



Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council

NEWS LETTER



AUTUMN 2011

'SEEK THE COMMON GOOD'

The Cycles of Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour (known in short as ASB) has become a growing problem within the shopping plaza on Broadlands Way in Rushmere St Andrew.

Of most concern here are the vehicles which are mounting the footpath and using the plaza as a short cut between Broadlands Way and Brendon Drive. These inconsiderate and thoughtless motorists are driving within inches of the Just Learning Nursery front door just to shave five minutes off their journey time. The message to you is



Buses only lane above and below left

STOP! It's an offence and you are putting peoples lives at risk! Officers are conducting very regular patrols here to combat this and you will be dealt with very robustly if you are caught doing it.

The plaza itself should be an idyllic area

in which to enjoy a meal or takeaway, do a little shopping, have your haircut, drop off your children at the nursery or simply sit and watch the world go by. Unfortunately though, due to its open design, the plaza attracts something quite different.

Here you are more likely to see BMX bikes riding across shop fronts at high speed, footballs being kicked onto rooftops or at shop windows, and skateboards banging down onto the concrete or running loose into shop fronts. Stones have even been thrown at shop windows in the plaza. We also regularly see widespread littering here and a general lack of respect for the whole plaza.

The plaza is not a BMX track, a skate park or a football pitch and it should not be treated as such. Parents, children, customers, residents and visitors should all be able to move freely through it and do so in peace. So please do not drop off your children at the plaza to take part in these activities because the plaza is not the place for it. I am currently working with our partner agencies and the site owners to see what alterations can be made to the plaza to prevent this kind of anti-social behaviour occurring.

Mike Sarbutts, PCSO 3194
Kesgrave and District Safer Neighbourhood Team



Lock it – don't lose it

There have been quite a lot of thefts recently from cars and garages in Rushmere St Andrew. Please heed police warnings: in many of these cases the garages and vehicles had been left unlocked and police are urging residents to secure their outbuildings – sheds and garages – and check they have locked their vehicles. You have the power in your hands to stop these thefts, and remember, if you see anything suspicious dial 999.

Web Site news

At last we are able to give you news of a web site for the Parish of Rushmere St Andrew. It will be online shortly so please do visit. It is a work in progress at present so please bear with us while we try to add more information. It is intended in future to give as much information as possible about what is happening in your area, not just what the Parish Council is doing and when it is meeting. In time it will contain much of the history of the parish, what is happening at your parish halls, links to other organisations, useful contacts and much more.

Web site address

<http://rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net>

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Brochure has been distributed to all Householders and adopted by the Parish Council.

We ask for your help – for example: considerate and safe parking and speed control on our roads, especially on roads near to Broke Hall School, and/or where Householders reside at an entrance to a road junction and/or adjacent to Walkways and Footpaths. Also please maintain any hedging so as to maintain a good visibility and passageway to these vulnerable areas.

To those Parishioners who walk dogs, please pick up after your dog and deposit in a suitably provided Doggie bin, and please take home any litter, not drop it! Please stress this also to your children – 'keep Rushmere St Andrew safe and clean'.

To all residents, please contact the authorities (see useful contacts at the back of the Parish Plan Brochure) immediately if you see any signs of fly tipping in our area.

By adopting the Parish Plan the Parish Council has a list of suggested Action Points for consideration to aim at implementing where appropriate over the short, medium and long term.

Alan Eaton 1926 – 2011

Alan Eaton was known to many in the local community as the clerk to the Parish Council, a position he held for 30 years. However, he was also for some while the clerk to the Rushmere Commoners Committee and also briefly its chairman, together with being the secretary to the Village Hall Management Committee until the late 1980's.

There can be few people who did not come across Alan in those years who were not struck by his total involvement in all things associated with Rushmere St Andrew. Alan was a character from a long lost era and would frequently be seen about the Parish on his bicycle delivering Parish Council meeting agendas and happy to pass the time of day to anyone who had time to spare.

Alan was born in the parish in September 1926 and attended the Northgate School for Boys. He lived with his parents and sister in a little bungalow which had been constructed in the garden of his grandparents bungalow in Humber Doucy Lane. At the time the property was within Rushmere St Andrew and Alan considered himself very much a Rushmere St Andrew boy.

However, as a result of local government boundary changes he actually found himself within the administrative catchment of Ipswich but this was a mere detail which Alan never allowed to colour his thinking. Alan used to recount a story that when he went to school, along with other Rushmere boys, he was encouraged to throw stones at boys from Kesgrave on Rushmere Common.

He maintained that protective view of Rushmere over Kesgrave throughout his life and the irony of his death in a nursing home in Kesgrave would in earlier times not have been lost on him.

Following a period of National Service, Alan spent his working life at Ipswich Port Authority and following the death of his parents he continued to live in Humber Doucy Lane.

Those of us who were fortunate to know Alan and visit him at his home, will recall how this little bungalow was a shrine to a bygone age. Alan was not keen on disposing of things and maintained an interesting array of artefacts and a huge collection of books. His interests included the railways, which was ignited by his grandfather's employment; the docks and the war, interests which has been generated by his own experiences. Alan was also a keen philatelist and continued to maintain his stamp collection for many years up until his move to a nursing home.

Alan's home was dominated by an array of clocks, all of which were well maintained but it appeared were all set at a slightly different time. The effect of this was that on the hour (every hour) there was a long pause until all of the clocks had acknowledged the hour.

Alan was a man who had his own sense of time and would not be rushed. In the years when I worked in Ipswich from the late 1970's, Alan would catch the bus at the terminus which was at the bottom of Playford Road just as he had done for decades before. When Alan found that he was a few yards from the bus at the time of its departure he would not rush to catch it but he would simply maintain his steady pace and then just wait for the next one.

On the occasions when Alan and I caught the same bus, he would usually come and sit next to me and impart his opinion in his loud voice on the world as he saw it. Alan had no time for political correctness and would simply tell everyone exactly how he saw it.

After a period of declining health, Alan died in the Alice Grange Nursing Home, Kesgrave on 27 May and following a very well attended funeral in Rushmere Church, his body was laid to rest in Rushmere St Andrew Lawn Cemetery on 10 June.

Robert Whiting

Renovations in hand for the village ponds

Chestnut Pond

Residents of the area around Chestnut Pond may recall that in response to repeated flooding of the pond and roadway, the Parish Council and County Councillor John Klaschka managed to bring the various bodies involved around the table to establish cause and solution for the flooding. Since then there have been several attempts by SCC Highways to divert surface run-off water away from that part of the Street by altering the road drain interlinks and cleansing of sumps. These measures have had little effect and SCC have now agreed that the land drain extending out into Farmer Fenton's field should be replaced. They are unable to commit to a date for this work at present owing to the current budgetary limitation but both the Parish Council and Councillor Klaschka are urging SCC to commence the work before the winter is upon us.

At the time of going to print SCC have asked the Parish Council to consider managing the project to provide the land drain, as there are now insufficient staff at SCC Highways to be able to undertake the work. The PC will debate this at its September meeting

On a slightly brighter note, 'Greenways' under contract for the Parish Council have commenced some refurbishment work at Chestnut Pond with a new



New footway around rear of Chestnut pond

revetment completed at the roadside edge of the pond, a new footway laid around the rear of the pond and a new surface laid in front of the seat at the far side of the pond. Further work to enhance the facility is planned over the coming months.

Limes Pond

Limes Pond at the junction of The Street and The Limes is scheduled for a clean-up and removal of the silt deposited by many years of taking the surface water run-off from The Street. This would appear to be a simple task – however given current legislation, landfill tax, and health and safety, the

problem immediately becomes more complex. The Parish Council at the time of writing this article has requested quotations from two contractors. Before a quotation can be made for the work, the contractors are apparently having to send samples for analysis in order to determine the disposal method for the silt.

The method of extraction of the silt will also determine the need for traffic control at the site. The Parish Council has money earmarked for the work and we can only hope that the final cost will not become prohibitive given the various factors which have to be taken into account nowadays.

A street near you – lights out to save costs and environment

Street Lamps – From June 2011, Suffolk County Council (SCC) will be implementing an Intelligent Street Lighting System to control their street lights remotely and switch off some, leave some on and dim others. Critically, the system will have fully adjustable settings, this will allow SCC to change and have alternative settings for different days of the week, take account of British Summertime, or set to stay on for longer e.g. for events, or at Christmas and New Year.

Why are SCC introducing this scheme?

- To save money – estimated to be at least £550,000 per year in energy bills.
- To save carbon – a CO₂ reduction of over 4000 tonnes by April 2013.

The Details: All street lights owned by Suffolk County Council that are six metres in height and below are to be switched off between midnight and 5:30am, with the following criteria requiring closer examination of whether lights should be kept on for a longer period:

- Lights at major junctions/roundabouts.
- In town centres with CCTV, high security businesses

e.g. banks, areas of high night time pedestrian usage for example near nightclubs and train stations, outside community facilities or leisure centres.

- Areas where street lights are needed to reduce road accidents.
- Areas where there could be an increase in crime through reduced lighting, e.g. pubs and specific residential areas.
- Remote alleys linking residential streets.
- Near pedestrian crossings, footbridges, subways.
- In public car parks.
- At bus stops.
- At level crossings, speed humps and traffic lights.
- Where there is sheltered housing for the elderly.

Where the street lights are over six metres, consideration will be given to dimming where traffic flows are low and where a lower level of lighting will not affect road safety. The lights will be dimmed to 80% of their normal power between 9pm and 1am and to 60% of their normal power between 1am and 5am. Latest information obtained by the Parish Council is that the new lighting scheme will be implemented in February 2012 in Rushmere St Andrew.

A Year in the life of the Parish Council

Fifteen Councillors, elected by Parishioners on a four-yearly basis, represent you and are committed to looking after the needs of the Parish and to determine the priorities in making the Parish a nice place to live. Councillors are unpaid volunteers who commit to serve our Community with the Council holding around 40 meetings each year. They do their best at all times, but they are not highly paid executives and do not deserve excessive criticism if things are not as everybody would like. There are two remunerated Officers, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk who ably carry out the administrative processes on behalf of the Council.

To give a feel for what the Council does, let's take a snapshot based on the year 2010/2011.

Statutory activities such as Budget Setting, Risk Analysis, Asset Register and Insurance Valuations, Financial Management and Audit procedures are routinely carried out each year to the satisfaction of external auditors. Collected as part of your Council Tax, the Parish Precept was £91,000 for 2010/2011 and remains unchanged for 2011/2012. Per household, Council Tax bills for Parishioners remain well below those charged to residents of neighbouring Ipswich and are similar to the neighbouring Parishes of Kesgrave and Martlesham.

The Planning and Development Committee reviewed 65 planning applications, consulted as many potentially affected Parishioners as possible and passed comment to Suffolk Coastal District Council, the

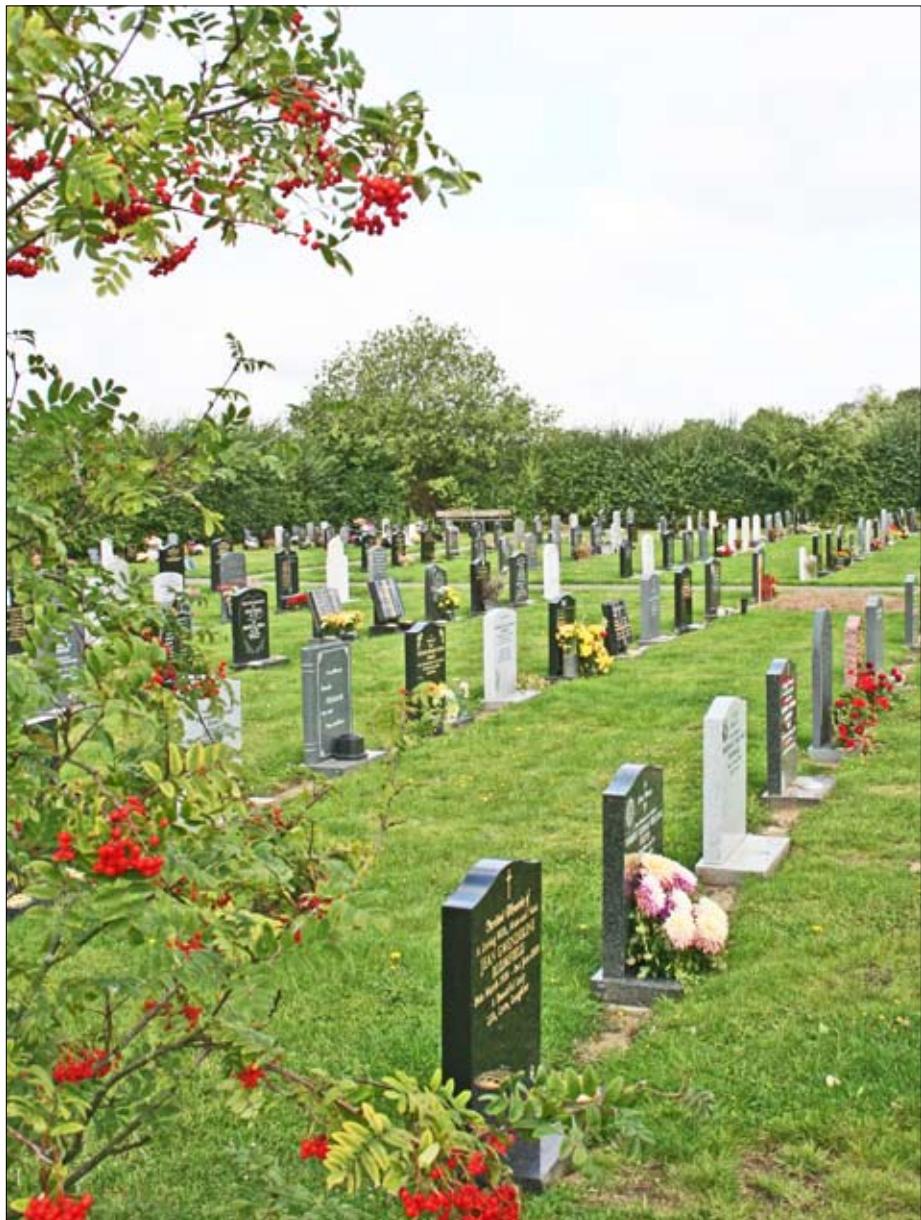
determining Authority, on all of them. In general, the applications tended to encompass conservatories, porch extensions, house extensions and a few 'infill' new houses. However, controversial applications occasionally appear which lead residents to suddenly taking an interest. The Council organised exhibitions of the relevant applications prior to Councillors deliberations – three of note being Bixley Farm retirement complex, back-land development in Playford Road and a major refurbishment and enhancement at Rushmere Sports Club in The Street which included a small housing development. The Committee also deal with issues such as tree preservation orders, planning enforcement, footpath diversions and parking issues. On the last one, please remember local residents, other road users and pedestrians when you park.

The Parish Amenities and Services Committee meet regularly and its responsibilities include Parish facilities such as Chestnut and Limes Ponds, Tower Hall and Broke Hall Play Areas, Allotments, the provision of litter, doggie bins and notice-boards, the condition of footways and roads, vegetation clearance, litter clearance and grass cutting. Chestnut Pond refurbishment featured high on the agenda although this stalled due to localised flooding. However a series of meetings with various agencies led to a number of actions to mitigate these problems before work could restart. Following significant comment from residents, Council approved a Limes Pond dredging exercise to improve the water quality and associated wildlife amenity.

An area of concern at our allotments is the significant waiting list for tenancies. During the year, approaches were made from an adjacent land owner to utilise an adjacent piece of land but, after careful consideration, it was decided not to progress this. However, Council has started to look at the existing site with a view to generating a few more plots.

The Mill Stream and Sandlings Local Nature Reserves continued to be maintained to a high standard by Greenways, financed by ourselves and Suffolk Coastal. Refurbishment of our bus shelters took place. Following

Part of the Rushmere St Andrew Lawn Cemetery



many requests for help, the Council installed a significant number of grit bins at various inclines within the Parish. Replacement of life-expired wooden notice-boards continued and the refurbishment of others, together with our vast number of seats around the Parish, was authorised.

Various footpaths on Bixley Farm are still in the hands of the developer. With the Parish Council getting regular requests to deal with foliage growth, the Council may take these over, rather than the District Council who seem reluctant to do so. At the Bixley Farm District Centre, Council were frustrated by the general intransigence of the land owner to maintain the general appearance of the area, but Council have been on the case!

A small Panel look after the strategy for our Lawn Cemetery. Regular maintenance is carried out to keep the area very presentable. Extension of the tarmac path to align with future grave spaces was carried out during the year. Renovation of the existing water taps was carried out but an extremely harsh frosty spell in December caused damage which had to be rectified.

With patronage of the cemetery good, expansion of the cemetery was authorised, the first part being to advise termination of the farming tenancy on land in our ownership. Significant effort was undertaken to carry out a review of our Cemetery Regulations to ensure they are reasonable and fair to all parties – a very difficult challenge. A brochure was produced which was distributed to all known existing plot representatives, together with Funeral Directors and Stonemasons for distribution to their clients.

During the year, various other issues were considered by the Council. The proposed reduction in Suffolk County Council services led to discussions on school crossing patrol, library and subsidised bus services.

Distanced from the Parish Council, a small hard-working group of Parishioners produced the Parish Plan brochure which was adopted by the Parish Council and the plan distributed to all households in the Parish. This will guide the authorities in providing what Parishioners really want for their community.

The Council 'hides' behind a PO Box address as both the Clerk and Assistant Clerk work from home, so it is not easy

for Parishioners to visit us at a proper Council Office. When we need to hold a meeting we have to book accommodation at either the Village Hall or Tower Hall which nowadays is not becoming easy, due to their success in attracting bookings.

Our facilities are totally inadequate and unsuitable for a Parish of this size and we have money allotted to move this project forward.

The Parish Council are active members of the 12PT (Twelve Parishes Together) group. Meeting regularly, Council, Police, School and other representatives discuss 'issues of the day' which affect the area and determine possible solutions. The Police have also introduced monthly Public Community Engagement meetings where members of the public can raise problems and help determine policing priorities in the area. The Parish Council, in conjunction with Kesgrave Town Council, part-fund an additional Police Community Support Officer and the results show in the low

A view along Bixley Lane footpath



crime statistics.

The Council recognises its communication with Parishioners has become rather weak over the years. To counter this, a web and news panel has been set up to deal with this issue. In the meantime, please keep abreast of what we do by looking at our notice-boards and feel free to watch us in action at our advertised meetings.

Phil Richings, Chairman

Need for more allotments like this



What goes on at our Parish Halls

Many people in the Parish still do not realise that there are two Community Parish Halls in Rushmere St Andrew: Village Hall in Humber Doucy Lane and Tower Hall on Broadlands Way near the Nursery and Plaza area.

Both are part of Parish Halls – Rushmere St Andrew, a registered charity number 1111060 run for the community, by a Management Committee consisting of 7 elected trustees and 7 appointed trustees who represent some of the organisations using the halls.

Some of the events at the halls include: Card Making, Embroiders Guild, a Camera Club, 3 different Art Classes, Calligraphy, Diet and Fitness, Zumba Classes, Parents Babies and Toddler groups, Beavers Cubs and Scouts, Yoga, Flower Club, National Childbirth Trust classes, a Ladies Club with various social activities, Design and Fine Arts Society, a Dance and Music group for children, a Country Market, Fuchsia Fellowship, an Infant Group with music, a children's School of Performing Arts, 2 different churches meet at various times, Different dance groups such as Scottish, Square Dancing, Ballroom Dancing and Tango Classes, Youth Group for 11-14 years, Slotstox Club.

Various local groups use the facilities for meetings and the halls are also available for one off events such as children's parties, wedding receptions,



Above Village hall.

Below Tower Hall – no prize for guessing how it got its name

anniversaries, special birthday parties etc.

Each hall has a main hall and a committee room available to hire. Both halls have an equipped kitchen with crockery and cutlery for around 80 to 100 people. For details please contact our caretaker and booking clerk Len Woods on 07894 138759 in the first instance or Jean Potter, Secretary and Treasurer on 01473 723409.

We hope to have more details on the Parish Community web site when it is launched in the near future – <http://rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net>



Newsletter distributors needed

This newsletter comes to you through the efforts of many volunteers delivering through doors. We have several gaps in the rota. Could you spare some time to help us. The areas below can be broken into smaller groups or get a friend to help you.

- 1 Wimpole Close, Magingley Crescent, Felbrigg Avenue, Brendon Drive, Barnham Place, Ditchingham Grove.
- 2 Foxhall Road both sides east of the Golf Hotel
- 3 Ickworth Crescent, Kelvedon Drive, Fordham Place, Mannington Close, Lawford Place, Broadlands Way East.
- 4 Broadlands Way West, Broadlands Way North, Audley Grove, Shrublands Drive, St Andrews Walk.
- 5 Newby Drive, Hintlesham Close, Kentwell Close, Holkham Close, Glemham Drive, Houghton Place, Melford Close.
- 6 Beech Road, Quantock Close, Mendip Drive, Malvern Close, Beech Grove.
- 7 Playford Lane

If you can help please contact Jean Potter on 01473 723409 or email assistantclerk@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

Righting wrongs . . . and Restorative Justice

Earlier this year two young people made a mistake. They played with fire on Rushmere Common, which caused damage to the environment. Both young people were identified by Police, arrested and issued a reprimand for their actions. This message was received well by members of the community, but they begged the question 'what about the damage that has been caused?'

Shortly after this incident PCSO Glenn Perkins 3114 and I spoke to the young persons involved and asked them if they would voluntarily attend a Restorative Justice conference where the manager of the Golf Club, the fire service, the local school and other community members would be present to express how they have been affected by their actions. Both young persons agreed to attend the meeting.

Everyone who attended including the young persons had the opportunity to speak about what had happened and how their actions had affected others, which was well received by all.

They learned how this incident had affected members of the community such as dog walkers, golfers and local residents, but also the dangers fire

poses to skilled fire fighters and Police officers.

Towards the end of the conference the group discussed how they could make things right. Both lads apologised to the group for their actions and volunteered to put something back into the community.

A few weeks ago one of the lads spent a day with the ground staff at Rushmere Golf Club where he was involved in the maintenance and upkeep of the golf course. For a period of the day, the young person cut back the gorse area, which he played a part in damaging.

This was an incredibly dirty job, which took a lot of hard work and time and the general feedback from the Golf Club was that he showed a good attitude to the tasks in hand.

On reflection you could say that this young person did not have to attend the meeting and face up to the people he had harmed, or spend a day at the Golf Club to work with the ground staff, but he elected to, voluntarily.

I feel that denotes strongly the content of his character. Well Done! This is the kind of restitution that goes on in our

community, carried out by community members, and I feel that under the appropriate circumstances this is the correct response to crime for young people, as they are put in the position to listen and learn from the experience, and contribute back to society. This is Restorative Justice.

Wrongdoers should take ownership of their crime and be held to account by fellow members of the community. In some respects you could comment that in this case study the community responded to a criminal act and possibly played a role in reducing crime in their neighbourhood.

This form of community participation is special because it involves standing up to, and saying No, to crime and anti social behaviour rather than it typically being dealt with by a state enforcement agency.

Fortunately in the tight knit community of Suffolk this is a quality that we hold.

I hope to report to you soon with more of what is going on in your neighbourhood. Thanks for reading.

PCSO James Lait 3186
Kesgrave & District SNT

May 2011 Elections – Changes and Retirements

Thursday 5 May this year saw the first contested election for seats on the Parish Council for many, many years, there being 18 candidates for the 15 member seats.

Unfortunately in this age of cutbacks and cost shedding, a contested election has been paid for and Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC), as the election administration authority, have charged the Parish Council a whopping £2,917.48 for election administration – the price of democracy is thus around £2.15 per dwelling in our Parish. These costs were of course pro-rata the full cost of holding the District, Parish and Referendum polls at the same time, the remainder of actual costs being funded by District Council and Central Government.

Gordon Laing and Dennis Gooch, two of our SCDC Councillors decided not to stand for re-election at the District Councillor segment of the election. Along with Robert Whiting both had represented the Rushmere St Andrew Ward (3 seats) at SCDC for many years. Robert Whiting sought re-election and was successful along with our two new District Councillors, Mark Newton and John Withey.

In addition all three District Councillors were successful in the contested Parish Council Elections and are therefore Councillors at two levels of local government.

We welcome Mark Newton as a new Parish Councillor, and Robert and John as returning Parish Councillors.

Sadly a long term Parish Councillor, Peter Tarling, with 30 years in office failed to obtain the required votes and was not re-elected.

Peter had been vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for many of his 30 years on the Council, but does continue to be involved as a non-councillor member of the Parish Council Cemetery and Allotment Management Panels.

Peter is also vice-chairman and a Trustee of 'Parish Halls – Rushmere St Andrew', a Charity which runs the Village Hall and Tower Hall independently of the Parish Council.

Returning to our two retired District Councillors – both Dennis Gooch and Gordon Laing served the community at District Council for more years than they care to remember, with both at various times holding chairmanships of the council and/or other committees.

We thank them for their efforts on behalf of the community. Dennis Gooch was also a past member of the Parish Council. However, Gordon has not completely retired and indeed continues as an elected Parish Councillor for the forthcoming 4 year term.

Mel Bentley – Clerk

RUSHMERE ST ANDREW PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors and Officers

Mrs M Brown	15 Chestnut Close, IP5 1ED	01473 725720
Mrs J Clarke	734 Foxhall Road, IP4 5TE	01473 430226
Miss A Cracknell	148 The Street, IP5 1DH	01473 719746
Mr D Ealham	1 The Willows, IP5 1BX	01473 715053
Mr D J Francis	14 Clovelly Close, IP4 5UF	01473 723453
Mr G W Laing	6 Butterfly Gardens, IP4 5TF	01473 725841
Mr M Newton	11 Chestnut Close, IP5 1ED	07899 011098
Mr R F Nunn	835 Foxhall Road, IP4 5TJ	01473 320433
Mr P M Richings (Chairman)		
	29 The Pastures, IP4 5UQ	01473 436688
Mr S G Skinner	21 The Pastures, IP4 5UQ	07787 893131
Mr M Sones	18 Brendon Drive IP5 1NJ	01473 625511
Mr B Ward	12 Playford Road, IP4 5RH	01473 622272
Mr R E Whiting	105 Playford Road, IP4 5RQ	07833 441347
Mr J Withey (Vice-Chairman)		
	8 Newby Drive, IP4 5UY	01473 273471
Mr J Wright	5 Butterfly Gardens, IP4 5TF	01473 721499

Clerk to the Parish Council and Responsible Financial Officer

Mr M R Bentley
PO Box 456, Rushmere St Andrew, IP4 5WH
Parish Council email: mel.bentley@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

Assistant Clerk

Mrs J Potter
21A Claverton Way, Rushmere St Andrew, IP4 5XE
Email: assistantclerk@rushmere-st-andrew.org.uk

Registrar to the Burial Authority

Mr A Duncan 8 Crofton Close, Ipswich, IP4 4QR 01473 727389

Kesgrave and District Safer Neighbourhood Team

To speak with an Officer at the above SNT – telephone 01473 613500
Email: kesgrave.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Write to: Suffolk Constabulary, Kesgrave and District Safer Neighbourhood Team, c/o Kesgrave Town Council Office, Ferguson Way, Kesgrave. IP5 2FZ

For further information about Safer Neighbourhood Team's (SNT) including Team Members; Priorities; Campaigns and Meetings, please choose the following link. <http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/safersuffolk>

Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Full Parish Council

Thursday 10 November 7.30 pm Village Hall
Thursday 12 January 2012 7.30 pm Village Hall
Thursday 8 March 7.30 pm Village Hall

General Purposes and Finance Committee

Thursday 13 October 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 8 December 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 9 February 2012 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 12 April 7.30 pm Tower Hall

All of the meetings listed are open to members of the public, and agendas are published on the notice boards around the parish at least one week in advance of the meeting. Soon you will be able to access this information on our web site <http://rushmerestandrew.onesuffolk.net>

Parish Amenities and Services Committee

Thursday 20 October 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 15 December 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 16 February 2012 7.30 pm Tower Hall
Thursday 19 April 7.30 pm Tower Hall

Planning and Development Committee

These meetings are arranged as and when we receive planning applications for discussion. Notice of meetings and agendas on notice boards and web site.

Bus into town – use your pass

The bus service through Rushmere Street has become quite complicated of late with Suffolk County Council trying to provide a reasonable service on a small budget. The result is that as from Tuesday 30 August there will be at least two buses into Woodbridge and one bus into Ipswich each day with additional buses on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The lack of buses probably affects our less mobile residents more than anyone else and we would love to hear from anyone who is having difficulties due to the lack of public transport.

National Travel Pass holders may be pleased to know that they can travel for free on some of the buses through Rushmere Street before 0930am due to an SCC Service Enhancement. This says that if there isn't a bus to any destination between 0930am and 1159am but there is one before 0930am then free travel will be allowed on the pre-0930am journey for persons using a Free Travel Bus Pass. This means that free travel will be allowed from Rushmere Street on the 0812am 71 Service to Ipswich and the 0857am 71 Service to Woodbridge on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Notices to this effect will be posted on the roadside card outside the bus shelter so that both passengers and drivers are aware of the Service Enhancement.

Bus Cuts

As many of you are aware buses no longer run through Bixley Farm and Foxhall Road after 7pm during the week and not at all on Sundays. This Parish Council is working with other parishes who are also experiencing the same lack of public transport and other agencies to try to provide a viable alternative. We will keep you informed of any developments