Government this inevitably led to an increase. **The Precept requested for 2019-20 is £267,184** which equates to an increase of £8.05pa on the Parish proportion of the Council Tax, and a Band D property will only pay an extra 67 pence a month per household. I am pleased to confirm that the External Auditors have 'signed off' the 2017/18 accounts and the unaudited accounts for the year, ending March 2019 have recently been cleared by our Internal Auditor. A full breakdown of the Budget for Precept for 2018-19 will therefore shortly be available on our website or can be obtained from the Parish Office on request.

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**The Environment & Open Spaces Committee advises on the long-term management of open spaces owned or managed by the council.** All the committee members and especially our maintenance team work extremely hard to maintain our village. The developer at the Pond Chase Nursery site in Folly Lane has allocated land for allotments, and work is underway to transfer this to the Parish Council. A Working Group of councillors and residents has been formed and following several site visits, boundaries, parking places and a water source have already been established. The Parish Council has a waiting list and plots will be limited to Hockley residents on a first come first served basis, but it is an encouraging start after such a long wait for this amenity. The Marylands Nature Reserve 5 year regeneration plan continues apace and results are becoming visible as the seasons progress. Laburnum Grove and Plumberow Childrens' Play Spaces have been inspected and are considered to be safe. However the council wishes to update the play spaces and is looking into a programme of refurbishment/replacement of equipment which will be in consultation with the community so our youngsters can continue to enjoy outdoor activities. The Parish Council has entered into a new contract this year for the maintenance of the parish owned street lighting and a full review of the existing lights is under way to improve performance and save costs.

**The Planning & Local Development Committee considers and makes recommendations throughout the year to the Planning Authority, Rochford District Council on planning applications and development briefs received.** Continued over-development in the area is a concern to us all. As a consultee, the Parish Council cannot prevent a development from taking place, but its recommendations do form a mechanism for a local response. Over the past year this committee has commented on some 87 planning applications and supported representations from the community on the impact over-development is having on our environment Anyone who wishes to express their views on a planning matter is welcome to attend the meetings.

**The Communities Committee advises the council on the needs and requirements of the community including events, recommending ways to match council resources to community needs.** In response to public demand the Parish Council has agreed to take over the maintenance of the public toilets in Southend Road to ensure the facilities are retained in Hockley. The toilets will be handed over by Rochford District Council after a full refurbishment has been completed and we are currently finalising the lease with the District Council. To support the police and the community, the Parish Council has agreed to investigate funding a Police Special Constable or use private security services to help alleviate crime and increasing anti-social behaviour in Hockley. The Council's 5th Art Trail was held in June and enabled 30 local artists to display their craft at venues around the Village. Two of our artists were selected to exhibit at Harwich which hosted the launch of Essex Summer of Art in 2018. Many residents and visitors enjoyed the exhibitions and our thanks go to Hockley businesses and the library for allowing us to use their venues. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the country marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the First World War and the community of Hockley answered the Parish Council's call for knitted poppies. We received over 3000 poppies which were displayed at the War Memorials in Southend Road and Greensward Lane. The anniversary attracted the largest gathering of people since the War Memorial was dedicated in 2008. At 10pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 the War Memorial will again be illuminated to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day Landings. There will also be a special art display outside the Parish Hall. For many years the Parish Council has sponsored and maintained the Festive Lights and Christmas tree in Hockley, and shared the community's disappointment at not being able to hold the Street Event in 2018. We are pleased to be able to announce that the festive lights will be switched on this year on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and, working with the Hockley Chamber of Trade, the council intends to have a street event in Spa Road again. More details will be available shortly. We hope the community will continue to support the event and if you would like to take part please contact the Parish Office

The Council recognises the importance of engaging with the community and that good communication is essential. To this end, alongside our Website and Newsletter, we are setting up a new Face Book Page to publicise our activities and involve the community. We hope you find this to be a useful resource, which allows you to discover more about how the Parish Council works and the services we are able to provide. Your Parish Council is here to work with the community and appreciates the support of our residents. If you have any issues or ideas for improvements to our services which you wish us to consider we would very much like to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or approach any one of our members who will be able to bring these to the attention of the council. We look forward to moving into 2019-20 and, where we can, having a positive impact on village life.

**Councillor Roy Martin  
Chairman**

## HOCKLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS



### Hockley West Ward

Cllr. Mark ANDERSON	01702 204 879
Cllr Steve CHELMSFORD	01702 200 178
Cllr Tim GLEADALL	01702 201 688
Cllr Brian HAZLEWOOD	01702 201 786
Cllr Shirley JAMES	01702 205 050
Cllr Roy MARTIN (Chairman)	01702 202 750
Cllr Sue MARTIN	01702 202 750
Cllr Phil MEACHAM	07005 980 128
Cllr Veronica RANDALL (Vice Chairman)	01702 202 142
Cllr Barbara THOROGOOD	01702 203 748

### Hockley East Ward

Cllr Nick BOXALL	01702 204 800
Cllr Mike CARTER	07958 707 070
Cllr Toni CARTER	01702 205 648
Cllr Brian O'SHEA	01702 204 334
Cllr Lesley VINGOE	01702 202 829

#### Full Council Meetings 2019/2020

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019; 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019; 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019; 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020; 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020; 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

All Council Meetings are held at the Parish Hall Southend Road SS5 4QH and published on the website

If you have any comments or enquiries, please contact Clerk to the Parish Council

Phone: 01702 20 77 07 : Email: [enquiries@hockley-essex.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hockley-essex.gov.uk) : Website: [hockley-essex.gov.uk](http://hockley-essex.gov.uk)

Please address all correspondence to:

The Old Fire Station 58 Southend Road Hockley Essex SS5 4QH

#### ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS HOCKLEY

##### WARD

Cllr Keith HUDSON 01702 233 434  
e-mail: [cllrKeith.Hudson@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrKeith.Hudson@rochford.gov.uk)  
Cllr Adrian EVES 01702 201 727 (Business)  
e-mail: [cllrAdrian.eves@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrAdrian.eves@rochford.gov.uk)  
Cllr Brian HAZLEWOOD 01702 201786  
e-mail: [cllrBrian.Hazlewood@Rochford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrBrian.Hazlewood@Rochford.gov.uk)

##### ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR HOCKLEY & ASHINGDON WARD

Cllr Michael CARTER 07958707070 (Mobile)  
e-mail: [cllrMichael.Carter@Rochford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrMichael.Carter@Rochford.gov.uk)  
Cllr Terry CUTMORE 01702 544511  
e-mail: [cllrTerry.Cutmore@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrTerry.Cutmore@rochford.gov.uk)  
Cllr Carole WESTON 07525714715 (Mobile)  
e-mail: [cllrCarole.Weston@Rochford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrCarole.Weston@Rochford.gov.uk)

#### ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROCHFORD WEST

Cllr Carole Weston 07525714715 (Mobile)  
email: [cllr.carole.weston@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.carole.weston@essex.gov.uk)

#### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR RAYLEIGH & WICKFORD

Rt. Hon, MARK FRANCOIS MP  
[mark.francois.mp@parliament.uk](http://mark.francois.mp@parliament.uk)

Mark Francois, MP conducts frequent surgeries for constituents at 25 Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7ED. Tel. 01268 742044. Email:

[enquiries@rayleighandwickfordconservatives.com](mailto:enquiries@rayleighandwickfordconservatives.com)

Website : [www.markfrancoismp.com](http://www.markfrancoismp.com)

(Unavailable during a General Election).