

Barham Parish Council – OCTOBER 2023 InTouch Report

UPDATE BARHAM COUNTRY PARK/PICNIC SITE

At Barham Parish Council meeting, on Monday 7th August 2023, councillors voted to transfer the ownership of Barham Picnic Site back to Suffolk County Council on the understand that an immediate contract would be given to Barham Picnic Site Community Project charity.

This charity was set up in October 2021 with the sole objective of getting funding and improving the site including play area and toilets but also to have a larger open space for residents to enjoy. They also want to bring out the history of the workhouse site including links with Charles Dickens.

It was a difficult decision, but this was the most cost-effective way of ensuring the land is given to the charity to repair and maintain. In the last year Barham Parish Council has spent a large amount of money on the site but this is not sustainable. . It also allows Barham Parish Council to concentrate on other major issues such as the large development off Church lane, planning, and the many other residents' concerns.

The charity has access to apply for a larger selection of grants than the council. Also, a separate charity running facilities is a model that works very effectively for Claydon and Barham Village Hall and Claydon and Barham Recreation Ground.

ELY ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Casey Wooltorton from Barham Parish Council, Councillor Peter Avis from Claydon Parish Council and District Councillor John Whitehead all attended and objected to the proposed social housing development at Mid Suffolk Planning Committee.

They were partly successful, the change to social housing was past but it was referred back to the developers to relook at the design of the development. The design has changed substantially from that shown at the public consultation.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are very keen to get Community Speed Watch back up and running, but need more volunteers. If you are concerned about speeding in the village and can you spare one or two hours every week or fortnight, get in touch. This will enable frequent speed checks to be conducted in the village with the portable speed camera device. If you are interested in being part of the Barham Community Speed watch team, then please contact the Chair – Gail Cornish on 0793 247 8878 or the Clerk.

DATES OF FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Full Council Meetings scheduled 7.00pm in Barham Church Hall.

Monday 30th October & 4th December 2023 and Monday 15th January, 26th February & 8th April 2024.

Members of the public are very welcome to attend and voice their concerns in the public forum at the start of the meeting.

All meetings of the Parish Council are advertised on the village noticeboards (outside the Cop, by Pesthouse Lane and Barham Green). Meetings will also be advertised on the village website www.barham-suffolk.org.uk Face Book page and the *In Touch Magazine* (however Extra Ordinary Meetings may not make the deadline to be advertised in the *In Touch*).

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