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07894 789107
richard.e.brown@hotmail.co.uk

Ken Free
210598
kenfree@tiscali.co.uk

Andrew Cook, (V-chairman)
07584 218280
handacook@yahoo.co.uk.

Will Ralph
213509
debwillralph@aol.com

Michael Flynn
242191
Mifflin191@hotmail.co.uk.

Liz Warren, 240626.
johnwarren18@live.co.uk.

Derek Franklin
210959.
derekfranklin@btinternet.com.

Chris Gray
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07909 926811
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EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Councillor Chris Gray.

Chairman’s Report

Regrettably, Colchester Borough Council has informed the Parish Council that it will reduce the Rate Support Grant (RSG) to the Village by 50% for 2011. This means that the income to the Village will be reduced to £3,274 for the financial year 2011/2012.

The RSG income to the Village helps to pay for a large number of services including: Heaths & Greens maintenance, upkeep of the Village ponds, general maintenance within the Parish, part time Village handyman etc. The PC has decided that the service provided to the parishioners should not be adversely affected by the CBC reduction in the grant.

We will therefore be raising our element of the Council tax from £34.16 p/a, to each “Band D” house to £35.61 p/a (an increase of £1.45 p/a. – less than one half of one penny per day). You can read more on this on our website www.eightashgreen.com

By now you will all have received a Broadband Questionnaire produced and circulated by the Parish Plan Group. The PC is looking at alternatives to the existing broadband suppliers and the completed questionnaire will enable us to move to the next stages of evaluating the options. A report will be published on the website (www.eightashgreen.com) and in the March council meeting minutes

The website has now been operational for over 3 months and we have received many visitors (hits) some, from as far away as Fiji!. We need contributions from you!. So please get in touch with your ideas by using the “Contact us” feature.

Finally, The Parish Council is aware of how heating oil prices have risen dramatically over winter. Many villages have a Heating Oil Purchasing Club or Consortium to buy fuel for a significant number of households, obtaining a substantial discount for the large volume ordered. If there is a volunteer to run a consortium in Eight Ash Green, the Parish Council will be delighted to help.

If you have any problems with village services, please come along to our meetings at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Village Hall.
Work has now started on laying the 1.2m water main between Wormingford and Abberton Reservoir.

The map was published in the first issue of the newsletter in January 2009, shortly after planning permission had been given for the scheme to proceed.

The contract has been awarded to Farrans, and work is now under-way. You have probably noticed their yellow signs indicating the access points to their trench-work.

Farrans senior project engineer is Conlathe Greene, who can be contacted on 07879 690746 if you have any problems with the site works.

A 1.2m diameter pipe is pretty big. The map shows the route of the pipe, and the area on each side that will be needed to facilitate the trench works and storage of materials.
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- Wednesday 10.30 legs bums and tums, £4 per class or £6.50 if you do both.
- Thursdays 9.30 Power chi yoga £5 per class

Contact Veronique on 07909 521306

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Contact the Parish Clerk on 01206 729200

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BARNPLANTS
The Honda Pan-European motorcycle owners club, known as The Pan Clan, is divided into areas. These areas include Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Our local area is London and East England and with our wives, we meet at The Cricketers, Fordham Heath on the third Tuesday of every month. Because of the distances, not all members of our area can get to the monthly meets, but we do meet at various organised events.

Once a year, Pan owners from all over Europe meet in one of the countries. This year it was held in England. Nationally, events are organised with long weekends away. Most weekends, someone somewhere is organising something. These include travelling abroad, mainly France and Germany, where we try to cater for those who have not motorcycled abroad and to build their confidence. On these events, you can make friends from all over Britain.

Locally, we arrange our own events with ride-outs or visiting different places. These are usually on a Sunday and always finish with a meal at a pub or restaurant. Wives and partners are very much a part of our club. Anyone who owns a Pan European motorcycle and would like to join us will find a warm welcome. Either come to The Cricketers on the third Tuesday of the month or e-mail the Area Rep, Iain Manning, at eastandlondonrep@pan-clan.co.uk.
The Editor’s Column

In the November 2010 edition the editorial team raised the question of the future of the Village Newsletter, now that the Parish Council has invested in a modern web-site for the village (www.eightashgreen.com).

The Editor received numerous representations to keep the newsletter going. The matter was discussed by the Parish Council, who fund half the cost of the Newsletter, at their January meeting. They decided that, for the time being, both the paper Newsletter and the electronic web-site will continue to run side-by-side. The matter will be re-visited when the Parish Council prepares its budget for the civic year 2012-13.

Both the newsletter and the web-site would benefit from a wider range of contributions. The Editor is pleasantly surprised at the number and diversity of clubs and organisations to be found in the village, or supported or run by our village people. However, the contributions come regularly from just a few of these organisations, without whose support there would not be much to read. The Editor encourages all clubs and organisations in the village to send in the occasional report, along with letters and articles from individual villagers on any topical subjects related to life in the village.

The Editorial team is the Eight Ash Green Parish Plan Group. Contributions should cover any subject or opinion relating to the village and should be as brief as possible. They may be controversial, but not offensive or libellous. We do not publish political propaganda. The content of the Newsletter requires the approval of the Chairman and Clerk of the Parish Council before publication.

The next issue of the newsletter will be in June 2011, and will cover the Village Festival and summer events in the village. The deadline for contributions is 21st May 2011.

Finally, the editor thanks the advertisers and Parish Council who fund the newsletter, and the willing band of deliverers who distribute it through every front door in the Village.

Dennis Willetts,
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cllr.dennis.willetts@colchester.gov.uk
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Eight Ash Green Cricket Club
Come Join The Green Party!

Eight Ash Green go into the 2011 season, our 63rd, in great shape.

Last year our Youth Section fielded six teams and was second only to the mighty Colchester & East Essex in junior cricket (but we had much more fun!). Our seniors too had a good season with the 2nd XI promoted in the PDQ League. This season we hope to do even better and have recruited our first ever overseas player-coach - Will Shearman - from New Zealand.

The biggest change for the village will be ‘Friday Fun Nights’ every week during May, June and July. We’re moving Senior Nets and Kwik Cricket (Year 6 and below) to Fridays which, combined with Women’s matches means there will always be something happening at the club every week. The bar will be open and the barbie will fired up so come along and start your weekend on the Heath!

Indoor nets have already started for Seniors and Youth (U11s upwards) start in early March. We always welcome new players of all ages and abilities so for more information and to get in touch visit our web site at www.eagcc.com.

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2nd May 2011, 11.00-14.00
Maypole dancing by the Holy Trinity School Dancers
BBQ organized by Eight Ash Green Scouts
Refreshments and snacks organized by the Ladies
Stands and stalls from lots of local clubs and organisations

Eight Ash Green Village Festival
The 2011 Festival will be held on The Heath on
Saturday 16th July
1pm - 11pm
Bigger, Brighter Bolder

LINE DANCING
EIGHT ASH GREEN VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAYS AT 7.30 P.M.
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FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE PHONE 01206 240862
Bus Report

By Christine Willetts.
Parish Council Transport Representative.

I have been informed that there will be minor adjustments to the timetable for the No 88 service from 7th March. Unfortunately the new timetable had not been published at the time of going to press.

There is still no news about the installation of the official bus stops which I was promised a year ago (on the Halstead Road near the village sign - both to and from the town, and outside Porters Cottages - Fordham direction only). I am assured we are now top of the list, but no funding has yet been forthcoming.

Now for some hopeful news -

Following on from the Village Questionnaire, we noted several requests for a service to Sainsbury’s. Having had long discussions with the bus companies, we drew a blank. There is insufficient capacity in the timetable to divert a bus to Tollgate. (see last edition of the magazine). So we are going down the ‘Shopper Bus’ option.

We’ve been promised a small bus, possibly on a Monday or Tuesday, which will operate at the same time on a weekly basis. This will run around the village, go to Sainsbury’s and return about an hour or so later. The good news is that bus passes can be used on this service. Younger folks will have to pay about £2.50 for the return journey. We’re hoping to start this new service in May. Any further information will be put in the County Standard village news section.

Can we just stress that the shopper bus organisation considered our request because we had evidence in writing that this service was needed. Please make sure you return any other Questionnaires we may deliver from time to time, and don’t leave it to others!! Organisations need written evidence before they can act, not just hearsay!!
WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

Our November meeting was the AGM where Julia Robertson was welcomed onto the committee. A huge vote of thanks was given to Margaret Soanes for all her work on the committee as she has moved away from Fordham. Alison Bradshaw was re-elected as President for the forthcoming year and many thanks must go to her for all the work she does for us.

December saw the committee members lay on a superb Christmas Feast which everyone enjoyed, followed by games and singing favourite Christmas Carols. It was an evening very much enjoyed by everyone.

Our January meeting saw Richard Kemsley talk about Crucial Crew, a scheme run for Year 6 pupils to teach them safety techniques & accident prevention by acting out different scenarios. Kerbside Recycling was the subject at our March Meeting.

We meet at Fordham Village Hall. For details contact our Secretary, Audrey Crees on 01206 241293

APRIL MEETING
Tuesday 5th
Famous Women in History

MAY MEETING
Tuesday 3rd
Tales from the countryside

DIGITAL SWITCH-OVER
OF TELEVISION 6th July 2011

Our TV signals come either via a Satellite dish, or via an aerial on the roof (or in the loft). The digital switchover only affects those of us with an aerial on our roof or in the loft. The aerial picks up channels broadcast from the TV transmitter at Sudbury.

Currently Sudbury transmits the main channels (BBC, BBC2, ITV, Ch4) in “analogue” format. It also transmits these channels and more than 40 other channels in freeview “digital” format. The Sudbury transmitter will no longer broadcast “analogue” channels after 6th July. If you have an old TV or video recorder that receives only the 4 analogue channels, you will need to either replace it with a digital model (expensive), or buy a freeview box (£20-£30) which converts the digital signals to the old analogue format.

The BBC is running a HelpLine on what to do: 08456 505050 or website www.digitaluk.co.uk. The BBC will also have a display in the town centre at Culver Square on 13/14 May, 9am to 5pm, to explain how to convert.
Farming News

Local Farmer, Will Ralph, is now managing the land surrounding Abbotts Hall, including the site of the unpopular Park & Ride proposal. Will has cleared the formerly derelict fields between the Holiday Inn and the A12. These will be planted to grass this spring and will be mown for forage crops. These two fields are visually important when approaching the village from the A12 junction. The area should now look much more appealing.

Please might I remind walkers to keep to the public footpaths and not to let dogs roam in growing crops. This would be much appreciated.

North Neighbourhood Policing Team
PC Vicky Sanders
0300 333 4444 ext 13400
Copford Police Station Mobile 07966 197134

Oil Thefts

Please be aware there has been an increasing quantity of rural Oil Thefts reported recently.

Please assess your current security around your tanks, particularly as many people do not lock them until they have become the target of a theft.

If you require advice please contact Colin Stiff (Crime Reduction Officer - Colchester Police District), on 01206 717624 or email Colin.Stiff@essex.pnn.police.uk
The Cricketers

New Chef’s - New Menu’s
A new Inning’s at The Cricketers

Book Now for Mothers Day

Quiz Nights every other Wednesday
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New Take Away Menu
Curry’s to Fish & Chips
Monday & Tuesday 12noon ~ 2.30pm & 5.30pm ~ 8.30pm
Wednesday to Friday 5.30pm to 9pm

Free Wi Fi

Our Opening Times
Bar
Monday - Thursday 11.30am ~ 3pm & 5.30pm ~ 11pm
Friday & Saturday 11.30am ~ 11.30pm
Sunday 12noon ~ 10.30pm

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Friday & Saturday 12noon ~ 9pm
Sunday 12noon 7pm
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Report from Holy Trinity School

The Choir goes to the O2!

On Wednesday 12th January, Holy Trinity’s Choir went to the O2 Arena in London to participate in the Young Voices Concert.

We had been practising the songs since September. We sang songs by Owl City, Lady Gaga, Alexandra Burke, JLS, Michael Jackson and Iyaz.

We were all very excited when we got on the coach at 10 am to set off for London.

When we arrived we had our lunch and then we went inside to practise for the concert in the evening. We all really enjoyed ourselves as did our parents who came along to support us.

We finally arrived back at school just before Midnight, excited but very tired.

We would like to thank Mrs Murray for organising it, as well as Mrs Hann and the other teachers for coming with us.

Written By Alice & Bethany Richardson.
Eight Ash Green Action Group

The AGM of the Eight Ash Green Action Group will take place in the Village Hall at 8pm on 30 March 2011.

The Committee has agreed to wind up the Group. The AGM will be asked to endorse this and to discuss the distribution of remaining funds to the Village.

Original donors to the funding who expressed a wish to receive a refund of a proportion of their contribution have been contacted by the Committee.

If you believe that you should have been contacted and have not heard from the Committee, please contact the Treasurer, Jenny Jones on 01206 768983 by 25 March.
Christmas was an enjoyable time at EAG Methodist Church as we celebrated God’s gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Our carol service took place on 19th December and ‘In the bleak midwinter’ was certainly sung with feeling! On Christmas Day we reflected on Jesus as a gift of love and we began the New Year with a Covenant service, in which we made our New Year’s resolution to follow God faithfully.

January was brightened by a very enjoyable evening in the company of ‘Mike Hurrell’s Gentlemen of Jazz’, a chance to share in good food and excellent music. This annual event took place on 25th January and was attended by about 60 people. A big thank you goes to Mike and all the Gentlemen for their music and banter which kept us entertained until past 11pm. The jazz evening always takes place on the last Friday in January so book next year’s date in your diaries now!

We are now looking forward to Spring and to the season of Lent, which begins on 9th March. Lent is a time when we as Christians are encouraged to take time for prayer and reflection; to stop and remember that we are human beings, valued by God for who we are rather than all that we do.

We also use the time to look forward to Easter and to reflect on the fact that God loves us enough to send His only Son to go through death and beyond for us all. During Holy Week (the week before Easter) we reflect on the events that led up to Jesus’ death before celebrating His resurrection on Easter Sunday. In addition to our regular Sunday service, this year there will also be a special service on Saturday 23rd April at 7pm retelling part of that story.

♦ Sunday Services: 9.30am every Sunday
♦ Prayer time: 9.30am-10am Mondays
♦ Bible Study: Monthly Tuesday at 8pm, for dates and themes see notice board or contact Revd Ruth Ridge.
ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD

The Village correspondent for the Rural Life Column in the Essex County Standard is Colin Fairweather, 01206 562860, 48 The Walk, Eight Ash Green, CO6 3QG.

Reports from local organisations should be sent directly to Colin for publication in the Essex County Standard.

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All Saints Church Update
The Rectory, Wood Lane. 01206 243266

After 18 years as Rector of Eight Ash Green & Fordham, Mike Neville has been appointed to St Simon Zelotes, Chelsea. The Pastoral team in Eight Ash Green is now: Aella Gage (Associate Minister), AJ Johnstone (Youth Work) and Ruth Reynolds (Childrens' work).

This month, Ruth Reynolds outlines one of the children’s activities run by the Parish Church.

JAS Club is a fun and exciting Christian club for children. It runs on Tuesday lunch times at Holy Trinity Primary School. The children enjoy their school dinner and after a quick run around the playground, they have the option to come along and join the fun in the spare classroom called, ‘Scribbles’.

Each week we have activities planned on different themes. We have just finished a series of sessions based on the famous, "I am," sayings of Jesus. It’s quite amazing how children can still enjoy the old traditional Bible stories, such as the lost sheep.

We always try to make bring these stories to life, using puppets, pictures or drama. The children have been keen to learn the Bible verses and "Jesus said, I am the Good Shepherd," has now become a favourite. On another occasion the children learnt about when Jesus said," I am the Light of the world," and for the rest of their lunch time they were busy cutting and sticking and making little lanterns to take home.

We sometimes have a sing-along or even a quick game of naughts and crosses or connect four. So you can imagine it’s a very busy half an hour. In fact I think the adults could easily say that they enjoy the fun, just as much as the children. So on behalf of the JAS Club Team, we would like to say thank you to the children who have participated, as we feel it is a wonderful community activity linking the school to the Parish Church.

JAS Club team leaders: Ruth Reynolds, Gael Campbell and Doris Beard.
Doucecroft School relocated to Eight Ash Green in 2005, having previously been situated in Kelvedon for twenty-eight years. The school offers day and weekly boarding places for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Asperger’s Syndrome. Whilst the school caters for both boys and girls, at present all forty seven students are male.

The students have opportunities to participate in a wide range of educational activities, both on and off site. We aim to keep them busy and to make the learning experiences enjoyable! Students are offered the range of curriculum subjects and physical activities such as trampolining, swimming, fitness, horse riding, kayaking and running to name but a few. The local community provides a wealth of venues to support the acquisition of life skills; we are regulars at the nearby Sainsburys and our student’s shopping skills are second to none!

We are fortunate at the school in having sensory rooms, a small gym, swimming pool and Design and Technology room as well as spacious classrooms and grounds. An environment in which our students flourish!

The school also has a designated area for Further Education where we have two classrooms and a boarding house for students aged between sixteen and nineteen. The emphasis for post sixteen students is to further develop their independent living skills to prepare them for their transition into the wider world when they leave us.

Doucecroft is proud to have been judged by OFSTED as offering ‘good’ educational provision and for the fourth consecutive year in offering ‘outstanding’ residential provision.

Visitors are welcomed to the school, so do contact us if you would like a look round

Kathy Cranmer, Head Teacher, 01206 771234
WEST BERGHOLT GARDENERS’ ASSOCIATION

Spring is in sight … And March is one of the busiest months of the year. Sowing seeds and seeing tiny green shoots appear is a perennial thrill.

There’s a lot to do in the garden with seed beds to prepare; sowing seeds; cutting back winter shrubs and tidying up; planting summer-flowering bulbs; lifting and dividing large clumps of perennials for propagation. Divide hostas before coming into leaf; also hellebores and polyanthus after flowering. Narcissus should be deadheaded allowing leaves to die back. Now it’s time to plant shallots, onion seeds and early potatoes.

It’s a good time to introduce children to gardening. The RHS website holds a wealth of information – www.rhs.org.uk/Children/For-families The Society also offers online support for other campaigns such as ‘It’s Your Neighbourhood’, highlighting grassroots community gardening.

Gardens are special ecosystems and global warming is here, raising concerns for gardeners. Impacts of a changing climate are priority on the scientific, political and environmental agenda. We can better manage our gardens on thinking sustainable and greener working in the garden.

Turning to our own activities, Hilary Thomas, Garden Designer, Lecturer and Writer, presented on ‘Gardening and Plant Design’ at our February meeting. On 21 March Barry Kaufmann-Wright’s talk will illustrate ‘Aspects of garden wildlife’. Our Annual Plant Sale, open to the public, will be held on Monday 18 April at 7.30pm in the Orpen Hall. Natalie Finch will talk on ‘35 Years in a Garden of Roses’ on 16 May. There will be a summer programme on visits to local gardens; plus a trip to East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens on 15 June.

Visitors are always welcome at all our events.
Enquiries: 01206 855450 - valerielofthouse1@hotmail.co.uk
01206 242124 - terryclaydon@aol.com

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LEN LUFF, VILLAGE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
with an eye for the erroneous, an ear for the egregious and a nose for nonsense.

Some of the things that can annoy us are not actually the responsibility of any Authority, Local, Parish or Borough. Here's your chance to let off steam about the things that irritate YOU in our village. If you'd like to have a moan – in the strictest confidence – just email Len Luff at lenluff@tiscali.co.uk, and we'll print your comments!

“I understand that one or two of the houses in The Rise, which back on to the former Brick and Tile car park have had instances of vandalism, especially of fencing. Since they appear to have been deliberately targeted, could it be made plain in the Newsletter that the fencing at the rear of the car park is nothing to do with the former pub, but belongs to the householders at the back?”

Yes, indeed. I had heard of such vandalism, and hope that this has now ceased. I hope this is nothing to do with ongoing concern about the changes at the old Brick and Tile. Our village doesn’t need this kind of feuding!

“The field adjacent to Bungalow Stores along the A1124 is a total eyesore, with piles of rubbish, old plastic chairs and pieces of plastic piping strewn all over it. Is the Parish Council in a position to make the owners tidy it up? To anyone driving through, it must look at though our village is just a rubbish dump!”

Well, I've passed the message on to the Parish Council; no doubt if they can do something, they will. I agree entirely; this field is a mess, and lets down the entire community – I hope the owners read this, and have the decency to clear it up!

“Many thanks to the Parish Council for arranging gritting bins in the The Walk, and at the junctions of Heathfields and Searle Way. Bins at the junctions of The Walk and Heathfields with Spring Lane would be good, too. Many thanks also to those residents who gritted their entire roads, and shame on those who took grit for their own driveways! Double shame, by the way, on those households who parked their cars on the road in all the snow for their convenience, thus making it doubly hard for their neighbours to get their cars out!”

Hear, hear! It's the old story of consideration for your neighbours, a sentiment not always as much in evidence as we might like! Incidentally, if you have a neighbour who parks inconsiderately, take a few photos of their car; this might prove culpability on their part, should there be a collision!
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ROTARY’S ALWAYS HELPING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rotary members are enthusiastic, fun-loving and active volunteers who give their time and talents to serve communities both at home and overseas. These are dedicated people, men and women from business and professions, who share a common interest in helping others. The Rotary motto is “Service above Self.”

The name “Rotary” was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members’ offices. In Colchester there are four Rotary Clubs and many others in nearby towns. Rotary clubs are open to all cultures, races, and creeds, men and women. Club membership represents a cross-section of local business and professional leaders.

In Colchester, young people participate in public speaking competitions, careers events, mock interviews and literacy projects including helping junior pupils to read. Recent community service has included providing a dinghy for sailing for the disabled, giving equipment to the Hospital Stroke Unit and raising £1,800 for Essex Air Ambulance. Internationally, local Clubs have helped provide toilets for a special needs school in South Africa;

Immediately after the earthquake in Haiti, The Rotary Club of Colchester Forum responded to an urgent appeal. The Club allocated £500 from its emergency fund for a ShelterBox that includes a tent, a stove, a water purification kit, blankets, tools, and other necessities to help a family of 10 survive for six months.

At an international level, Rotary Clubs across the world have helped the World Health Organisation to eradicate Polio in all but four countries with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Microsoft) contributing $350m matched by Rotary.

This really is Rotary’s helping hand in our community everywhere. There is a great deal more to read on www.colchesterforum.co.uk.

Brian Gant, who lives in the village, is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Colchester Forum will be delighted to provide information if anyone is interested in joining Rotary. He can be contacted on 01206 547620.
Eight Ash Green Parish Plan Group
Consulting on the future of the Village

EAGPP
01206 248628
Ext 1124
eagpp@btinternet.com

MARTIN WRIGHT
Chairman

ANDREW COOK
Secretary

DENNIS WILLETTS
Publicity Officer

KEITH WINTERBOURNE
Committee

JOHN ALLCOCK
Committee

STEVE BROWN
Committee
Parish Plan Group
Quarterly Report.
By John Allcock

A lot of work has been taking place behind the scenes since last September when Eight Ash Green Parish Council mandated the Parish Plan Group to prepare a full Parish Plan.

The current draft of the Plan is based on the results of the main questionnaires carried out some 18 months ago. However, the results identified discontent with the speed of Broadband in the village. So before completing the Parish Plan we issued an additional “Broadband” questionnaire. The results of this survey follow on the next two pages, and justify the inclusion of “better Broadband services” as a high priority action point in the Plan.

We started work on the Plan by drawing-up a skeleton or framework. At the forefront of our minds has been the desire to have a Plan that is easy to read, contains all the salient points, has a clear Action Plan related to the results of the questionnaires, and sets out what can be readily achieved. It has to be something that everyone will want to read – it’s no good producing some lengthy tome with masses of boring detail and unrealistic targets.

The framework has now been agreed and the Plan will have a number of sections – an Introduction; an Executive Summary; a brief history of EAG; a description of the modern parish and its’ facilities; a note about how the Plan was developed; a summary setting out the analysis of the questionnaires that were returned to include use of “pie” charts; and perhaps the most important of all, the Action Plan. Finally, there will be a feedback sheet so you will be able let us know what you think about the Plan as well as giving you the opportunity to offer any help or assistance in taking forward the items listed in the Action Plan.

Most of the text for the sections shown above has now been drafted and we are currently looking at presentation issues including layout; and the use of colour and shading; the Action Plan; maps etc. We also want to produce some really good pictures to support the text and the best time to take these will be in early Spring. Our aim is to publish the Parish Plan in towards the end of summer 2011.
The Broadband Questionnaire
By Dennis Willetts, EAGPP Publicity Officer

The main Parish Plan Questionnaire identified discontent with the speed of Broadband in the village. The Parish Plan Group carried out a project to collect factual information about this problem. We asked residents to conduct a simple test, which measured the overall speed of their connection.

Your connection to the Internet consists of two parts. The first is from your home to the telephone exchange. This dedicated link is used only by you. This is what the Broadband suppliers advertise as their speed. In EAG this is typically advertised as up to 8Mb/s, although rarely achieved in the Village.

The second part is the link from the telephone exchange to the national network. This is shared by all the broadband users connected to that exchange. When this link reaches its maximum operating capacity, the downloading rate for all customers is progressively slowed-down.

Our test is not immediately comparable to the Broadband supplier’s “advertised” speed. For instance, BT claims that the editor’s broadband runs at about 5Mb/s, but this is between the editor’s office and Fordham Exchange. However, after adding in all the other delays from Fordham onwards, the speed checker rarely measured broadband data transfer at more than 3Mb/s.

The Broadband Questionnaire was delivered to all houses in the village during the last week in January, for return by 21st Feb. Of the 750 delivered, almost 1 in 5 were returned.

We present our results on the next page. For the group of respondents in each postcode area, we noted the maximum speed obtained in any of their tests, and we also calculated the average. The average speed is a good indicator of what is currently being obtained. The maximum speed is what can be done if you streamline your computer system and choose the fastest internet supplier.
<table>
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<th>Postcode</th>
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<td>Searle Way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Village Contacts

Essex County Council 0845 743 0430
Colchester Borough Council 282222
Eight Ash Green Parish Council 729200
Holy Trinity Primary School 240880
Stanway School 575488
Village Hall booking 562860
Police Constable Vicky Sanders 07966 197134
Revd Aella Gage (Church of England) 243266
Revd Ruth Ridge (Methodist) 242183
Monsignor Arthur Barrow (Catholic) 576898
Zen Dental Clinic, Tollgate 762417
Francois Rossouw Dental Practice 764111
Tollgate Heath Centre 710030
The Cricketers 240666
Bernard Jenkin, MP 01376 564292
Cllr Anne Brown, County Councillor 321241
Cllr Jill Tod, Borough Councillor 366454
Cllr Dennis Willetts, Borough Councillor 240314
Chris Gray, Chairman, EAG Parish Council 07909 926811
Richard Brown, Parish Councillor 07894 789107
Andrew Cook, Vice-chairman & Parish Councillor 07584 218280
Michael Flynn, Parish Councillor 242191
Derek Franklin, Parish Councillor 210959
Ken Free, Parish Councillor 210598
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AND SATURDAY'S
8.00AM -12NOON
Monday
— — Scouts (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue)
19.00 Carpet Bowls Club, Village Hall
19.30 Ladies Monday Club, Methodist Church
20.00 ABT Blast, Keep Fit, Holy Trinity Primary School

Tuesday
— — Explorer Scouts (ring 0845-0946-208 for details)
19.30 Line Dancing, Village Hall
19.30 WI, (1st Tuesday) Fordham Village Hall
20.00 Harley Davidson Club (1st Tuesday), The Cricketers

Wednesday
09.45 Dance a size, Village Hall
10.30 Lower Body Blitz, Village Hall
18.30 Village Youth Club (last 2 Wed of month) Village Hall
19.00 Wednesday Club (1st Wednesday) Village Hall
19.30 Parish Council (2nd Wednesday) Village Hall
20.00 Quiz night (alternate Wednesdays) The Cricketers
20.00 Mini Club (1st Wednesday) The Cricketers
20.00 VW club (alternate Wednesdays) The Cricketers

Thursday
09.30 Power Chi Yoga, Village Hall
10.00 Daisy Beaders, (2nd Thursday) The Cricketers
— — Cubs (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue)
11.00 Holy Communion, (Last Thursday) All Saints Church
19.30 Christadelphians Bible Class, Village Hall

Friday
16.30 Karate Club, Village Hall
— — Beavers (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue)
19.30 Mens’ Club, Village Hall

Saturday
09.30 King Fu, Village Hall

Sunday
09.30 Worship, EAG Methodist Church
10.00 Worship, Fordham (EAG and Fordham congregations)
11.15 Morning Prayer, All Saints EAG (1st Sunday in month)
14.15 Christadelphians Memorial meeting, Village Hall
16.15 Christadelphians Bible Talk, Village Hall

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Opinions appearing in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Parish Plan Group or Eight Ash Green Parish Council.