



Upton by Chester & District Parish Council COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2016

 **UPTON-BY-CHESTER
PAVILION**
The perfect venue for clubs,
meetings and parties

t: 01244 374054

e: uptonbychesterpavilion@hotmail.com

 Upton by Chester Pavilion

- FUNCTION ROOM HIRE
from £15 per hour
- FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHENETTE
- FREE WI-FI
- FULLY HEATED & AIR CONDITIONED
- BIG SCREEN PROJECTOR
& SPEAKERS

Ask inside for more
details and availability



UPTON PAVILION - Upton Parish Council and staff are very proud of the new Upton Pavilion; since it opened in September 2015, Pavilion Supervisor Darren Flaherty and Pavilion Assistant Peter Griffiths have worked hard to make everyone welcome. The function room is available for hire from £15 per hour for parties, business meetings, clubs and social gatherings. It includes a kitchenette, tables and chairs to seat 45, and a large screen and projector for presentations. Fully accessible bathroom facilities and practical changing rooms provide well for both resident and visiting football teams. We currently sell hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice cream but welcome suggestions as to what you would like to see on offer at the Pavilion. We welcome our longstanding bowling teams back shortly and hope to see new members too. The all-weather tennis courts are available for hire on an individual or group basis. A gentle reminder to all dog walkers - please pick up after your dog, bags are available in the pavilion. Please call in to make enquiries, summer opening hours are from Friday 1st April, 10am to 9pm weekdays, 9am to 8pm at weekends (we are hopeful that with the addition of the soon to be installed patio railings, you may enjoy your refreshments in the sun!) Call 01244 374054 for more details.



NEW HOMES BONUS

For the last three years, Upton Parish Council has received 20% of New Home Bonus money from Cheshire West and Chester Council. The New Homes Bonus is a government grant to local councils, so that new infrastructure and facilities can be provided where there has been a significant increase in housing.

After consulting Upton residents, your Parish Council decided to put this money towards the cost of building a new pavilion for the community. We also negotiated a low rate loan from CW&C Council to pay for the remainder of the project, on the basis that we would make repayments using future New Homes Bonus money.

Unfortunately, due to budget restraints, CW&C Council has now decided to retain all New Homes Bonus money so future payments will be withheld. Upton Parish Council wrote to CW&C urging them to reconsider withdrawing this valuable resource from the community.

At the recent budget council meeting, the Cabinet Member for Finance stated that "special arrangements" will be put in place for Upton Parish Council to meet the loan repayments. We await further information regarding these arrangements and will continue to keep residents informed on this issue.

COMMUNITY PRIDE COMPETITION



Once again we have entered the Essar Oil UK sponsored Community Pride Competition. Judging will take place on several occasions in the early summer and the Parish Council politely requests that everyone takes part by ensuring that their own area is well maintained, litter free and clean. Upton has been well placed over the last couple of years, being runner up in its category two years ago and winning smaller 'little gem' prizes for specific areas last year. Let's hope that with a little effort, 2016 is the year that Upton is a winner.

FRACKING

Fracking has not only been an important issue for local people in Upton, but has been a focus in the local and national press. The anti-fracking group in Upton has presented its views to the Parish Council and has kept the council aware of its views and activities. A working group of UPC on 'Unconventional Gas Extraction' recently concluded that the council's policy should reject fracking and unconventional gas extraction in the area, since Upton is an unsuitable location for such a project. The Duttons Lane site is particularly unsuitable because of its closeness to the urban area and the green belt.

The group also noted that the evidence from the anti-fracking group, along with the lengthy sit-in at Duttons Lane, suggests that there is a large number of residents who do not welcome fracking in their community, and probably not anywhere else.

A preference was expressed by the group for money to be directed towards alternative, renewable energy sources, while being conscious of the need to be mindful of national planning policy.

These conclusions were put to the full PC on 22nd February, although more detailed work needs to be done before a final draft can be prepared.

The group is pleased that iGas has decided not to continue with its 'exploration' of the Duttons Lane field for the moment; although recent newspaper reports suggest that we may not have seen the last of them.

There is a general feeling that commercial enterprises such as iGas should be responsible for the security of their sites, rather than expecting the police to take over the job at the tax payers' expense. Watch this space!

20MPH SPEED ZONES IN UPTON

In August and November last year Parish Councillors met officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council to discuss whether, how and where 20mph zones might be introduced in Upton.

CWAC have recently introduced a new policy towards 20 mph zones across the Borough, and are developing a work programme.

The Parish Council supports in principle the creation of 20 mph limits, particularly around schools and on residential roads. It intends to engage with the Borough Council as its policy and programmes are developed, seeking to ensure that Upton is a priority and that the views of local people in Upton are considered.

If you have views about this please get in touch with the Clerk.

WAR MEMORIAL

The Parish Council is contributing to a national project being undertaken throughout the centenary of WW1, to help local communities in understanding their war memorial heritage. A group of Councillors has looked at the condition of the Upton War Memorial and its surrounds and is applying for a grant to improve the area. We welcome input from local residents who may like to help with the project. Please pass on any information you have on those

remembered and their history. We would also like to know if you feel a name of someone lost in more recent conflicts should be added.

The national project intends to create a fuller record of memorials nationwide, including memorials recorded on church windows, statues and buildings.



DID YOU KNOW..... that Harbour Close off Marina Drive was so named as someone at Chester City Council thought they were following a 'nautical' theme? However, Marina Drive was actually named after Princess Marina.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – will be held on Monday 25th April at Upton Village Hall, 7pm - 9pm. Guest speaker to be confirmed, Chairman's Report, open forum and refreshments – **ALL WELCOME.**

POPPY APPEAL – please contact Claire Chesters on 07799047002 if you can spare a few hours later in the year to collect for the poppy appeal in the local supermarkets.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Parish Council thanks all those who responded to its Your Upton 2030 survey which is currently being analysed to help identify key issues and opportunities which might be addressed in a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. The Council also thanks the 36 respondents who have offered to help with further work on the plan. These people could have a significant role in the next steps which involve baseline research and consultation to identify a vision for Upton, with aims, options and ultimately policies for the next 14 years.

The survey result will be available shortly with a report to the Parish Council which will also be published on the Parish Council website. Any residents, businesses and organisations in Upton are welcome to join the Steering Group working on the plan, which will involve further consultation, independent inspection and public approval via a referendum. For further details please contact the clerk to the Parish Council or Steering Group member Phil Coombe at philcoombe2@icloud.com.



Summer Fete

ANNUAL EVENT – The Parish Council has agreed to host an annual summer event for Upton. The proposed date(s) for this event are yet to be confirmed – if anyone knows of any other significant Upton event happening in either June or July, please let us know. In the meantime if you are a community group or individual interested in helping to organise this event or would like to take part on the day by holding a stall, please contact the clerk or pop in to see Darren at the pavilion or call 01244 374054.

DID YOU KNOW.... that in the 1920's there were plans to build an airport in the area we now know as Long Lane/Acres Lane and Brooke Ave?

Although plans were rejected, a number of air displays took place in 1931 and 1933 close to Duttons Farm. Cllr Brenda Southward's mum, who lived at Duttons Farm at the time, recalled being offered the chance to take a short flight with Sir Alan Cobhams Flying Circus – which she declined!

Pavilion opening hours and contact details:
Pavilion Office, Monday – Sunday 10am to 9pm (summer opening hours).
For pavilion room hire, playing fields, tennis courts and bowling please call the office on 01244 374054 or email:
uptonbychesterpavilion@hotmail.com.

Your Parish Councillors

Bache

Frank Samuel 01244 382673

Moston

Kate Vaughan 07738 184089

Upton Grange

Matt Bryan 07982 090451

David Ford 07975 726797

Jill Houlbrook 01244 344318

Helen Kelly 07860 115644

Hilarie McNae 01244 380433

Upton Heath

Vacancy

Theresa Bartliff 01244 348467

Ian Gibson 01244 380909

Yvonne Gibson 01244 380909

Jeffrey Lee 01244 372458

Mary Lloyd 01244 383811

Brenda Southward 01244 380654

Upton Park

Jean Evans 01224 377200

Adrian Walmsley 01244 340949

Clerk to the council: Suzi Pollard, 18 Gladstone Road, Chester, CH1 4BY. 07584415343



Upton by Chester Parish Council wants your views on our local area

We are always keen to hear what residents think about Upton. Do you have any ideas for our area or is there anything you'd like to bring to our attention? Get in touch by completing this tear off slip and return to: Upton Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton CH2 1HB. Alternatively contact the clerk on 07584415343 or suzi.a.pollard@btinternet.com.

Name

Address

Phone number

Email address