

Hermitage Parish Council Update

- ❖ The council is currently considering acquiring two plots of land which would become public open space. As the annual budget is a modest one, the impact of increasing the green space maintenance budget permanently must be considered carefully.

The first is the play area and swings at Hermitage Green, currently owned and maintained by West Berkshire Council. It has been offered on a 75-year lease and would have some money attached towards maintenance of the greenery and the play equipment.

The second is at the top of the village being the open space on which leylandii grow just inside Pinewood Crescent, opposite the entrance to the village hall. It is currently owned by Taylor Wimpey who would hand over the land completely but with no monies at all for maintenance.

- ❖ As reported in the October issue of this magazine, the path running from Pinewood Crescent up to Furze Hill and beyond has now re-opened as an active travel route, to be known as Eling Way, and will eventually reach Hampstead Norreys. This path is for the use of pedestrians, cyclists and horses though only pedestrians can turn right into the butterfly meadow at the top of the path.
- ❖ Sadly, it has been noticed that green waste is being dumped illegally in our woodland areas, interfering seriously with the ecosystem. Dumping your grass clipping or shrub and tree prunings may seem innocuous but it smothers growth where it is tipped and introduces alien matter to that spot.
- ❖ West Berkshire Countryside volunteers will be at Furze Hill on Tuesday November 12th from 10am. Anyone wishing to join them should meet at the village hall car park.
- ❖ The Parish Council is again offering grants to local groups working to benefit Hermitage residents. Application forms and all details can be obtained from the parish clerk, see below for contact details. The deadline for all applications to be submitted is January 6th.
- ❖ Christmas will be here before we know it and plans are underway for the annual lighting of the Christmas tree and carol singing outside The Fox pub. Friday December 6th is the big day, at 6.30 so make a diary note now.
- ❖ The date of the next parish council meeting is Thursday November 21st then December 12th. All monthly meetings are held in the Adelaide Room at the rear of the church and begin at 7.30pm. Agendas, minutes and information about the council are posted on notice boards throughout the village and on www.hermitage.org.uk.
- ❖ Hermitage Parish Council can be contacted through the clerk, Nicky Pierce, by emailing hermitagepc@outlook.com.