

# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Nov 2024



We hope that you and your children are enjoying the new play park and fitness equipment, including the accessibility equipment.

Some of you may have noticed that the Village sign has been temporarily removed for repainting a damaged area. It will be reinstated shortly.

The Witcham Events Committee have kindly donated and planted up bulbs to improve the display on the banks around recreation ground and in the new garden at the entrance to the village hall roadway. They have also arranged a Xmas tree light up event for December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The litter pick volunteers were pleased to see a reduction in litter collected during their Autumn session.

Speedwatch sessions have re-started, thanks to our team of volunteers. However, we could do even more sessions if one or two more residents could volunteer a couple of hours a month, [george.byrne@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:george.byrne@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We are establishing a joint working relationship with Mepal Parish Council to improve pedestrian safety and access between Mepal & Witcham and reducing the current 60mph speed limit.

CCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) are planning to undertake work at Bury Road to allow access for farm vehicles, horse riders and pedestrians as per status of the drove as a Byway.

In the Spring we plan to repair and re-paint the bus shelter and to update the signs at the village hall drive.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their help and support throughout year. Thanks also to our hardworking Parish Clerk.

*Mick Housden,*

Chairman Witcham Parish Council

## Witcham Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Plan is ready for issue and consultation. **It will be available for you to view and make your comments at the village hall on 14<sup>th</sup> December between 1030 & 1300.** Please do come along.

It will also be available on the Parish Council Website

<https://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk/news>

A referendum will take place in the New Year.

## East Cambs Housing Support Fund

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/press/housing-support-fund-available-residents-low-incomes>

For any residents who are struggling to meet essential housing costs, including food, energy bills and other essential items - please contact for help and guidance.

They can also help with Pension Credit applications:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/press/council-offers-help-pension-credit-applications>

**Bonfires** – Don't be a bonfire bandit this autumn. For details visit:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/press/avoid-being-bonfire-bandit-autumn>

If you wish to make a complaint about a bonfire contact the environmental health team at ECDC on 01353 665555 or at

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/pollution/bonfires-or-smoke-nuisance>

## Hedgehogs

ECDC report that here has been a decline of between 30% and 72% since 2000. Visit the website to see how you can do more to help them

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/press/remember-hedgehogs-autumn>

## Roads and Paths

Cambridgeshire County Council has announced its Capital Maintenance Programme 2024/25.

Proposals for works for roads, paths, drains, bridges, and signals can be found at: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/tra-vel-roads-and-parking/highway-projects/capital-maintenance-programme>

## Travellers to St Ives, Huntingdon, Willingham

We have been advised that works are scheduled on the **B1381** Sutton to Earith road from 6 January 2025. 10 weeks. 8am to 6pm. Road closed day and night and may include weekends. We will list any amendments on our website.

If you have concerns about Cambridgeshire roads, paths, please report via:

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

## PENSION CREDIT

### Don't get left in the cold this winter!

If you are on a low income, apply for Pension Credit before 21 December 2024 and you could still receive this year's **Winter Fuel Payment**.

For help to apply for this – call 01353 665555 or visit ECDC offices at the Grange, Ely, during office hours.

## STREET LIGHTS

If you notice a faulty street light please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or any member of the Council quoting street light number and name of street.

County Council owned lights maintained by Balfour Beatty should be reported direct to the County Council together with any concerns about potholes, verges, footpaths - in or out of the village <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

## DOG FOULING

Please report all incidents of dog fouling on the footways immediately to ECDC 01353 665555  
They will cleanse and visit the dog owners!  
Fines may be issued

**In the interests of health and hygiene for users of the recreation ground playing sport and children using the equipment, dogs are not permitted on our Recreation Ground/Village Green whatsoever.**

## PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE FOOTBALL GOALPOSTS

### FOOTBALLERS

Please be aware the goalposts on the recreation ground must only be moved by the Council or the Witcham Cricket Club.

## Witcham Parish Council Contact details:

Mick Housden – Chairman  
[mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mick.housden@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
(The Slade)

Karl Mackender – Vice-Chairman  
[karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:karl.mackender@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
(High Street)

George Byrne  
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Jane Lucas  
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(The Orchards)

Sally Wilkin  
(WEC Mepal Road)  
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Parish Clerk – Sue Bell  
[clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

<http://witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

## FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS

8 January 2025  
12 February 2025  
12 March 2025

All items for the agenda must be received by the Clerk at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

The meetings start at 7.30pm. There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision is made for public participation/question time, (15 minutes) at each meeting.

Please contact the Clerk prior to the meeting for details.

Visit our website [www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.witchamparishcouncil.gov.uk) to view agendas and approved minutes, news and updates on Parish Council activities.

Notices and Draft minutes are also posted on the noticeboards at the bus shelter and corner of Silver Street/The Slade.