

BOXTED PARISH COUNCIL: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Hill Farm Site

Following the appointment of planning advisors to help the Council with the Neighbourhood Plan, Mr Bates and his architects were to bring revised plans to the January Council meeting. There will be further updates on the Council's website

www.essex.info.net/

boxted-parish-council/planning and in the Newsletter.

Village Shop

The Questionnaire identified a strong desire for a village shop. The Council has looked carefully at the options and its overwhelming conclusion is that, while a commercial shop may not be viable, it may be possible to consider a community shop - perhaps along similar lines to Langham's. However, this option would depend on there being enough volunteers willing to be involved in setting up and running it. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk to the Council. There is no commitment at this stage: the Council just needs to gauge how many volunteers may be relied on if the project can be started.

HEATING OIL SCHEME

Orders for the next delivery of domestic fuel oil under the group scheme must be made (in person only) at Langham Community Shop not later than 5 February. There is a registration fee of £2.

SCOUT GROUP

The 2nd Langham Scout Group thanks everyone who supported their carol singing before Christmas. A good time was had by everyone and the mince pies and hot drinks afterwards were much enjoyed. £150 were raised, which, with proceeds of the parents' meal (£132), sales of windfall apples (£117) and a donation (£20) meant that a total of £419 was raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

www.teenagecancertrust.org

Walnut Orchards

The planning consultants have advised that Tree Preservation Orders placed on the trees in the Walnut Orchards are not sufficient to protect the Orchards from development and that consideration should be given to designating it a Local Green Space under National Planning Policy guidelines, although such action may be difficult given the strict criteria. The Council continues to pursue action with Essex County Council to amend the Definitive Footpath Map and will look to opening a dialogue with the landowners.

Highways /Traffic

The Council has appointed highways consultants to help progress on the highways/traffic issues identified in the Questionnaire. Work includes plans to liaise with St Peter's School to identify possible solutions to the school-time traffic problems.

Affordable Housing

The Council awaits the results of the recent Affordable Housing Survey. It thanks all the villagers who took part.

SOLAR FARMS, LANGHAM

Representatives of Push Energy (PE), the firm proposing two solar energy "farms" in the former airfield area south of Park Lane, Langham, attended the January Parish Council meeting. The following points emerged:

- the area taken up would be reduced from 88 to 79 acres to avoid a former bomb dump site and to reduce unsightliness; the farms could not be larger because of restricted local connections to the National Grid;
- there would be hedges surrounding both farms with a 1.8m high deer-proof fence;
- landscaping would take 3-5 years to mature;
- any noise would be inaudible beyond 50m;
- the area between panels would probably be used for sheep grazing;
- access to the site would be next to the USAAF monument in Park Lane;
- construction would take about 16 weeks, during which there would be 100 heavy goods vehicle movements, most of them in the first 8 weeks;
- the contracts with the land owners would be for a 25-year period; thereafter, if the contracts were not renewed, the farms would be dismantled;
- PE offers "community benefits" at the rate of £500 per megawatt/year for 5 years, amounting to about £9,600 a year - it is hoped for Langham Parish Council;
- a planning application would be submitted in 3-4 weeks.

LANGHAM FILM NIGHTS

Langham Film Nights began in 2011 using hired equipment. They now have a state-of-the-art projection equipment, a first-class sound system and comfortable chairs. In the interval you can stretch your legs, chat and buy an ice cream—a notable advantage over the modern cinemas.

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