

## COCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL JULY MEETING REPORT

**Parish Council Vacancy:** The Council continues to work efficiently with 8 members but would be pleased to hear from any resident who may be interested in the vacancy. Election for all 9 Parish Council places will be held in May 2015. Prior to the elections the members may co-opt a new councillor. Please contact the Chairman, Councillors or the Clerk if you are interested in what the role entails and we would be pleased to discuss the vacancy.

**Planning and Development Survey:** Collection of Survey Forms is nearing completion. The results will be analysed and a report produced. This will be passed to Babergh Planning as evidence for their consideration and by the Parish Council for consultation on future planning applications.

If there are any Cockfield residents that have not returned a survey, please contact the Parish Clerk to ensure your views are recorded.

**Police Report:** WPC Ruth Horton reported 4 crimes recorded since May 2014 compared to 7 recorded for the same period 2013. The report included details of the Safe Rider workshops for motor cyclists and the usual warnings to ensure outbuildings and garages are secure.

WPC Horton announced her retirement and this would be her last report to the council. The Chairman thanked her on behalf of members and residents of Cockfield for her dedicated service to the village which has been very much appreciated.

**Local Needs Housing:** Planning issues have yet to be resolved before a suitable site is approved for more Local Needs Housing. **Please note: If you or a family member is in need of housing, please ensure you are registered with Babergh Housing / Choice Based Letting Online.**

Information may be obtained from Babergh District Council or The Parish Clerk.

**Section 106 Funding:** The current purchase of the additional meadow and railway line adjacent to Earls Meadow is progressing slowly. In the meantime Suffolk County Council has given permission for the council to carry on with tree planting and maintenance as required. Volunteers for the regular weekend working parties would be welcomed.

**Open Forum:** County Councillor Jenny Antill gave her report covering the following:

Education: The School Organisation Review was signed of in June. This continues to be a controversial issue but there is some evidence of improvement in some areas.

Higher prices for transport to school have been announced for surplus places for children outside of catchment.

Stiffer penalties have been introduced for parents taking children out of school. Not all schools adopt the protocol but all schools are contacted for their methods used to address the problem.

Childrens Centre Consultation: The County Council will address the high cost of running the 48 centres in comparison to the numbers using them. Whilst remaining committed to the service the 12 week consultation period will be used to receive views on how best to proceed.

Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk IT and HR Support: The BT contract has terminated and will now be taken on in house. It is hoped this will save money and improve services.  
Waste Deal with Norfolk: With the Blakenham Plant now at commissioning stage it has been agreed to take 40,000 tonnes per annum of residual household waste to feed the new Energy from Waste Plant. Both councils will save £1m over 2 years by working together. Suffolk County Council will save by reduced costs of re-cycling and Norfolk through savings on landfill taxes.

Cockfield Local Needs Housing: Jenny Antill confirmed her support of the project and will continue to work within the County Council to speed up planning issues where possible.

District Councillor Clive Arthey gave his report covering the following:

Babergh Newsletter by e.mail. The Clerk confirmed this has been received and circulated to all members.

Great Blakenham Energy from Waste Plant: Clive Arthey added to County Councillor Jenny Antills report with details of the testing and workings of the plant.

He continued with discussions on Blue Bin Re-Cycling, Food Waste and Textiles and was thanked for the provision of additional textile bags available from the Post Office.

**Greens, Cemetery, Earls Meadow and Parish Paths:** Committees reported all well with cutting and clearance of all areas.

Ralph Turner discussed the issue for the need of a working party to clear some of the older graves that are no longer attended by family members. If you would like to volunteer please contact the council. If there is no volunteer support, the Council may have to consider the additional cost to the Cemetery Budget.

Rodney Williams was pleased to report on the Cockfield School visit to Earls Meadow and thanked the volunteers for their continued help with the working parties.

**Pavilion:** Refurbishment works have been delayed due to slow responses to works tenders. Members will discuss the issues with contractors and grant provider Sport England and try to speed the process up.

The next meeting will be held Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>. September at 7.30. p.m.