SANDON TOPICS

Spring 2023 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council

www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE




My goodness, spring is on our doorstep and the Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort Camilla is being held later on May 6th. Definitely a new and exciting beginning to their reign, and our year. Life settled down for us during the rather cold winter with very cold temperatures, and I for one am looking forward to the warmer weather.

The Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean 2023 took place from 17 March to 2 April. This is where you could pledge to pick up a bag of litter – or more. I trust some of you took part. It doesn't mean you don't have to keep our parish clean throughout the year! It would be nice to see more people out litter picking their area especially at the front of their properties. I would also ask parents to speak to their children, especially when walking to school buses, to take their sweet wrappers home with them. The number of sweet wrappers seems to have increased lately, especially first thing in the morning, when I am picking up around three pieces a day on my dog walk!

We will be holding our Annual Assembly at Sandon School on Thursday 20th April at 19.30. Do come along and hear what we have been up to. This gives you the opportunity to meet and talk to your councillors, as well as some of the city councillors. We are still finalising the agenda and guest speakers. However, we know that the present Mayor will give a presentation to let us know what being Mayor entails, as well as an update from the chair of the Neighbourhood Plan, plus much more. See the article later in this edition for more information. Don't forget you are very welcome to join us at our monthly parish meetings as well. They are normally held 19:15 on the second Monday of each month and alternate between St Andrews Church Hall and Howe Green Reformed Church.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 4TH MAY 2023

You probably don't need reminding, but the local elections will be held this 4th May. You will be electing your city councillors as well the parish councillors. In the past, there were only seven spaces for parish councillors. However, in last year's local government review, it was decided that our parish is now big enough (and important enough!) that an extra seat is needed.
The current parish councillors (six of them) are planning to stand again. This means that there are spaces for another two. The application deadline for new councillors will have been passed by the time you read this. However, if there are not enough people who have stood for these positions, then we can co-opt at a later date. Keep an eye out on the election results 5th May, and if only seven people have been elected, and you want to be considered, then please contact the clerk. Remember that you have more chance of influencing the parish council if you are part of it!

Note that there is a major difference for the elections this year in that you will need to have some form of photographic I.D. in order to vote. This link takes you to the gov.uk website that lists what is considered to be acceptable I.D.
https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/photo-id-youll-need
If you haven't got one of these, then you will need to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate. This link tells you how you can get one:
https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate
Bear in mind that there may be a time delay. Do not leave it until the last minute before applying.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 20th APRIL 2023

On 20th April, starting 19:30, we will once again be holding our Annual Assembly. This used to be an annual event before Covid came along. The last one was held back in May 2019. The assembly will be held in the usual place – The Sandon School, off Molrams Lane.
All residents are welcome to attend. We are in the process of finalising the agenda, but there will presentations from the parish councillors, an update on the neighbourhood development plan, the latest on the new Community Hall (which will include an update on the how the funding is coming along), a talk from our Lady Mayor, and the role of our new Urban Wildlife Champion – Elaine Williamson.
As well as these presentations, various local organisations will have tables around the back of the hall. You will be encouraged to spend time with them. We will also have our local city councillors in attendance.
There is free parking at the school. The Parish Council look forward to seeing you all then.

SANDON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Sandon Neighbourhood Plan group have been making good progress recently!

1. Thank you to all who responded to the recent consultation either on-line or on paper. The comments of residents and statutory and voluntary agencies have been considered and the draft Neighbourhood Plan amended accordingly. (Some comments will be more appropriately passed on to the parish council for their consideration and possible action.)
2. Next steps involve submitting the amended draft plan to Chelmsford City Council (CCC) and then their six week consultation.
   We have had help from a consultant, paid by a government funded organisation called 'Locality', to prepare the necessary set of documents for this.
3. CCC will then appoint an examiner to review and report back to them on the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
4. After a local referendum the Sandon Neighbourhood Plan will be 'made', published, and used in making local planning decisions. As long as the referendum is successful!

   Hopefully this will all be completed by Autumn 2023.

   Judy Cecil, secretary Sandon Neighbourhood Plan Group

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREWS CHURCH

As a resident of our village, you will probably appreciate its history and unique qualities that have withstood the passage of time, despite the encroachment of housing developments over the past number of years. One of those unique qualities and features is, of course, our church; Saint Andrews.

As one would expect, the church does require a considerable amount of time, help, and effort to maintain its fabric, character, and charm, so the 'Friends of Sandon Church' group was formed to help achieve this. We meet regularly to discuss various initiatives and, to date, we have made several improvements which include:
Contributions towards the very costly reroofing of the church.
Repositioning of the Rev. Gibson Memorial Cross outside the church porch.
Plastering and redecoration of the church internal walls.
Contributions towards the recent restoration of all six church bells.
Purchase of materials for the very recent addition of a yew hedge along the north and east boundary fences of the churchyard.

What about the future needs of our church? We are looking at:
1. Improved church insulation through the installation of glass front porch doors.
2. Improved safety for the tower entrance.
3. Possible heated cushions on the pews for those cold Sunday mornings.

There are several other projects being considered by the group and we hope to introduce them in the coming months, but we cannot do this without some support from our local community. We are therefore inviting you to join our 'Friends' group for a modest monetary contribution which could be either a 'one off' donation or whenever you feel happy to do so.

Become a friend

Become a Friend and enjoy the varied fundraising events we organise each year, as either a Life or Annual member.
£200 Joint Life/ £130 Single Life
£20 Joint Annual/ £10 Single Annual
Further details can be found here:
https://friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk/application-form/
Those of you who have certain skills would be particularly welcome.

We are a small informal group that meet in the Crown, Sandon on pre-arranged dates so please join us for a chat. Our next meeting is Tuesday, 11th April 2023 at 8 p.m. Hope to see you there!!

Dates for the Diary
King Charles Birthday Concert – Saturday, 10th June 2023
Tickets £5
Pay Bar and Pay BBQ
Southend Boys and Girls Choir Concert- Sunday, 17th September 2023
Tickets £5
Pay Bar and Pay BBQ

Further details may be found on our website: www.friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk/events
and Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofsandonchurch

HELP NEEDED!

Two ex-residents (Kathy and Mike Mortimer) have written to me as they are trying to get hold of an ex landlady of The Crown. Until 2001, they used to live next door to the pub. They became very friendly with the landlady at the time, Tracey ??? Her son was Joseph and her partner was Mark Williams. After leaving The Crown, she worked with her friend who ran The Nags Head on Baddow Road. Kathy stored a large heirloom of theirs which will have sentimental value to Tracey. She is keen to return it so wondered if there was anyone in the village who might have Tracey's contact details? At the very least, could anyone remember her surname?
If you do know, then please contact the clerk so that he can pass these details on. Thank you.

NEW 400 kW POWER LINE

Sandon Residents will notice a lot of activity around the pylons, with Field Access signs etc. On Woodhill Road, a metal bridge will be constructed with work starting on 28th March and erection of cables from 1st April. The bridge should be removed on 18th May. This is to enable the new power line running all the way through Essex to be laid. See statement below:

A new 400kV power line will cut through Essex countryside - including Chelmsford and Braintree

National Grid says the reinforcement is needed to carry more renewable and low carbon power from offshore wind and nuclear

Residents across Essex can view their plans on the National Grid website. They are planning to build a new 400kV power line to transfer electricity across the countryside – this includes Chelmsford and Braintree. National Grid say the reinforcement is needed to carry more renewable and low carbon power from offshore wind and interconnectors, as well as new proposed nuclear generation at Sizewell C.

The new reinforcement is expected to be around 180 km long. It will mostly consist of overhead transmission lines and new 45 to 50-metre tall steel lattice pylons except for where it runs underground through the area of outstanding natural beauty of Dedham Vale.

The 180-mile route starts at a new substation planned in Bramford in Suffolk, crossing south easterly until it crosses the border into the Colchester district, then running past Dedham, Langham and crossing the A12.

DORMICE BOXES



Dormice boxes have been popping up in trees and bushes all over Howe Green, even on private land, for some time now and no one knows who is responsible. I was asked by one land owner and this was the response I received from my enquiries:
'Wooden boxes that look like bird boxes with the entrance hole facing the tree trunk, are used by dormice. Nest tubes are plastic outer cases with a wooden base that is pushed into it to provide shelter for arboreal small mammals. Tubes are used to do presence or likely absence surveys, usually to inform planning applications or for voluntary research. Boxes are generally used for monitoring known populations. I don't know of any known monitoring in the Howe Green area. Please ask residents to not touch them.' **Essex Dormice Society**
Southend Dormouse Group didn't know anything either, and **Essex Wildlife Trust** have been to have a look and wonder if they are part of a planning application survey on Dormice too. Not sure about this as they are also over by the A130.
If you know who is carrying out the survey could you let the clerk know, his details below.

CLERK AND COUNCILLORS' CONTACT DETAILS

Ted Munt – Clerk. Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ.
Tel: 01245 477111 parishclerk@sandonpc.plus.com Hours 09:30 – 12:30 Mon a.m. and Wed a.m

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