

South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council

Clerk's Newsletter August 2024



www.southmimmsridge.org.uk

Email: clerk@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk

For up-to-date news and planning notices follow our Facebook page: [South Mimms & Ridge Parish Council](#)

Planning Matters

The first big thank-you must go to Councillor Cathy McCaffrey (Chair of the Parish Council) along with Cllr Daniel Becker and Cllr Mark Hedison who attended three more days of hearings, in the Public Enquiry into Hertsmere's enforcement against the **aggregates site next to Romani House**. We are delighted to announce that the National Planning Inspector has **UPHELD** Hertsmere's enforcement notice. This means that the owners have six months to clear the site and remove the concrete base and fences so the site can be returned to a natural state. The Parish Council had gathered evidence of the site's pollution of the village and historic proof of the site's condition and use. Several of us gave evidence at the hearing on behalf of residents who couldn't attend and underwent tough cross-examinations, so it is wonderful to receive such positive news at long last. Thanks also to the residents that attended and submitted evidence.



The revised Hertsmere Draft Local Plan for new housing was released for public consultation back in the Spring, however, there is now further pressure as the new Government has increased Hertsmere's yearly building targets by an extra 228 homes to 959 per year.

The new Draft Local Plan that Hertsmere published in April reduced the number of new homes planned for South Mimms considerably, saving two large fields by condensing the remaining number on to just one site, on Cecil Road behind the car wash.

That site (along with the field opposite) is owned by **The Hickman Trust**, the charity that also owns the Alms House next to St Gile's Church. The Trust and their appointed promoters, Miller Homes, are unwilling to build the number of units Hertsmere have targeted (believing the site too small and that the proposal is outside of existing guidelines) which has left a **shortfall of around 35 homes**. On the plus side, after several meetings, Miller homes have now agreed to provide **rear access disabled parking to the bungalows in Brookside** as part of their plans for the site. We are also putting pressure on them to reinstate the Alms houses for the Trust as these are currently in a state of disrepair and uninhabited.

As the Local Plan still proposes a significant increase to the number of students at **St Giles School**, the Parish Council has also been in consultation with the Headmaster and DLA Town Planning (who represent the owners of the land next to the school). Plans have been submitted to Hertsmere for pre-application consultation that would provide: a new pedestrian school entrance off St Albans Road, parking that parents could use (so only staff would access the school via Blanche Lane), some shops, plus a **Multi Utility Games Area** with lighting, that can be rented out after school, bringing some much needed income to the school. If successful, this would all paid for by building the shortfall number of homes mentioned above and means that we would get the same (now lower) number of new homes, but which much more community benefit. Plus, the remainder of the parcel of **land would be gifted to the Parish Council** to protect for the future. Results of the application will be shared as soon as we receive them from Hertsmere.

Finally, as you may have heard by now, the plans to convert the **White Hart** and associated barns into homes was approved by Hertsmere, with one additional new house at the rear next to the Alms Houses.

Book Swap



Book Swap continues to run at South Mimms Village Hall in the smaller room at the back (with thanks to Paula Arnold for her continued support). We are open **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. We have lots of **children's books** too and everyone is welcome. You don't need to bring a book to swap – we have hundreds!

South Mimms Village Hall News



South Mimms Village Hall Committee would like to rehome the billiards table that was previously used by South Mimms Youth Club. The table, which is a true antique with a slate base, converts to a large dining table and is approximately 134cm x 255cm. A donation would be appreciated. Also, the committee have organised a free **Afternoon Tea to celebrate 50 years of Hertsmere** on Sunday 8th September. Please contact Linda Hedison on skylark20@hotmail.co.uk or 01707 651 067 for information on both.

The Big Spring Clean

A big thanks to everyone who took part in our spring litter picking campaign, with special thanks to Cathy McCaffrey, Mark and Linda Hedison, and especially SM Hall Trustee Dave Cockburn who with Peter Starling collected larger fly-tipping. We filled a skip and Hertsmere took away a further 25 bags of smaller litter. The Police also came and took away 6 pairs of numberplates we found. We were delighted so many of you took part and hope to repeat the campaign next year. In the meantime, Rhys Hatswell will continue his weekly rounds for us. Please help keep our villages clean and pick up any litter you spot if safe to do so.



New Community Garden

Work has started on a new green space behind South Mimms Village Hall thanks to a £750 grant from Hertsmere. A local resident is kindly clearing the site for us with a mini digger. We hope to make raised beds for flowers, vegetables and herbs out of reclaimed pallets. Anyone else wanting to volunteer for this project, either to help with the set up or maintenance, please contact me clerk@SouthMimmsRidge.org.uk.

Ridge to get a Defibrillator

The Old Guinea have kindly agreed to install a public defibrillator on the outside of the pub, which we will purchase shortly. Our South Mimms Village Hall defibrillator has been accessed several times in the last year alone and is registered as part of a national network of defibrillators in public places called The Circuit.

Help Report Issues at www.Hertsmere.Gov.UK/ReportIt

We are always happy to help report issues to Hertsmere Bough Council on your behalf, but it is often faster to report small issues yourself and then get updates emailed directly to you.

Save the Date: Council meetings resume 12th September (South Mimms) and then 3rd October (Ridge).

Best Wishes, Natalie Curran (Clerk and Finance Officer)

Your Councillors are Cathy McCaffrey (Chairperson), Chris Myers (Deputy), Mark Hedison, Daniel Becker and Ralph Bania (Ridge Ward).