

Campsea Ashe Parish Council

Chair's Report 2022/23

It has been a productive year for the PC, during which we have welcomed Nigel Pringle to the PC. Maxine Hammond also joined, albeit briefly. Hannah Pooley, Shaun Wilson, Clare Reid, Nigel Pringle, Ed Berger, and our Clerk Klaus Fortmann are a committed team, bringing many different skills and much experience to the PC.

The Village and in Particular Ivy Lodge Rd has continued to see the benefits of the TRO which has noticeably calmed the HGV traffic situation on ILR, but has certainly also displaced the HGV traffic onto other often equally unsuitable routes, hence still creating issues around. There are still some large vehicles associated with the Bentwaters digesters and Stokes sauces using Ivy Lodge Rd, but overall, the restriction order and signage has been a great success. Villagers are reminded that they can report HGV transgressions at 'Report a heavy goods vehicle incident' at [Suffolk.gov.uk](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk).

The most significant planning application this year was the Livery on Ivy Lodge Rd, to which the PC, residents and both our District & County councillors all objected. It was disappointing when consent was granted for the Livery despite very strong local feeling.

The PC has embarked on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, which would hopefully give the community more say future developments in the Parish. Initial meetings have been held, a working group set up and a consultant hired to help us with this important project. As soon as funding avenues become clear the work will commence.

The PC continues to work with JPTI (Joint Parish Traffic Initiative). Current signatories are Campsea Ash, Marlesford, Melton, Bromswell, Ufford, Snape, Grundisburgh and Hasketon. After a promising start with an online meeting and data examinations, there was a subsequent disappointing face to face meeting with East Suffolk & SCC Highways, at which it was felt that both authorities are reluctant to address local concerns in a meaningful way. A letter of complaint was agreed by several PCs, however it was decided that a

better approach would be to arrange a meeting with the new Chief Executive of East Suffolk Council, Chris Bally. This meeting will take place in June 2023

The aims of the JTPI have been reinforced by the establishment of ESPA (East Suffolk Planning Alliance) whose aim is to stop to the Local Plan because of its negative impacts on our rural communities. Klaus Fortmann has attended some ESPA meetings and fed back to the PC. Subject to further discussion, CA plans to be an affiliate to ESPA, because of our shared concerns about inappropriate development and associated traffic impacts. Add in Sizewell C and renewables infrastructure at Friston, the impacts on local communities are enormous. As a PC, and in association with the JTPI and ESPA, Campsea Ash will continue to monitor the situation, with train movements associated with Sizewell of special concern to the Village.

WAC (Wild About Campsea) has gone from strength to strength and now comprises a community of 50 people. The group has replanted the Coronation oak, planted over 400 trees (including the Platinum Jubilee Oak tree), received nearly £7,000 in grants for a building, planters for community gardening, talks and sessions, which are always well attended. WAC volunteers especially Adam, Aaron and Paul (to mention but a few...) have been extraordinary in giving their time to community efforts! Neighbouring communities as well as ESC are watching WAC closely as a model for this type of sustainable community project, and ITV even used WAC as a back drop for a report on the Field to Fork initiative.

The PC continues to put emphasis on the playing field experience, by agreeing a build a boules court, which should be completed in 2023.

A £10,000 easement has been agreed in principle with Clark and Simpson for running a drain beneath the playing field. The money left after fees will be shared between the PC and Village Hall, but cumulatively put towards Village Hall & Playground improvements and renovations. In the shorter term the PC has agreed to spend some of its share on buying table tennis tables for community use.

The Village Hall started looking at renovation of the building as well as improving the parking area. This is an ongoing project, which will require some serious financial input in the future.

The Katch bus service was discontinued but has started up again, providing transport for rail travellers and local communities alike. The issue of the station name, and the lack of prominence for Campsea Ashe in Katch materials remains an important concern for the PC and Station House Community Trust.

The ongoing Chantry close adverse possession claim has been taken on by Nigel Pringle. His research has revealed a highly complex legal situation, not helped by a lack of focus on the issue by the PC in past decades. Frustratingly the adverse possession claim now has to be restarted from scratch.

The most significant Village event in 22/23 was the Platinum Jubilee picnic held last summer. This very well-attended and successful event in and around the Village Hall included live music, food, sports, and crafts.

The PC welcomes the new tenants of the village Shop, Liz and Malcomb. The shop is very well stocked and very reasonably priced. We wish them well in this venture and ask the community to give them their support.

The PC would like to thank Bob and Rosamund of Station House for providing the PC with such a comfortable and welcoming location for meetings, as well as for their thoughtful and detailed contributions to PC meetings.

Thanks also to (former) ESC Cllr Carol Poulter, for her strong personal and generous financial support in the establishment of Wild About Campsea, and part funding of the Boules Court.

Equally thanks to SCC Cllr Alexander Nicolls for his ongoing commitment to the PC on issues concerning traffic impacts associated with Bentwaters and future energy infrastructure.

Finally, special thank you to Derek Balaam, who continues to ensure that the Playground is a safe space to be in as well as keeping paths and roads clear.

Ed Berger 22.5.23

Chair Campsea Ashe Parish Council.