A black and white logo with a church and sailboat

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# Wherstead Parish Newsletter

**January 2024**

The Parish Newsletter is normally distributed by email every other month. As there are a number of new residents to the village, we are distributing January’s Newsletter by Hand.

**The Council welcomes all new residents to the village.**

If you would like to receive future Newsletters, please send an Email to Parish.Clerk@WhersteadPC.co.uk. If you do not have access to email and would like to receive paper copies, please call the Parish Clerk on 07876785971 or speak to one of the Parish Councillors.

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# Whats Happening

**7th Feb** - **Volunteers will finish clearing the ditch** behind the homes on The Strand from 9.30am. All volunteers welcome, we will meet by the ditch. Contact the Parish Clerk for more information.  
  
**12th Feb** - **Parish and Residents meeting with Babergh’s Anti-Social prevention team** to discuss illegal motor bike riding in Bobbit’s. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to attend.  
  
**12th March to 5th April** - The Parish is undertaking a **free thermal leakage survey** of homes in the village using a thermal camera. If you would like your home included, please contact the Parish Clerk.  
  
**17th March** - **The annual parish litter pick** will take place. Meeting at the Village Hall at 10.00am to fuel up with bacon butties, tea, and coffee before setting out. All volunteers welcome, this is a great opportunity to meet others in the village.   
  
**29th March** - The new Bus shelter at the end of The Street will be constructed over the Easter Holiday.

# Update from the Parish Council Meeting (Jan 2024)

## Local Issues

**Large Scaffold at Fox’s Marina** - This is a temporary structure to repair a large windfarm survey craft. It will be taken down as soon as the work is finished and does not require planning permission.  
  
**Fly Tipping** - Due to the gates being left open at the entrance to the Stevin’s site there is an accumulation of tipped rubbish in this area. All landowners are being contacted and asked to arrange for the removal.

## Village Projects

**Raised Flower beds outside Bourne Cottages** - A small group has been set up to manage the construction of new flower bed walls.  
  
**New Bus shelter in The Street** - due to be put up over Easter school holiday.  
  
**Traffic Speed Indicators** - A group are working to identify the sites, and the type of indicators to be purchased.  
  
**Improvements in A137 footpath crossing** - Babergh have been asked to support the project.  
  
**Grit Bin, Clay Pond Way** - As some vehicles had difficulties during the icy weather, the Parish will buy a roadside grit bin and apply for SCC Highways to maintain it.  
  
**Screening of Foodhall waste area** - It is hoped that the appearance of this area on one of the village circular walks, can be improved. The Council will follow up a previous contact with the owner and ask for an update.  
  
**Village Hall Kitchen** - The Village Hall have plans to update the kitchen facilities. The council are considering providing a grant for the project.  
  
**Improvements to footpath No.1** - Possible improvements to reduce the flooding on the footpath that runs along the Easten boundary of Jimmy’s farm are being considered.

## Highways

**New A14 Slip Road Roundabouts** - Concrete aprons will be added to the roundabout islands in Feb / March.  
  
**Flooding on Bourne Bridge** - Highways acknowledge that the construction of the new crossing has made the large puddle much worse, but as there was always a puddle, which does drain, they will not undertake any further work.  
  
**Bollards at Blacksmiths Corner** - Highways have agreed to support the installation of bollards and an application for the work has been made by the council.  
  
**Pot Hole on Strand roundabout** - Highway’s should be repairing the pothole w/c/ 29th Jan.

## Planning

**Joint Local Plan, pt1** - This has now been adopted and it removes all previous site allocations. It has also triggered a call for sites, requesting landowners submit sites they consider suitable for housing.  
  
**Garage & McDonalds** - Approval has been given for a totem pole advertising sign, but following objections is now smaller with less illumination. It is unclear if all the permissions are in place to cover the work that has started. Enforcement has been contacted and asked to investigate.  
  
**Permissions granted** - Application from; Field Fit, Recruitment banner at Fox’s marina and Windows on Rose cottage have been granted.

## Financial

**Precept** - Babergh have advised there is a reduction in the number of homes in the village paying the full rate of Council tax. To maintain the precept at last year’s amount would have required a 9.6% increase which the Council did not consider acceptable. It was agreed to limit the increase to 5% (this limits the precept to increase by £2.06 per band D household, per year) meaning the Parish precept income will reduce by £295pa.

**The Parish Council would welcome and encourage the attendance of members of the public to the next Parish meeting, which will be held on the 19th of March 2024, in the village hall, also known as The Room.**

**Please note:** The update in this newsletter is a summary of the points discussed at the last Parish meeting. The full notes are available on the village noticeboards at the bottom of Bourne Hill and The Village Hall, located at corner of The Street and Vicarage Lane.  
  
They are also posted in full on the Village web site: http://wherstead.onesuffolk.net/

# Contact

**Parish Clerk**  
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