



intouch

News from Woodhall Farm
Autumn/Winter 2018



Greetings!

Local councillors Rosie Sutton and Colette Wyatt-Lowe always attend the Remembrance Sunday commemoration on behalf of our residents in the Woodhall Farm Ward. This year Rosie is the Mayor of Dacorum so it is very appropriate that, as Mayor, she represents the borough on this 100 Year anniversary of the Great War. Rosie's family have lived in Hemel Hempstead for several generations and her ancestors would have been among those who fought in the First and Second World Wars.

We would both like to take this opportunity to wish residents in Woodhall Farm, Hunters Oak, Cherry Tree Grove and Swallowfields a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. We also send seasonal greetings to those who do not celebrate Christmas so a Happy (belated) Diwali and Hanukkah to all!



Cupid Green Playing Fields

Christmas comes early for local dog walkers. At a recent Cabinet meeting it was decided to throw out the proposal to build a large athletics hub on Cupid Green playing fields. The consultation carried out by Dacorum Borough Council revealed strong opposition to building a hub in that location due to parking, increased traffic flows and access issues and also loss of a valuable green recreational space. Local residents thought it was a great idea to have a sports hub but not on that site. It is good to know that local views **do** get taken into account.



Local Issues – Local Solutions



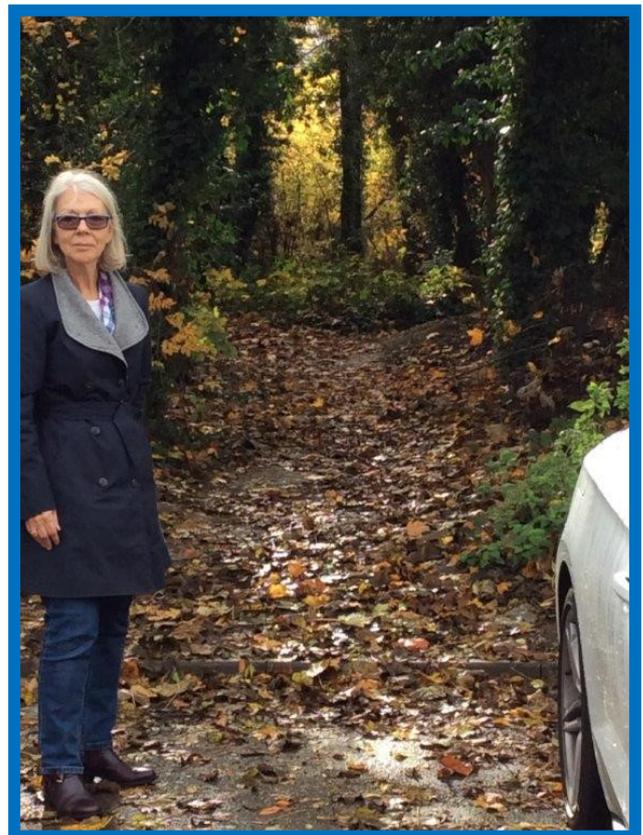
Local residents in **Swallowfields** have had to put up with a huge amount of anti-social behaviour. Many contacted your local councillors and we have been working with the police and Dacorum Borough Council's anti-social behaviour unit to try and stop this type of activity which has resulted in many residents feeling intimidated. It is not right that people cannot feel safe in their community. Some solutions have been put in place but clearly there is much more to do. Enforcement activity has been stepped up and Colette has asked the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Lloyd, to see if extra manpower can be put into this. Please keep reporting incidents to us as well as to the police. If you can manage to get photos of those involved then send them direct to the police and to your local councillors. Swallowfields is such a great place to live. It is a real pity it's being spoiled by a minority.



Crackley Road Crossing

Local residents have made their own unofficial crossing point to get across the Nicky Line to reach the pelican crossing on the Redbourn Road. The builders have to put a proper crossing in place as part of their planning permission. We have been working with the planners at DBC to make sure that this crossing is built. As soon as 200 homes have been built and occupied the builders will be legally required to provide a proper crossing point so that you do not have to scramble through bushes and mud to reach a safe place to cross Redbourn Road.

Colette and Rosie are also working with the local authority on a longer term plan to create a safer footpath around the footbridge in Three Cherry Trees Lane. The current footpath is used by people walking to work on the Maylands Business Park but it is even more heavily used by Mums with their young children going to and from local schools. We need to make this footpath safer for everyone.



Your Councillors working for you

Highways Matters

The scheme to improve safety in Redbourn Road has now reached the more detailed planning phase. A light controlled pedestrian crossing will be put in place near to the petrol station. This is because of the very high number of personal injury accidents which have happened over the past 2 – 3 years. A cycleway and footpath will also be provided as well as improved pedestrian refuges at various points between the Shenley Road roundabout and the Aldi Roundabout.

The problem of the T junction with Shenley Road and the Redbourn Road has not been forgotten. It was down-graded due to the urgent need to tackle the much greater hazard by the petrol station.

So now we have a scheme in place for that – as described above – we are now putting on the pressure to try and get funding for a similar solution at the T junction. Local councillors recently re-visited the junction with highways engineers to try and agree a cost-effective cheap solution which could be put in place quickly but this has proved difficult. The main problem is finding money to fund a scheme. We know this will be a disappointment to many, but we are continuing our efforts. Having found the money for the petrol station scheme we know that if we keep pushing for a solution we will get one. We never take no for an answer.



Last year we undertook a 20mph consultation for local residents. The results were not clear cut and many residents expressed their concern that nothing seemed to be done. We have recently agreed with Herts Highways to put in 20mph advisory notices to protect Holtsmere End and Brockwood Schools. These will be installed in April 2019. This will not affect the provision of road crossing patrols and means that we are able to offer even greater safety conditions for our local children.

We are also investigating if it is possible to install a Speed Indicator Device in Shenley Road. Speed measurements will have to be taken to see if we qualify. This work will take place in Spring next year and we will let you know the outcome. We can also apply for funding and installation of a SID from the Police Commissioners Fund if we fail the Herts Highways criteria. Let us know what you think or where you feel such a device would be the most useful.



Local councillors also have a **Facebook page**. Colette runs the page and it can be found under **Colette Wyatt-Lowe County Councillor**. We try and post up to date information as often as we can. Local residents love receiving their copy of InTouch but we can only get out a few issues each year so the Facebook page enables us to pass on items of interest to you much more quickly.

Councillors Surgery and Free Table Tennis On the first Saturday each month from 10.00-11.30am

Rosie and Colette hold their monthly advice session in Woodhall Farm Community Centre. We

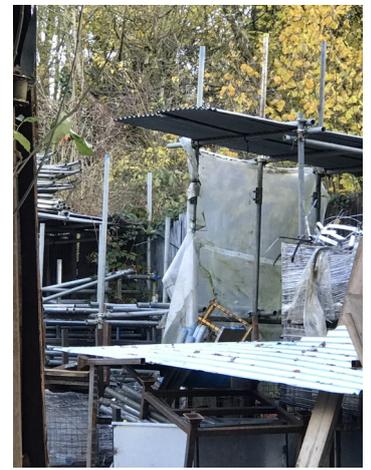
organise free table tennis in the main hall for local residents too! Come along even if you do not have an issue and get some healthy exercise in a safe and welcoming environment. We look forward to seeing you.



Conservatives

Update for Hunters Oak Residents

Residents in Hunters Oak and other local residents were very much affected by the noisy and anti-social working conditions and traffic congestion caused by the scaffolding company in Three Cherry Trees Lane. After a lengthy campaign, working with your local MP, Sir Mike Penning, your local councillors and with dedicated local residents, the scaffolding company have been given notice to quit. This is a victory for all concerned. They have already overstayed their lease and will be appearing in court next month to be issued with a final eviction notice. A real victory for joint action. Working together we can achieve so much more.



People living in **Lower Emms, Half Moon Meadow and parts of Hunters Oak** were very concerned about the poor quality of the road surface adjacent to their homes. The damage to the road surface was such that it was a hazard particularly for motor cyclists. Colette persuaded HCC Highways to act as a matter of urgency to repair the road. That work has now been completed and they have done a great job. The road surface is now safe. We are also looking into the possibility of introducing double yellow lines at the junctions of Half Moon Meadow and The Melings at their junction with Hunters Oaks due to complaints about poor parking and the effect this has had on safe access into and out of the estate at these points. A formal consultation will take place. All local residents in Hunters Oak will have a chance to have their say before further action (if any) takes place.

New Social Club

A new social club was launched at the community centre at the beginning of November. The club is open to all residents in Woodhall Farm so if you would like to meet up with other local people for a chat and cup of tea and cake then this is for you. The Pleydell Room at the community centre is on the ground floor and accessible to all. It has easy to reach toilets and lots of space for those with mobility concerns. So make a date for Monday afternoons from 2.00-4.00pm. Come along and make new friends. The club is organised by the community association and Julie, our very friendly centre manager, will look after you.



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2019 Date for your Diary: Our MP Sir Mike Penning will be attending our Coffee Morning at Woodhall Farm Community Centre on **Saturday 12th January 10-12**. Do come to meet him and enjoy coffee with friends.



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