

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Newsletter November 2022 Issue 174

* * * * *

Wildflower Garden Update

The Parish Council agreed proposals for a wildflower garden after an open forum discussion in September. See village website for full info. Grass and a small layer of soil was removed by a contractor and volunteers helped sow seeds and plant bulbs in October. There are already signs of the seeds sprouting. To tackle some of the damper areas, flag iris and other water tolerant wildflowers may be planted next year. Spacehive will transfer the money pledged once the lease between CW&C and GSPC has been agreed. The trees have been surveyed in advance of the lease being considered and CW&C will remove one Robinia nearest Fox Cover as there are signs of decay. Next year herb planters will be installed and as the grass and flowers grow paths will be mown. Thanks to all those who have helped so far. If you would like to be involved and haven't volunteered already please email guildensuttonwildflower@gmail.com or text your name to 07943732703

A name for the garden has still not been decided. 'Upper Hollows' is the latest suggestion. Please let us have your ideas and we'll try to arrange a vote.

Remembrance Day Service Sunday 13th November

Road closures around the War Memorial on School Lane,+ Church Lane, Station Lane and Wicker Lane for a short time before and after 11am and poppies around the parish were funded by the Parish Council.

*****SAVE THE DATE - Christmas Lights Switch On Saturday 3rd December*****

Parish Forum discussion - The Parish Council has introduced Open Forums 30 minutes before some meetings to encourage two-way discussion between residents and councillors. In September the Wildflower Garden was discussed and in November, the Parish Precept. 15 minutes Public Speaking Time is still available at Parish Council meetings when local issues can be raised. It is not always possible to answer questions raised at PST and when appropriate the issues are scheduled for discussion by members at a future meeting, or a response may be given at the following meeting.

Budget - possible options - Which do you support?

- Review grounds maintenance including frequency of CW&C cutting back weeds on footpaths.
- More seating around the parish, possibly near village hall and shops.
- Lengthsman - Advertise to fill vacancy, increase hours
- More play equipment
- Station Lane pedestrian improvements – preliminary discussions with Mickle Trafford and some landowners already started.
- Fitness trail equipment for all ages
- Something for teenagers to do E.g. table tennis table
- Support for local bus services or alternatives
- Coronation event 6th May 2023

Let the Clerk know by 6th December if you have other suggestions or what you think of these and popular ideas will be investigated and costed. The Parish Precept raised £23,800 last year and at £35.43 per Band D property was less than £3 a month per household. Adding £1,000 to the total precept for new items would increase Council Tax by a little under £1.50 per year. There are also Reserves, some earmarked for Contingencies, and some for the long-held desire to purchase more land in the village for recreational use. If anyone owns or knows of suitable land, please let the clerk know.

A request to smokers Please dispose of your cigarette ends carefully, not on the pavement or carpark. They're hard for volunteer litter pickers to pick up.

Overhanging branches Now is the time to cut back your hedges and shrubs especially if they obstruct passers-by. Some pedestrians are forced off the pavement to get past which is dangerous for those with buggies, wheelchairs, or walking aids.

Planning. The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications by the Planning Authority - Cheshire West & Chester Council. The Parish Council does not grant or refuse planning permission but can express support or objection. Parish councillors usually visit sites of applications before making comments. Occasionally residents have been concerned about developments or activities nearby which do not appear to have planning permission. In such cases contact should be made with CW&C, email planning@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk Where planning applications have been submitted any residents wishing to comment can do so online via CW&C website www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/planning

Tile Farm New enforcement action has been started by CW&C against Tile Farm and there is a new planning application 22/03552/LDC for a Certificate of Lawfulness relating to mixed-use including haulage operations, motocross, quad bikes and clay pigeon shooting. Closing date for comments - 9th November. Comments submitted previously need to be resubmitted.

Land on Belle Vue Lane Several residents were at November PC meeting to raise concerns about activities on Greenbelt at land on Belle Vue Lane, including increase in heavy vehicles, import of materials, bonfires and the nature of the site which appears to them to be industrial rather than agricultural. At the start of the meeting, Mr Barker, who is connected with the site, invited residents to visit him on site to discuss any problems He also said that the intention was to establish a small holding with a dwelling which in his view would protect the village from other development and he has licences for importing materials.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council meetings at the Village Hall.

7th Dec; 11th Jan 1st Feb; 1st Mar 7.30pm start for PC meetings

Open Forums 7pm-7.30pm Dates and topics to follow. See noticeboards

Surgeries By the PO. 10am Saturdays 3rd Dec 7th Jan 28 Feb; 25th Mar.

Parish Councillors Chair: Mel Littlewood. Members: Imogen Brown; Derek Hughes; David Kane; Bill Moulton; Trisha Paterson; Sue Proctor, Sue Ringstead

Contact Us: Parish Clerk : 07783012582 (Answermachine)

Email guildensuttonparishclerk@gmail.com

Web www.guildensuttonpc.co.uk

Other useful contacts

CW&C www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Call Centre 0300 123 8123 Out of hours 0300 123 7035

Ward Councillors Graham Heatley & Margaret Parker

Local Police See Facebook ChesterVillagesPolice or ring 0845 458 6375 for non-urgent local issues, 101 for general issues and 99 in emergency.

The Parish Council will not tolerate abusive behaviour towards staff or members. Threats being made to individuals or their property in person, by telephone, email, social media or letter, are not acceptable.

Council Elections 2023

Eight members serve on Guilden Sutton PC, each for four years. An election will be held in May 2023 if more than 8 are nominated. For info about parish elections see www.electoralcommission.org.uk. Parish website will have information about tasks parish councillors carry out including serving on committees, attending surgeries & site visits, participation in various local organisations, and helping with community events and activities. Anyone interested is encouraged to attend parish council meetings to familiarise themselves with issues that are discussed.

Further Information

To help the smooth running of the parish council, in addition to attending monthly council meetings, (usually first Wednesday in the month)

members serve on committees (Eg. Finance, Communications), and carry out various tasks such as monthly street surgeries, site visits for planning applications, and liaising on public transport and traffic issues. They also help with the village fete, Remembrance Day preparations and service, write and deliver newsletters and take care of planters. Several members are involved in other organisations and groups within the

parish including including serving as a school governor, or committee members with Greenspace, Village Green, Wildflower Garden and

Community Association. Training is provided for parish council duties and there are regular meetings, currently via Zoom, with the Cheshire

Association of Local Councils where Jackie Weaver is CEO and with CW&C, Details of meetings are available on the parish and village

websites. Anyone interested could perhaps think about attending a parish council meeting if they haven't already done so, to see how it works

and take a look at minutes of previous meetings to familiarise themselves with the topics discussed and decisions taken.