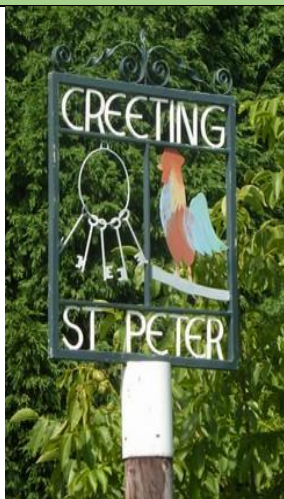


Parish Council News



**Issue 38 – February
2021**

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Welcome to this Winter edition of the Creeting St Peter Newsletter.

To include articles in future issues, please contact the Parish Clerk

Would you like to advertise your business/service in this Newsletter for a small fee? If you would be interested in doing so, please contact the Clerk for more information.

Chair's thoughts...

Another year has come to Creeting St Peter, and not in the manner we all might have hoped, with all manner of restrictions upon us, and with the pandemic still dominating our lives. I hope that all of you are coping as best you can, but don't forget, if there is anything that the Parish Council can do to help, be it having someone to talk to, or shopping or prescriptions that need collecting, we'll do what we can.

Indeed, many of you have supported friends and neighbours throughout, and I am grateful to you for doing so. It is one of the things that makes village life special, that sense of togetherness and of looking out for each other. We may be short on facilities, but long on self-reliance.

As far as the Parish Council is concerned, we have two major issues which I suspect are familiar to you all - Gateway 14 and Poundfield Products.

In terms of Gateway 14, the Parish Council has been working with the developers to encourage and enable dialogue, supporting residents by providing an opportunity to offer their input and suggestions on ways of making the project less intrusive and to seek some mitigations for our community. I accept that the idea of having a logistics park on our doorstep is far from ideal, but the District Council, who own the site, are obliged to proceed. I must thank the quickly established Campaign Group, who have been extremely effective in engaging with both the developers and the District Council whilst surmounting a steep learning curve in terms of the workings, or otherwise, of local government. By the time you read this, it is expected that a formal planning application will have been submitted, and we will be looking very closely at it to ensure that our issues are clearly heard.

There will be an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council held **via Zoom** on Monday, 15th February 2021 at 7.30pm. If you would like to 'attend' please contact the Parish Clerk.

Turning to Poundfield Products, there are two separate issues awaiting a decision from Mid Suffolk District Council. An application to extend their operating hours made before Christmas 2019 is still pending, as is the recent application to extend onto agricultural land they own. The Parish Council has objected to both – we are concerned, as is the Senior Environmental Health Officer, about the impact on those living near to the site, and the damage done by too many heavy goods vehicles using the inadequate roads that link it to the A14.

Apart from that, you might be slightly surprised to hear that the Parish Council has declared a "climate emergency". We are, in truth, a bit slow off the blocks – both the County and District Councils have already declared one. However, there are things that we, and you, can do, and we'll be seeking to find ways of reducing our impact on the environment around us going forwards.

Finally, I've been using the County Council's online highways reporting tool to notify them of things that need repair – they are going to take away the discarded road sign lying on the verge just beyond Highfields shortly. If you see a pothole, or a damaged road sign, or a damaged piece of road, please do report it – the website address is highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk. The more people who report problems, the more likely it is that something will be done.

District Councillor Mike Norris' Report:

COVID-19: SUPPORT PAYMENTS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE TOLD TO SELF-ISOLATE ON LOW INCOMES -

More residents on low incomes or benefits can now get financial help if they are told to self-isolate due to COVID-19 as Suffolk councils extend support payments to help more people. Previously Test and Trace Support payments could only be given to people meeting certain criteria, including on benefits. Now Councils across Suffolk have extended this, using their discretion, to help those on low incomes but not on benefits.

Councils across Suffolk are helping administer the Government grant scheme to help people remain at home and do their bit to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Details about the Test and Trace Support Payments can be found on District and Borough Council websites and how to apply for it. This is part of a range of measures that councils across Suffolk have introduced to support communities and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic, which includes the new Suffolk Support and Advice Service phonenumber to help those facing financial difficulty. If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate on or after 28 September 2020, you are under a legal obligation to do so, and could be eligible for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.

COUNCILS LOOK TO SLASH FLEET EMISSIONS -

Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils are considering proposals to cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims, by moving their vehicle fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). The proposals form a major step in the councils' Carbon Reduction Management Plan, which sets out how net zero carbon emissions aim to be achieved by 2030. If approved, the move would see a significant reduction in pollutant emissions for the fleet, including up to a 90% reduction in CO₂. It would also support a circular economy, as the HVO fuel is produced from sustainable feedstock, including waste cooking oil. Currently, the councils' vehicle fleet represents 26% of the councils' total CO₂ emissions, approximately 880 tonnes per year. The fleet includes the councils' 35 waste lorries, as well as some vehicles used by the public realm and housing services. Moving to the new fuel will initially cost around £50k per council. An estimated further £56 - £97k per year, per council, over the next three years, will also need to be agreed to cover fuel costs. However, by using HVO, lower maintenance costs and longer engine life for the vehicles are expected.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION FOR 2021 -

The new look Regal Theatre in Stowmarket is starting to take shape with the construction of two additional auditoria and a new café area in recent months. The Regal is benefiting from a £3.6m investment including a comprehensive expansion and refurbishment programme which will see it boast three modern cinema screens, improved audio-visual experience, as well as a new front of house, café and bar area. Works are also being undertaken to restore and preserve many of the original features of the existing building built in 1936. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the project managers, Northmores, and the main contractor Mixbrow, have maintained progress on site with a significant proportion of the structures, electrics and utilities having now been installed. The final elements of the project including new seating, cinema screens and interior design features are due to be completed early in 2021. The Regal Theatre Project, being led by Stowmarket Town Council and Mid Suffolk District Council, will be a key attraction forming part of a wider vision for the development of Stowmarket. The project and the wider vision seeks to attract more visitors to Stowmarket who can enjoy the shopping, leisure activities, bars and restaurants on offer in the town.

GREEN LIGHT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HUB FUNDING -

Mid Suffolk District Council recently approved £431,740 in funding from housing growth to progress plans for a shared Emergency Services Hub in Stowmarket – paving the way for collaborative working and enhanced 999 services.

RESIDENTS IN BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK ARE SET TO BENEFIT FOLLOWING RECENT GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT ITS GREEN HOMES GRANTS -

The Green Homes scheme, which is designed to help make homes more energy efficient, offers vouchers to households to get energy saving work done, and also invites councils to bid for funding to run home energy efficiency projects. A Suffolk consortium bid, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, has been awarded over £1 million from the Department of Business Energy and Industry for five projects to be installed by 31 March 2021.

Mid Suffolk District Councillors Mike Norris mike.norris@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01449 720871 and Steve Phillips stephen.phillips@midsuffolk.gov.uk Tel. 01449 721710.

Representing Needham Market, Badley, Baylham, Creting St Mary, Creting St Peter, Darmsden

Gateway 14 – Update from the Residents Campaign Group

Gateway 14 is the 160 acre commercial development between Creting St Peter and Stowmarket both sides of Mill Lane as you drive towards Stowmarket.

Our stance has always been that we cannot stop the development because this land has been designated for employment use since 2003 and Gateway 14 who are developing the site is 100% owned by Mid Suffolk District Council and they have invested £37M in the project. However, you can influence what happens on the site and reduce the problems from the concerns, listed below, by responding to the planning application during the consultation phase. **The planning application has now been published and is open for consultation.** Therefore it awaits your responses and you will find it at this link where you search on Gateway 14.

Planning Application Search and Comment » Babergh Mid Suffolk

We are sending out a guide to help you formulate responses if that's helpful. Please don't underestimate the impact on Creting St Peter. This will have, by far, the biggest impact on the area since the A45 (A14) was built in the 1970s.

Although it is described as a mixed use development of warehouses, food processing, research and development, an innovation hub and offices, the reality is that most interest will be from logistic companies which means the site will be mainly warehouses and the planning consent being sought has those buildings up to 21 metres high and each one up to 1M square feet in area. This is very much bigger than warehouses you currently see along the A14. A 1M square feet warehouse will be the biggest warehouse in Eastern England and would accommodate 13 Wembley football pitches inside.

This type of development brings with it many concerns for local residents including

- visual impact from very high buildings and their lighting, accompanied by inadequate landscaped screening,
- 24 hours a day smell and noise from operations, trucks and a possible acoustic effect from buildings bouncing more road noise over the village
- litter, air pollution, possible reduction in our Broadband service and anti-social behaviour
- much more traffic through the village from commuters to the site and visitors, lorries and cars parking in the village due to inadequate parking space on the site, lack of toilet facilities for parked up lorry drivers with the results we already suffer on the Church footpath from the lay-by on the A14.

Gateway 14 could apply more than the usual imagination to landscaping to encourage wildlife, making the site easier on the eye and the conscience and for our friends in nature. If we work hard we can pursue funds from the development for village improvements such as removal of the sharp road bend at Clamp Farm, a cycle and footpath linking us safely to Stowmarket, refurbished village hall and Church, replacement street lights which we are going to have to replace soon at our own expense of thousands of pounds, restoration of the existing and essential wood providing a screen between us and the site on our side of the A14 because it will likely suffer from Ash die-back. It would give us a better screen if expanded East and West which will require funding as well. Again you must make reference to these requests in your responses if you want them. The funds are very hard to come by and will not arrive if residents do not support the ideas.

If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Russell Stott (07788 145690)

Now is the time. It will be too late to do anything about it once it's underway.

Poundfield Products

There have been reports of Poundfield lorries and other lorries going to and from the Poundfield site, driving through the villages of Creting St Peter and Creting St Mary. The Parish Council have spoken with Michael Roddy, Managing Director, who has assured us that drivers have been informed to turn left out of the Poundfield site to access the A14 just before the Cedar's Park estate.

Should anyone see Poundfield lorries driving through the villages, please email the Clerk with a date and time.

If anyone has any issues, concerns, suggestions or feedback regarding Poundfield Products you can also contact Michael Roddy (Managing Director) directly - michaelroddy@poundfield.com

Creting St Peter Wildlife Group

Although we have been going through difficult times, nature has been there all around us and we are part of it. Many people have recently discovered the joy of walking their local footpaths, watching the birds that arrive in their gardens or marvel at the number of bees and butterflies over the warm months that thrive on diverse planting. Not only providing food, the diverse planting, old mouse holes and gaps in wood & walls can provide shelter for overwintering insects. Snowdrops are emerging near the church, a sign spring is on its way. As this season approaches we are keen

to be working in the garden. Spare a thought for the hedgehog that may be hibernating. Please check any scruffy piles before clearing. Provide a gap in your fence, which doesn't need to be bigger than a CD, so they can move around. They are capable of covering up to 2 miles in an evening. If you are concerned about any hedgehogs check out Suffolk Prickles Hedgehog Rescue website or Tel 07469177090.

Thank you to those of you that have been litter picking over the past few months. Thank you to Russell for helping me replace damaged trees that were only planted a year ago on the A14 bank. Last summer the wildlife group provided some swift boxes on some properties in the village that face South West. Let us hope some of the offspring of the existing group of swifts return after a 7,000 miles migration from Africa to raise their young in the new boxes.
Ginny

Bonus Ball/Village Lottery Winning Numbers (R) Indicates a Rollover

21st Mar – 41, 28th Mar – 11

22nd Aug – 12, 29th Aug 16, 5th Sept – 32, 12th Sept – 14, 19th Sept – 56 (R), 26th Sept – 45 (R),
3rd Oct – 2, 10th Oct – 2, 17th Oct – 46, 24th Oct – 44 (R), 31st Oct – 35, 7th Nov – 44 (R), 14th Nov
– 47, 28th Nov – 32, 5th Dec – 18 (R), 12th Dec – 59, 19th Dec – 23, 26th Dec – 6, 2nd Jan – 37, 9th Jan – 53, 16th Jan –
27, 23rd Jan – 56 (R)



Congratulations to all the winners!

What is the lottery money used for?

At the moment there are no plans for the use of the lottery funds, which currently stands at £3,718.56. We will keep you posted as to what it will be spent on in the future.



Phantom Fouler – We are sorry to say that the Phantom Fouler continues to use the rear of the church as a toilet, breaking the fence as a result. Can we please ask that if you catch anyone doing this, or see anyone climbing the fence from the embankment, if you are able, please take a photograph or make a note of their registration and company name (if it is a lorry) and note the date and time so we can trace them and stop this person. Many thanks.



Fen Alder Carr Nature Reserve

This site remains closed to members of the public.



Play Area – Should anyone have any issues, or notice anything that needs attention please do not hesitate to contact Cllr Dan Mason, or the Parish Clerk. Thank you.



Footpaths – If, whilst walking the parish's footpaths, you see any broken signs, missing way-markers or any other issues in relation to the condition of the path please report to www.suffolk.gov.uk or contact the Parish Clerk.

PLEASE NOTE – Cyclists and Quad Bikes should **not** be using the public footpaths and in doing so are churning up the mud making it unpleasant for the walkers. If you see anyone, or know anyone that cycles on the footpaths, please ask them not to. Thank you.

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Church News

Services

Currently there are no physical services in any of the churches in the benefice.

There are services on Zoom every Sunday and some weekdays – details are on the village Facebook page each weekend. Please get in touch with Alice amathewson@hotmail.com if you would like to receive the weekly Pew News by email.

Church open for private prayer

The church continues to be open for private prayer 10am-3pm Sundays. This will go back to 10am-5pm after the clocks change. Please follow social distancing rules. Thank you to all those who are helping us to do this by cleaning the church and opening and closing up.

Church volunteers

Anyone who is interested in joining the PCC or willing to help to support our community after lockdown, keep our beautiful Grade 1 listed church in one piece and a relevant part of the village, please get in touch.

Flower rota

There is no flower rota at the moment but there will be flowers in the church when any services take place. Please get in touch with Donna Risby if you are able to contribute or willing to join the rota. The church looked wonderful over Christmas with thanks to Donna, Paige, Rosemary, Georgina and Dianna.

Church building work

After all the support given by the village at various events and funding given by Suffolk Historic Church Trust, The Headley Trust, Viridor and the National Churches Trust, this will take place shortly.

Christmas Thank Yous

Dan and Terry for putting up and taking down the church floodlights; Donna and Barry for carrying a mic and amp to the Church and back for the Carol Service; Jackie for taking the toys and gifts to the Refuge in Ipswich – they were very grateful and sent a lovely letter to us; Everyone who came to the Toy & Gift Service and Carol Service

Giving to the Church

Jenny recently set up a page for the church on the Givealittle website. Here is a QR code that will take you to the Givealittle page for the church, so you can continue to support the church while it is closed.



Otherwise here is the link to the Givealittle page;

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/c27d87bd-3b31-4e20-bc02-cf9bb05919c5>