

COUNCILLORS FOR BARROW

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NEWSLINK

Keeping you in touch with Barrow cum
Denham

Summer 2020



Parish Council News

Welcome to the summer edition of Newslink.

Since the Covid-19 lockdown meant that we were unable to hold our annual Parish meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to give my report here.

We started the year with new housing plans centre of most of our meetings and discussions. Following an organised campaign of protest and objection, the Parish Council had no choice but to withdraw from a proposal to bring forward a community project to provide new leisure and community facilities alongside additional new housing. This action only means that the community and leisure facilities will not be built it does not influence the building of more new houses subject to planning permission being granted. This decision to withdraw was followed quickly with a subsequent resolution to bring forward a Neighbourhood Plan that will help to influence future development in and around our village. This process is long and complicated and continues to this day. A report on its progress can be found in this copy of Newslink.

Poor drainage especially along the main street through the village continues to be a problem during periods of heavy rain, and although we believe we have identified what needs to be done, there is a constant struggle to get the work actioned when the District and County Councils budgets are very tight. You can be assured that the Parish Council continues to lobby the relevant departments for the works to be scheduled.

The issue of speeding in the village continues to challenge us. We have now acquired a new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) for the exclusive use of our village. This new sign will provide us with data about speeds that it has recorded at locations in the 30 MPH zone. We can use this information to lobby the Police to respond to hotspots identified. The sign cost more than two and a half thousand pounds and we were fortunate to secure significant support from district councillor Ian Houlder.

Our village school has decided to join the two-tier system going forward, a consequence of this is of course the fact that the school will have extra year groups to accommodate. You will probably have noticed some construction work going on in the school grounds to provide extra space. We wish them well in the future.

The most dominating feature of course is the arrival of the Covid-19 Virus and its affects on our village life. The Parish Council has partnered up with Barrow Good Neighbours to provide its response to the pandemic. We put out an appeal at the start of lockdown to help us identify vulnerable residents and call for volunteers to come forward who would be willing to help. It is a tribute to our village spirit that we were lucky enough to have a ratio of almost 3 times as many volunteers as there were residents needing help. This generous help has continued for many weeks and is still ongoing today. I personally have been humbled by the level of help people have given freely to others in our village and it confirms my faith in the strength of our community here in Barrow and Denham.

John Pearson. - Chairman Barrow cum Denham Parish Council.

Barrow cum Denham Footpaths

Not many of these strange days go by without me reflecting on how fortunate we are to be living in our lovely village in rural Suffolk and in these uncertain times I'm sure many of us have found ourselves outdoors adopting new routines and pastimes to while away the weeks of imposed isolation. I know many of us have found great pleasure in exploring the many excellent and well maintained footpaths, bridleways and byways that surround the village and for those of you who have not, I urge you to get out there and take a stroll. Paths and tracks can take you to Higham, Gazeley, Dalham, Saxham, Ousden, Hargrave and beyond and it is a fabulous time of year to get out and appreciate the beautiful English countryside.

All our paths are marked on OS maps and there is also a large map on a notice board by the recycling bins in the village centre. Another useful source of this information can be found at www.footpathmap.co.uk

You probably won't be alone and will possibly bump into others out taking their restorative exercise, can I please remind you to adhere to the now normal social distancing guidelines and make room for all parties to pass comfortably and safely. Please can you also ensure you stick to designated footpaths. The Parish Council had received a number of complaints from landowners about people walking across their fields.

Needless to say, as always, will all dog owners please clean up after their dogs and ensure a pleasant and safe environment for all other walkers.

Have fun out there!

Barrow Book Exchange

During the period of lockdown the BBE has stayed open for business whilst bookshops and libraries have remained closed. There appears to have been no slowing down of the stream of donated books, despite signs reminding people ONLY to take them away, not to leave them.

Several people have used the BBE as a source of books to give away to readers who may be self-isolating, but want to boost their reading. So long as gloves are worn when selecting books in the kiosk, then sanitised and held for about 48 hours before being passed on, they should be safe to use.

Children's books have poured in, most of them in good condition. We would strongly recommend that anyone with young school age children should come along and select books from this stock. We would also like to persuade people NOT to leave large quantities of books (ie. In boxes or bags) as these block the floor and we simply don't have the facilities to store spill-over stock.

Ann Kronbergs

A tonic for us all by Caroline Holmes

Councillor. H. is a man dedicated to easing my working life pouring a long gin and tonic at the end of the day. Had the year run to plan I would have been mostly working away from Denham but here I am and the garden is more productive than it has been in years. Apart from self-setting Swiss chard and thuggish Jerusalem artichokes, normally I grow no more than herbs, salad veg and potatoes, this year old and new seeds have been sown. Germinating nearly 100 tomato seeds is one unexpected outcome, I think my compost heap was not hot enough so far from breaking down, these terrorist tomatoes have invaded every growing space. I have wonderful seeds such as Black Coco, Fowler and Emperor of Russia beans, Lettuce Bronze Arrow has found its mark but we have been faced with cold nights and now hot dry days. Enter the double life of our G&T, firstly our life-enhancing refreshment then once the bottle is empty we cut off its base with heartless vigour indeed all plastic bottles are being bottomed out. As the roses, wisteria and alliums strut their stuff, under them are follow-on seed raised *Lavatera*, *Cosmos*, *Zinnia* and other young transplants. For their first week or two, I have tucked up these youngsters with a good planting hole, watered them in before covering with a plastic bottle cloche. They are now confidently becoming part of the blossoming display. Released amongst the red currants, Jerusalem artichokes and strawberries, an army of plastic bottle cloches are coaxing terrorist tomatoes, courgettes, brassicas and young lettuces into production. Cheers!

Play Area

The Village Hall Management Committee wish to remind people that the play area will remain out of bounds until the Government confirm it is safe to be used.

RECYCLING

We appreciate that everyone is trying to do their bit and recycle where possible. If you find the bottle banks are full when you get there please take your glass home. If people continue to leave glass on the ground the contractor will soon start to charging us to clear it up.

The clothes bank remains closed and will not be emptied.

COVID-19 Barrow Cum Denham PC and Barrow cum Denham Good Neighbours

The Parish Council would like to thank all of the volunteers that have gone out of their way to help residents within the Parish in need. Your help has been very much appreciated.

IF YOU REQUIRE HELP—Please call the Parish Council on 07795 343588 and help will be arranged for you. Volunteers are able to shop, pick up prescriptions, dog walk, and much more. Please do make contact if you require help with anything.



Home, But Not Alone
Supporting vulnerable people in Suffolk

The Home, But Not Alone free phoneline is for people who need **urgent** help and support during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is only for people who do not have support available from friends, family or neighbours and are struggling for food, medicines or other essential supplies.

Coronavirus Emergency Phoneline

0800 876 6926

9am-5pm every day
For all other enquiries please visit: www.suffolk.gov.uk/homebutnotalone

Logos for Barrow Suffolk, Ipswich, West Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, and a local business logo.

The County Council have also set up a phoneline to support vulnerable people.

There is plenty of help available. Please make use of it.

Barrow and Denham Good Neighbours Scheme

Under normal circumstances, volunteers provide services such as lifts to the West Suffolk Hospital, the surgery, the post office, the hairdresser, etc, and carry out minor DIY jobs/repairs, or help to fill in forms, to people in our community. All services are free except when a lift is involved, when we charge 40p per mile (present rate) to cover the driver's costs. However, with social distancing still in place, lifts are not possible at present, but services such as shopping, collecting prescriptions etc are still taking place. Please contact us if you need help.

Sadly the regular coffee mornings that we hold, mostly at The Old Cowshed Tearoom (site of Barrow post office) and occasionally at the Town Estate Room, have had to be cancelled lately in order to comply with guidelines.

If you would like our assistance, ring the helpline number and leave a message. The phone holder will get back to you to take details and arrange the assistance. Please allow at least 3 days' notice whenever possible.

Good Neighbours HELPLINE 07930 328 930

The Great British Spring Clean

The Parish Council was recently approached by West Suffolk Council to see if we might like to take part in an event called 'The Great British Spring Clean'. This event is a national campaign with a simple aim: to bring people across the country together to help clear up the litter that blights many towns, villages, countryside and beaches. Individuals, couples, families or groups can take part for whatever length of time suits them – from half an hour to half a day. This event has been postponed until September (subject to change). Please register your interest with the Parish Clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to have been licenced as the interim priest-in-charge of the Barrow benefice, and I'm looking forward to meeting you all! Unfortunately, the virus intervened, thwarting my plans to move to Barrow, and so I am still living in Sudbury. I have toured the benefice virtually via video and phone calls, but it's not quite the same as meeting you over a cup of coffee! However despite that, I have sensed a very warm, friendly and welcoming community. Take The Good Neighbours' Scheme – what an excellent example of people working together and caring for others in loving service; this is very much how Jesus taught his disciples, and how, I pray, we will continue in the future.

I'm looking forward to meeting you, listening to your stories, finding out what the needs are within the parishes, and establishing how best my ministry can be used to help and grow our communities. Meanwhile, I wish you every blessing and protection as we continue to face this difficult situation. Do feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss anything, and please do stay safe.

With love and prayers,

Rev'd Lynda

To contact the Rev'd Lynda:

Tel: 01787 313 769 / email: revlyndasebbage@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Plan

In the spirit of keeping calm and carrying on during these difficult times, we've been doing our best to progress Barrow-cum-Denham's Neighbourhood Plan.

You might recall from my previous Newslink report, that the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan can be thought of in three phases: collecting data, analysing the data and reporting. We are in the first phase. Some activities - such as assessing the parish's future housing need and listing all the heritage assets such as ancient monuments and important buildings - have been completed and others are underway.

The natural environment and wildlife habitats in and around Barrow and Denham are one of the things that make this such a great place to live. They may well influence some of the policies in the eventual Plan. Understandably, it's a complicated subject that requires rigorous investigation by specialists. Recently, we applied for and received a further grant so that this work can be carried out by external consultants, Aecom. Their report is due in the autumn.

We had planned to have our Neighbourhood Plan survey underway by now, but we didn't feel that it was appropriate to launch it during the recent lockdown. We'll be reviewing matters at our next Parish Council meeting and if the decision is to proceed, there will be announcements via the Parish Council web-site, noticeboard and Facebook.

This survey will be your chance to have your say about how the parish develops over the next twenty years. It will be made available on-line and in hard copy and contains about 50 multiple-choice questions where we'll ask you about your opinion. Remember, it's not a quiz – there are no right or wrong answers – we're simply asking what you think on issues such as amenities, the environment, infrastructure and future development. It takes just a few minutes to complete. As well as specific questions there's also space for you to tell us more generally about your views.

Cllr. Mark Howard

Newslink

Submissions for the next issue should be emailed to the Parish Clerk by **Friday 28th August 2020**.

Please limit the number of words to no more than 200.

We are always after new articles.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council have had an increase in enquiries about renting allotments in recent weeks.

There are still a few left. If you are interested please contact the clerk barrowcumdenhampc@gmail.com or 01284 811952

The cost per annum is:

Full allotment £25

Half allotment £15

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An Oak Tree trying hard by David Holmes

If you walk from Barrow to Denham watch out for eight oak trees on your left before you get to the Denham sign. I remember these oaks being planted when they were about a metre high, seven are growing well but the third one along is much smaller than the others. Soon after it was planted its trunk was split and damaged. I put a plastic shield around it for protection but I still feared it would die. After a lengthy struggle it has survived and is now beginning to grow, because it had such a hard start I wonder if in time it will outlive all the others.

This year I have counted over 40 bee orchids on the triangle at Brockley Lane which is a record for this tiny site - if you have time go and see them but without actually standing on the triangle please!

So far we have had a beautiful spring so different from the gales earlier in the year which did so much damage. Gales are nothing new, when we moved into our wreck of a house in 1975 one of the first things needing doing was to renew and replace the pantiles on the roof. Pantiles especially eighteenth century ones take time to bed down, one evening that autumn we were able to stand down the garden and watch a relentless wind peel off rows of pantiles ... and drop them on my car

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