***Council’s Corner – March 2019***

Welcome to Ashbury Parish Council’s [APC] first contribution to the parish newsletter, which we hope will become a regular bi-monthly feature to coincide with parish meetings. Its purpose is to better inform residents of matters aired at parish meetings and the progress being made, as well as providing sources where you can find more useful information including regular bulletins from external organisations.



***Local Elections:***

In early May elections will be held across England for both district & parish council’s, ours included, and will provide a great opportunity for any resident wishing to directly influence how the parish develops to join the council. Formal notification of these elections, including details of how to stand for election, will be provided in March via notice boards, the parish website, etc. or contact a member of the council as on page 2

***Neighbourhood Plan:***

The steering group has been held in a state of limbo since November in the lead-up to and through the statutory publicity period. However, things are now beginning to speed-up with the independent examiner being appointed just last week, and is already moving his contribution forward. If things go to plan, we are very hopeful of reaching the all-important referendum within the programmed target date.

***The Village Green:***

The Village Green sub-committee has made very real progress on plans to turn the green into an attractive parish asset of the future, and are hoping to hear of their first success toward raising the initial funding target of £26,000 before the end of March. Once work gets underway in the autumn it be necessary to raise further funds, with one idea being for residents to ‘sponsor a tree’ – watch this space. If you think that you could assist, please contact Liz Derrington by calling 710 813.

***Parish Assets:***

The ‘A-team’ sub-committee’s most recent project has been to catalogue the parish assets and create a prioritised maintenance schedule for same. This has been a time-consuming process involving patiently working through historic parish documents and tapping into the memories of many local residents. Now nearing completion, subject to available resources and volunteer help it is hoped that a maintenance programme can commence early in the new financial year.

***Community News:***

1. The parish communications officer and a team of dedicated residents have just completed an ‘Emergency & Resilience Plan’ for the community. The plan will provide all that is needed to tackle emergency situations that may arise, whether natural or man-made, and is a document that all residents should be aware of. It is about to be submitted to the county council for their observations & feedback, so expect more in our next edition and/or other parish channels.
2. We have been asked to take part in the ‘Great British Litter Pick’ [too many reality shows, me thinks], but a worthwhile venture nevertheless. If any resident would like to lead & organise this please get in touch with the council as below.

***On the Website:***

The council now has a committed website officer, tasked with a thorough overhaul of the council’s section of the Ashbury website and for bringing it up too date. There is a lot to do so patience will be required, but one feature ‘coming shortly’ is a section dedicated to regular external bulletins [e.g. Healthwatch and The Rural Bulletin] as well as updates on major infrastructure projects likely to impact on Ashbury.

***And finally:***

If you wish to contact the council on the above, or any other matter, please contact either:

Cliff Davies: Email - chairman@ashbury.org.uk Tel – 710712

Laura Evans: Email – clerk@ashbury.org.uk