

# South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council

## Newsletter August 2023



NEW WEBSITE & EMAIL: [www.southmimmsridge.org.uk](http://www.southmimmsridge.org.uk) [clerk@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk](mailto:clerk@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk)

For urgent news please follow our Facebook page: [South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council](#)

### Welcome to our first newsletter as SM&RPC

The new Parish Council is split into two Wards following the May elections, four Councillors now represent South Mimms Ward being, Cllr Cathy McCaffrey (Chairperson), Cllr Chris Myers (Deputy Chairperson and Mayor of Hertsmere), Cllr Mark Hedison and Cllr Daniel Becker (who joined us by post-election co-option). Representing Ridge Ward, we have Cllr Ralph Bania who many Ridge residents will know for his work with Ridge Village Hall.

As the Parish Council doesn't have a public meeting in August (or January) we hope you will find this newsletter an informative alternative. Remember, our meetings are open to everyone, and we also broadcast the meetings on Zoom - please check our Facebook page, email us, or see our website's meeting page for details. **Our September and November meetings will be held at Ridge Village Hall, with October and December at South Mimms** – we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

### Planning Matters

The Planning Enforcement Notice against the aggregates site on St Albans Road was disappointingly overturned by the National Planning Inspector in April. Consequently, Hertsmere has now formed a multi-agency task force to monitor noise, dust and damage to the highways by the site's users. If you have something to report specifically in connection with the site, please do so as follows:

- For highways, including dust, blocked drains outside of the site, or debris left on the road please email [HighwaysBST@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HighwaysBST@hertfordshire.gov.uk) with the title 'St Albans Road JDA Utility'.
- Noise issues from the site should be reported by email to [environmental.health@hertsmere.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@hertsmere.gov.uk) quoting '23/00639/NUDUST'.
- Incidents of water being taken directly from public standpipes should be reported by emailing [hydrant.licensing@affinitywater.co.uk](mailto:hydrant.licensing@affinitywater.co.uk)
- Any incidents of waste transfer, the burying of waste on the site, or the illegal discharge of hazardous materials can be reported to the National Environment Agency using their 24 hour hotline 0800 807060.

The Parish and Borough Councils expect ALL building site-type companies operating within our villages to abide by national guidelines on working hours and follow health and safety standards - our proximity to the M25 and A1 is no excuse for unprofessional operating standards and all incidents of breaches will be reported.



**The Hertsmere Local Plan for New Housing** is back under review, now that the call for alternative sites has closed. We await news on a timeline for public consultation. New sites have been put forward as well as the ones previously offered.

The Parish Council has responded to the **Conservation Area Review** issued by Hertsmere. |We believe this doesn't go far enough and should encompass all areas of the village that have predominantly pre-war housing. Doing this would ensure all of our Grade II listed, and locally listed buildings are included. The response was approved by all Councillors as part of our July meeting and a copy is on the website.

## Parking

Inconsiderate parking continues to be an issue in both villages, with pavement and verge parking. Please remember that even if there isn't a yellow line, you are still required to park within the Highway Code and you could still be ticketed and face a penalty charge notice.

## Book Swap Relaunch

On September 15<sup>th</sup> we will be relaunching our Book Swap at South Mimms Village Hall in the smaller room at the back. We are open **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month** (except August). The sessions are there to provide a warm and friendly space to have a chat with others more than anything else. Recent studies show that social interactions are key to living a longer life and reading is great at any age.



- Pop in any time between 2pm and 4pm – stay for as long or as little as you like, be it just for a quick coffee before the school run, after the school run (we have juice too) or stay the whole time.
  - Come alone or bring a friend - we don't mind.
  - Come and have a 'cuppa' some cake, *relax* and have a look at our two cupboards full of books (plus puzzles for adults and a few DVDs) and just help yourself – it is all free.
- You don't have to bring a book to swap, you don't have to give back the same book you took before.
  - We just ask that you donate some books you no longer want from time to time.

## Report It & Sort It

We are always happy to help report issues to Hertsmere Bough Council on your behalf, but it is often faster to report yourself and then get updates emailed directly to you. [www.Hertsmere.Gov.UK/ReportIt](http://www.Hertsmere.Gov.UK/ReportIt)

We have had several bad cases of fly-tipping recently, so if you spot some fly-tipping please don't assume someone else has reported it, please report it as soon as possible - particularly if it is encroaching on the road as this can be very hazardous. If you see a fly-tip in progress, please try to make a note of the vehicle's registration. If a tip happens in a private gateway Hertsmere will not clear it, so it is important we try to prevent tips as much as possible by blocking off unused areas. We are looking at investing in some cameras to try and capture number plates of offenders and evidence will be passed to the Borough Council and Police for prosecution.



## Have Your Say

Hertfordshire County Council would like all residents to complete a survey to help them prioritise spending on the things that matter. Please see [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/residentsurvey](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/residentsurvey)

## Thank You!

Local Ridge residents, who run FPA Property Services, have kindly sponsored a new bench to go at the top of Blackhorse Lane after the area was repaired by the owners of The Old Guinea. Many thanks to both families for being so community spirited, we look forward to seeing the bench in place soon.

*Have a great summer – Best Wishes, Natalie Curran (Clerk) and the SM&RPC Councillors*