

South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council

Newsletter January 2026



New

www.SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk

Website

Office@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk for day-to-day issues

Clerk@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk for meetings and major projects

SMHall@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk for South Mimms Hall bookings and all Community Events

Happy New Year!

We hope that you all had a healthy and peaceful time over the festive period and are in good spirits for 2026.

Election

Following the resignation of Councillor Becker, Hertsmere received the requisite number of signatures from residents of the civic parish to demand a full election for the one place, rather than using co-option to bring on board a replacement for the remaining term of this election cycle. This election will take place on **Tuesday 20th January** at South Mimms Village Hall. The candidates are:

- 1) **Mark Hedison (Brookside, South Mimms) non-political / independent candidate**
- 2) **Louise Soffer (address in Hertsmere) Reform UK Party candidate**



If you know Mark or Louise and think they would make a good councillor to help care for South Mimms, please do make the effort to go and vote for them.

Planning Matters

As we reported back in our August Newsletter, an application has been made to construct a **solar farm** on wheat fields off Earls Lane, covering approximately 100 acres of green belt. An enormous effort has been made by a specially formed working group of residents to help object against the plans. No date for a decision has been released by Hertsmere Planning yet.



The full planning application for the **Premier Inn Hotel to be knocked down and replaced by a HGV distribution park** was submitted by Whitbread, despite the concerns the Parish Council raised with them. There has been hospitality use on the site for the best part of 100 years and the Parish Council hope that the planning will be refused, so that the additional HGV traffic is kept away from the edge of the village.

Plans for the **Data Centre** (that sits just outside South Mimms Ward's boundaries on Potters Bar land) have been sold on by Griggs Ltd to a specialist data centre company called **Equinix**.

However, Griggs have upheld their commitment to sign the White Hart pub over to Hertsmere's ownership and refurbish it as a community IT training centre with funding for 15 years.

Hertsmere Borough Council will merge with other (as yet undetermined) Borough Councils when Hertfordshire County Council is dissolved in just over 2 years' time and whilst the White Hart centre itself will continue to operate uninterrupted, South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council have requested that Hertsmere sign the building's ownership over to the Parish Council at that time. You may remember that when the **White Hart** first closed SM&RPC tried to get the pub classified as a Community Asset. Whilst that application was rejected at the time, the approach that SM&RPC has taken (ie to support the training centre) has ensured that the Grade II listed building will be in local community ownership and have a **community café** thus retaining a hospitality use – otherwise it would have been lost forever to private residential ownership.

Community Events and South Mimms Village Hall

The hall has an online booking system, and all requests should be made via www.hallbookingonline.com/southmimms where you can see availability, and what's on. The hall is looked after by our new **Community Officer, Bobbie Wanless**, who can be contacted on SMHall@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk.

Bobbie works with our long-standing **community volunteers** who you may have seen at our very popular **Carols Round The Tree** event. Thanks to everyone that supported the event including those running stalls. 2025 was definitely our biggest and best year yet. Particular thanks go to the children from St Giles School and Starry-Eyed Theatre Group for their singing, Jane and Cathy for serving so much free soup, Tamsynne for leading the Carols and of course Father Christmas for making a special appearance!



The next events on our social calendar are:



Children's Movie Night on 16th February 4-6pm (responsible adult must stay)

Bingo Night will be on either 27th or 28th February.

Quiz Night 7th March.

We are planning more events in the spring and summer with dates to be confirmed – keep an eye on social media and the notice boards outside the village hall, or email SMHall@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk. **Please also email Bobbie if you are interested in helping at future events.**

Other Reminders:

Book Swap continues to run at South Mimms Village Hall in the smaller room at the back **on the 3rd Friday of every month 2-4pm** (except August and December). The sessions provide a warm and friendly space to have a chat with others over a hot drink and cake, as well as grabbing a new book or puzzle. Everyone is welcome and you don't need to bring a book to swap.

Help Report Issues at www.Hertsmere.Gov.UK/ReportIt including fly tipping, pavement issues, parks issues, missed bin collection or www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/ for pot holes and anything on the road surface.

Council Meetings resume 5th February at South Mimms Village Hall and then 5th March at Ridge Village Hall with Cllr.Ralph.Bania@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk acting as Chairman.