



Ashwell Parish Council

Chairman: Graham Lee (☎ 742834)
Office at Bear Farm, 6A Back Street (☎ 743706)
Clerk: Jane Porter, ✉ clerk@ashwell.gov.uk

www.ashwell.gov.uk

News items from the Parish Council. Below are the main points from the Parish Council meeting on 1st November 2023, and actions that follow from that meeting.

Please note that a full recording of the discussions that took place at the meeting is available to listen to on the website.



Planning Applications

- **Three Planning Applications were opposed by the Parish Council.**
 - One concerned the proposed addition of two detached garages (one per house) at the new development of Scarp Close (Ashwell St). It was felt that the proposal would lead to an intensification and greater density of development on the edge of the village. It would also lead to a building line being much closer to Ashwell St than currently.
 - An application to build a 3 bedroom detached house on the small area of green space opposite the Surgery in Gardiners Lane was opposed on the grounds that the same application had previously been refused and an appeal dismissed and was contrary to policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - The 3rd application was relatively unusual for Ashwell, concerning conversion of an agricultural barn to create 4 residential units in Northfield Rd on the way to Eyeworth. Normally approved by NHC under the category 'Class Q' it was opposed by Herts Highways for not supporting sustainable transport and was not in accordance with the County Council's Local Transport Plan 4. The Parish Council opposed it on grounds of sustainability, the location of the building, and the proposed external appearance.



Environmental Initiatives

- **The Parish Council** met with a representative of a company that specialises in providing EV Charging Points at no cost to Parish & Town Councils. Users would pay a commercial price per kWh but this would typically be lower than prices charged at major Service Stations and Garages. An evaluation process of on street sites will begin by the company, but also consultation with potential off street site owners in Ashwell who would earn an income by providing space for one or more EV Chargers. For further information, or to express an interest in EV charging if you have no off street parking for your own personal charger, please contact the Parish Council.

- **The Government has created a £10 million Fund to be used by groups across England like Parish Councils for evaluating how Community Energy schemes might benefit a community.** The grant is being managed by the Community Energy Association (England) who operate on a purely not-for-profit basis and their aim is to help local communities identify the most appropriate method of reducing energy use, generating energy, and reducing the carbon footprint of the community. The Parish Council have applied for membership with the aim of gaining grant funding to research the energy needs and community generation options for Ashwell. This will take time, but we will report on progress as there is something to report. Anyone interested in contributing their expertise to this project should please contact the Parish Council.



Care & Maintenance of the Rec

- **The Parish Council has recently funded boundary improvements.**
 - A new surface has been laid to the entrance created to the Rec from Lucas Lane near to the War Memorial. It's designed to ensure the entrance is hard wearing and safe to all users.
 - A new wire fence has been installed pitch side of the small hedge plants along Station Rd with a view to protecting the hedge and trees. ***Could users of the Rec, including Sports Clubs, please resist the temptation to access the Rec by climbing over the fence and inadvertently damaging the hedging & trees.***
- **Next Parish Council Meeting – 7PM Wednesday 6th December 2023**