

Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2017

Issue Number 37

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Parish Council Update Bulletin



Introduction from the Chairman, Geoff Beaven.

This special edition newsletter highlights three upcoming events and activities with a very strong community involvement.

The **Annual Parish Assembly** is your opportunity to hear what is going on in your parish and the locality and to voice your own opinion on these important issues. We want you to earmark the date of this community event.

Community Speedwatch is coordinated by Hampshire Constabulary to allow local residents to check vehicle speeds in their area and report those exceeding the limits. Arrangements to do this in the Parish have been set up but we need you to volunteer to take part.

A positive outcome of the building of the nearby Solar Farm is that a **Community Benefit Fund** has been set up to pay for environmental and social projects that will enhance our community. It is planned to set up a residents group to help the parish council identify suitable projects for this funding and we need you to volunteer to be part of this community led endeavour.

Dogmersfield Annual Parish Assembly

Monday 10th April 2017

from 7.15pm

The Annual Parish Assembly is your opportunity to become more involved in community activities.

Join us in the Primary School Hall from 7.15pm on Monday 10th April when you will hear about many local activities and the problems that we face such as over development and environmental issues.

This is also an ideal opportunity to make your own views known and influence what is happening in our community. A glass of wine or soft drink will be served prior to the meeting.

What you can expect to hear.....

- **Progress Update on Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Update on Environmental News**
- **Where the money has been spent**
- **What the future year holds**

Reports also from

- **Your District Councillor**
- **Your County Councillor**
- **Basingstoke Canal Authority**
- **Local Police**
- **News from the School**
- **News from the Four Seasons**

So please put Monday 10th April in your diary and we look forward to seeing you.

Speed Watch Initiative

Speeding traffic is one of the biggest community concerns throughout Hampshire that affects quality of life for residents and increases safety risks particularly for cyclists and pedestrians. Dogmersfield is no different as despite the fact that nearly all of the roads in the Parish are speed limited this does not appear to curb the excessive speed of many motorists.

Community Speedwatch is coordinated by Hampshire Constabulary and a local programme is being set up by the Parish Council. These arrangements will allow teams of local volunteers to monitor traffic speeds and identify vehicles that exceed the speed limit. Details of these vehicles will be collected at the time of the alleged offence and the registered owner of the vehicle will receive a letter from the police telling them that they have been seen exceeding the speed limit. If the same vehicle is logged again within 12 months the registered owner will receive a warning. Details of any third offence are passed to a police officer for consideration of further action.

More details of the scheme can be found on road.policing.management@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

To help set up a Speedwatch programme for Dogmersfield the Fleet Speedwatch team have kindly agreed that we may use their speed measuring equipment for a trial period and they will also provide



some initial training and support for our local volunteers. The local police have also helped us to identify the most suitable monitoring locations which can only be within the 30mph limits and must be safe for the volunteers. They have already completed the necessary risk assessment for the first three trial sites.

However, Speedwatch cannot be run by the Parish Council alone and we need a minimum of six volunteers to join the team that puts the trial scheme in place.

Volunteers must be at least 17 years of age and are required to complete an application form for a vetting process which can take up to six weeks. Specialist training will be given and high visibility clothing suitable for roadside working will be provided. We understand that to be effective speed monitoring should be undertaken for periods of around one hour every four to six weeks which will be the level of involvement we are seeking. Volunteers will be covered under Hampshire Constabulary's public liability insurance for roadside working. Without your support we can go no further and local speeding will remain unchallenged.

Please volunteer to join the Dogmersfield Speedwatch team by contacting Claire Inglis, Clerk to Dogmersfield Parish Council at clerk@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk or by telephone on 01252 819790.

Community Benefit Fund

As you may know a Solar Farm has been constructed at Hungerford Farm, beyond the fields as you travel to Winchfield along Chatter Alley. The company developing the site set up a Community Benefit Fund that would pay out a small proportion of the revenue from the farm over a 25 year period. Although the site is located in the parish of Winchfield, Dogmersfield has also benefitted. These payments would be made to the two Parish Councils for spending on local social and environmental projects.

When a new company Anesco took over the Solar Farm they did not want to continue with the 25 year payments but after negotiations with both Parish Councils it was agreed to accept a single lump sum payment. For Dogmersfield this means that the Parish Council has £28,000 in its bank account to spend on worthy projects and activities in our Parish.

When the Community Benefit Fund was first set up the Parish Council concluded that it provided a good opportunity for residents to become more involved in deciding how such money should be spent. Now that the lump sum has been received the Parish Council is



looking to form a group of volunteer residents, under the guidance of a Councillor, to identify and cost a range of suitable activities or projects and then recommend what goes ahead.

The final decision will be for the Parish Council as the commitment and expenditure will be by the Parish Council. However, in most circumstances the Parish Council will be expected to implement the recommendations. It is currently believed that the lump sum should be released in annual amounts but the Parish Council will be open minded to other suggestions if larger projects are envisaged.

This is a new initiative by which residents can directly affect what is being done for their community. The Parish Council would love to hear from any resident who would like to be part of this new and influential group.

Please register your interest by contacting Claire Inglis, Clerk to Dogmersfield Parish Council at clerk@dogmersfieldparish.co.uk or by telephone on 01252 819790.