

# Barningham Parish Council: Spring Newsletter 2021

**Greetings from your Parish Council!** It's been a difficult year for everyone, but your Parish Council are still here behind the scenes looking after your Village for you and trying to ensure that everyone has access to the things they need. Many of our normal community activities have not been possible, but we have done our best to rise to new challenges, and, thanks to our **Emergency Plan** volunteers, and an emergency phone, which has now been suspended, have been able to support vulnerable residents during this difficult time.

With respect to the ongoing issues around the village, the Parish Council continues to have monthly meetings to which the public are invited. Our meetings have been via zoom, normally on the first Wednesday of the month, but from July we are hoping to meet in person at the Village Hall. Please check posters and our website for relevant dates and agendas and minutes of our monthly meetings, along with other relevant information and details on how to join us. We are always keen to hear your views so get in touch or come to one of our meetings to find out what's going on in your village and get involved!

Covid has held us up with our **Neighbourhood Plan** but we are still working on this legal document, formulated within our village, that reflects the views of residents and can help to shape the future of our village. As part of this process we have recently written to all residents of the village inviting their views on where future development is preferable for residents. We are very pleased with the level of response as it allows us to be sure we can reflect the overall views of residents. We will be writing to all residents with the results shortly. This plan is separate from West Suffolk's consultation which we are not party to although we did respond to the consultation clarifying the current status of our NP and saying *'Barningham Parish Council think that a Parish, carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan, as we are, should be responsible for allocating their own sites. As such, unless strategic to the overall Local Plan, West Suffolk should not allocate any sites in our area. They should allow us to continue our work in identifying sites and consulting with the Parish, with the end result being that the sites chosen in the Neighbourhood Plan are done so through a thorough local consultation and that it is these sites that are brought forward for development. We are about to carry out our own consultation, contacting all the residents in the village. Once we have had back the results of our consultation we will submit them to West Suffolk for inclusion with their data. The Parish Council believe this will represent the most accurate view of where the residents of Barningham would like to see any future development.'* We hope our NP will have a significant influence on any consideration by the Borough Council planners. We were sorry to hear of the confusion and frustration which accompanied the WS consultation. Certainly, it was not as well publicised as it would have been in normal times, and in the absence of accurate publicity there was a great deal of inaccurate information about. If anyone remains uncertain about this topic, or would like more information, please get in touch.

**Maintenance, flooding, ditch clearance and waste:** Following serious flooding in and around the village this winter we are seeking to undertake a survey of flooding triggers and to try to involve highways where possible in looking for strategies to avoid this in future. In addition many ditches are located on private land and we would ask residents to ensure they are cleared. If you need help or advice, please get in touch. If any residents suffer flooding of their home please contact the council so they can help.

Now is a good time to check what can and can't go in your blue and brown bins to assist recycling. **Waste** is a significant issue and we have recently seen **fly tipping** in one of our cemeteries, as well as by footpaths. Please note that fly tipping is illegal and culprits will be pursued. This includes dumping of garden waste in public areas, and please note that rubbish and garden waste can be dangerous for wild animals. As a resident you are also responsible for ensuring you only use reputable waste services and don't employ those who fly tip. Take a look at <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/fly-tipping> for more advice.

**Speeding:** Please respect your neighbours and drive within the speed limits in our lovely village- many residents have raised concerns regarding speeding, road safety, and the noise of speeding vehicles.

**Our Community:** We would like to encourage all residents to get involved as much as possible with the community in our lovely village. Let's all try to support local businesses. The food from the pub is excellent, there is a hairdresser within the village, and lots of local tradespeople. The Village Hall will soon be hosting many community activities again and in the meantime there is a local Zoom Pilates class which may be of interest, and exercise tuition and personal training classes take place on the Cricket Meadow. Also, the Parish Council is working on a whole range of things to help residents- please come along to PC meetings and get involved! There is Community Speedwatch, volunteering at Aggie's Piece (our local wildlife haven), and a range of community activities. We are also trying to extend the Neighbourhood Watch scheme within the village which can help to protect us all, but in particular, the elderly and vulnerable. Please get in touch if you could be a coordinator for your road- it won't be a lot of work. Any other community ideas are most welcome. Would you like to start a Book Club? Or a running group? Can you think of anything the village needs? Please let us know!

**Defibrillator:** this has been installed at the shop and we are very lucky to have this potentially lifesaving equipment in our village. We had a great turnout to pre-Covid training, but instructions are available and anyone can use this if needed, so please remember this is available

**Our wildlife:** We are lucky enough to have an abundance of wildlife in the village and would like to continue to support it. So, whether it is putting out winter food for birds, or feeding hedgehogs before and after hibernation, avoiding garden chemicals, or making holes under fences to allow hedgehogs to roam more easily, please do what you can.

**Finally,** a big thank you to our amazing staff at the village shop. They've kept us all stocked up and been unwaveringly helpful. Let's make sure they know we appreciate them and treat them with the respect they deserve.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Chair - Carol Hammond 43 Bishops Croft

Councillors - William Martineau 01359 221495

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Sharon Lusher 1 Millfield Rd

Tony Steer 07890 501992

Sue Kenyon 07956 061073

Suffolk County Councillor - Joanna Spicer 01359 230800

West Suffolk Borough Cllr - Carol Bull Tel: 01953 681513

Police - Please report all anti-social incidents to the police. If you see it happening call 999, if you see it after it has happened call 101. 01284 774100 for Community Beat Officers or

<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/saferSuffolk/StEdmundsburyRuralNorth>

**Facebook:** Barningham Parish Council-Suffolk

**Website:** [www.barningham.onesuffolk.net](http://www.barningham.onesuffolk.net)