

'Catch-Up Notes' from the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 1st September 2021
(full minutes on www.ashwell.gov.uk)

Key matters that were discussed at the September meeting included the following:

- **Telecoms Mast Planning Application (Rejected by NHDC since the PC meeting).**

The Parish Council discussed documents prepared to support a recommendation to NHDC that this application should be rejected. This was approved, and we were delighted to have confirmation a few days later that the recommendation to reject had been supported by NHDC. An important factor in this was the advice from HCC Highways that the equipment needed for the proposed location



would have a negative impact on road safety by disrupting sight lines for traffic, and the opportunity to widen the footpath in future for cycle and pedestrian provision.

- **Speeding and the 20mph limit.** There have been further concerns about speeding traffic and the poor adherence to the 20mph limit. The police will be requested to attend at locations where they were likely to catch multiple offenders that would result in prosecutions. It was agreed that the 'Twenty's Plenty' publicity campaign (stickers for bins, involvement of the school etc) that had been halted by Covid would be relaunched. **Please request stickers via the Parish Office.**
- **Herts Lynx DRT (Demand Responsive Transport) bus service.** This new service will be launched on 19th September and will cover the North Herts rural area and towns and down to Stevenage and Bishop's Stortford in the south. Charges will be linked to mileage and pickups would be from allocated bus stops. Further information is available via www.intalink.org.uk/hertsllynx. Posters will also be displayed on village notice boards and the parish website.
- **Solar Farm proposals at Bygrave.** This is at the pre-application stage and a formal application is likely to be made shortly to NHDC. The area proposed for the installation is from the edge of Upper Bygrave down to Cat Ditch, so it actually falls outside the Ashwell boundary. Once the formal planning application has been made NHDC will issue a public consultation; on the positive side a solar farm would contribute to low carbon energy creation but on the negative side this would result in the loss of high-grade agricultural land. Further details can be accessed at <http://www.tophamsolar.co.uk> Any comments regarding this proposal should be sent to the Parish Council.
- **Planning.** Two householder applications were considered by the Parish Council, both of which were supported by the Parish Council but with conditions proposed for one of these to avoid potential future loss of off-street parking.
- **Next Parish Council Meeting – 6 October 2021**