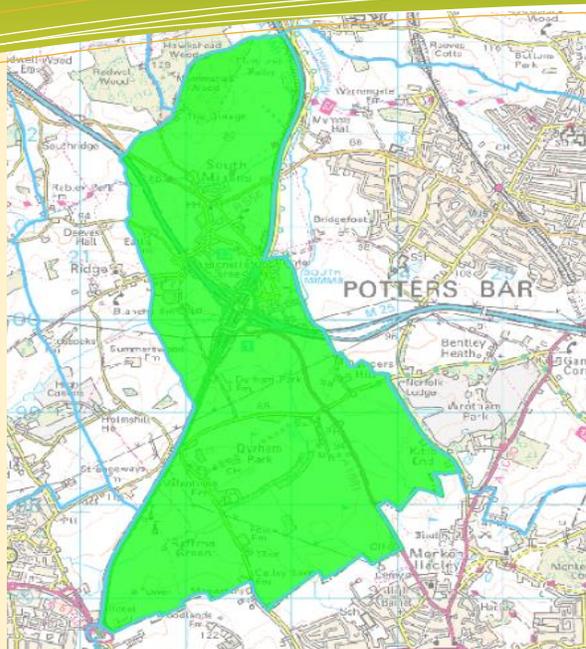


Summer
2021

South Mimms Parish Council



This issue:

- Your New Councillors
- Public Enquiry Delay – longer to submit evidence
- Report It and Sort It On Fly Tipping and Village Maintenance
- Opening up after Lock-Down

The Electoral Parish of South Mimms covers not only the main village but all the land shown in green. Our Councillors are responsible for quite a large area!

Welcome from your new Councillors:

After the May elections your new Councillors are Cathy McCaffrey (Chairperson), Seth Thomas (Deputy Chairperson) Toni Johnson, Mark Hedison and Chris Myers, who is also a Potters Bar Labour representative on Hertsmere Borough Council.

South Mimms is part of Shenley Ward within Hertsmere and our Hertsmere Ward Councillors are Anthony Spencer and Natalie Susman and they also come to our meetings sometimes.

All of our new Councillors have dived straight in to the work needed after Lock-Down and in this newsletter we aim to update you on some of the issues they have been tackling.

If you want to get in contact with SMPC you can email Natalie Gettings the Clerk on southmimmspc@gmail.com

Chairperson:
CathMcCaffrey8@gmail.com

Deputy Chairperson
c1lrseththomas@gmail.com

New residents reporting page launched.

A new way for residents to easily report issues has been set up on Facebook with a group called “South Mimms – Report It and Sort It”. Launched by Cllr Chris Myers in June, 92 residents have already signed up to help fight the war on fly tipping and report maintenance issues. All residents and business owners of South Mimms Civic Parish are welcome to join the group, not just those in the main village.

In just the first month, SMPC reporting has included: ten counts of fly tipping, nine sites with overgrown vegetation, plus key safety issues such as the abuse/ignoring of the Blanche Lane one way system (additional signage due by the end of July), eight damaged street signs and six cases of obscured street lighting.

Cllr Mark Hedison has been out walking all over the village and has also reported on potholes, broken manholes, uneven pavement, broken steps and benches, plus a damaged bollard. If you see something, please report it so we can sort it!

Other issues

SMPC Councillors and Clerk have been in contact with Hertsmere on a daily basis regarding a host of other issues. We have been on the case regarding the poor state of the Hertsmere-owned rental garages in South Mimms and we have just been informed that these will be repainted this summer. Residents have been reporting issues with insufficient parking resulting in vehicles parking on the grass and damaging it and SMPC put in a request for additional parking bays to be constructed in Brookside, and for an abandoned car that was taking up a space to be removed. Unfortunately, the request for more parking bays in Brookside was refused, but the Local Plan team have promised to consider parking for existing residents as part of the overall village scheme (including electric car charging points). Additionally, Cllr Mc Caffrey has been working with local farmers to get the bridle paths and footpaths that cross their land cut back to enable public access.

Draft report on New House Plans – delayed until October

Hertsmere Borough Council have delayed the publication of their draft Local Plan for 12,000 new homes across the Borough over the next 12/14 years, until after they are presented to the full HBC meeting on 30th September. The Local Plan is a statutory document that sets out the strategic vision for housing and the Borough Council's legal duties.

We had hoped that the plans were going to be released after the May elections and that SMPC would be able to hold a summer public information day. However, this will now have to be in the Autumn. Hertsmere will provide a six week consultation period for everyone to have a say.

We can't refuse the new housing, but by engaging constructively with Hertsmere we can have important input into the plans.

Last summer's residents' survey gathered your views on your preferred locations for housing and your priorities for public services.

Next, we are going to review the Conservation Officer's latest report and look at the styles of existing housing and buildings, with a view to producing a Design Statement that can become an appendix to Hertsmere's plans. Any statements written will be presented for residents' comments via a future Parish Council Meeting.

If you have views or evidence of design elements that could be reflected in the style of new homes and other buildings, we would love to hear from you at the above email address.

We have reinforced the point to Hertsmere that it is vital that South Mimms remains a cohesive village that is distinct from the Service Area and any houses built as part of the proposed schemes in neighbouring areas.

Improving Infrastructure of South Mimms

When new building projects are completed by building firms anywhere in a Civic Parish, the Parish Council is awarded a small amount of money under the Community Infrastructure Levy scheme. These 'CIL' funds are only able to be spent on things that will improve the infrastructure of the Civic Parish. This year we have received just under £5,000 and we are looking at ideas of how to best spend the money. Currently under consideration is: i) Installing free Wi-fi at the Village Hall, ii) installing outside exercise equipment next to one of the play areas, iii) having flower planters about the village and iv) improved outside seating. If you have any other ideas about things to improve the infrastructure of South Mimms please get in contact with our Clerk, Natalie, on the above email address.

Public Enquiry into Planning Breaches by Paving Solutions and Groundwork Ltd.

The Public Enquiry into the planning breaches of the aggregates site on St Albans Road was due to take place 9th August, but the site owners have managed to get a 5 month delay. SMPC would like to encourage all residents who are affected by the dust and noise from this site to register complaints (with any photos or video evidence if you can) via <https://www.acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by emailing TeamE1@PlanningInspectorate.gov.uk quoting "APP/N1920/C/20/3260982 Land next to Romani EN6 3PP". More details are on the news section of our website including how to request to speak at the enquiry.

White Hart Closing

As most of you will be aware, the White Hart is now closed, pending sale to a new owner. We don't have any details yet on who the new owners are, but we are talking to Mc Mullens about it, as the Defibrillator that SMPC installed, the War Memorial, Memorial Stone and the associated benches are all on the site.

Opening Up After Lock-Down

At the time of writing this newsletter, we are hopeful that future meetings of the Parish Council will remain 'in person' and that we will no longer have to have a restricted number of socially distant seats. However, as we have all learnt, things can change very quickly, so please keep an eye on our noticeboards, website and social media regarding our next meeting on 2nd September and future meetings.

Church Parish Newsletter

Although St Giles and St Margaret's are without a permanent Vicar at the moment, William Marsterson and his team are going to restart their newsletter and hope to have their first edition out soon.