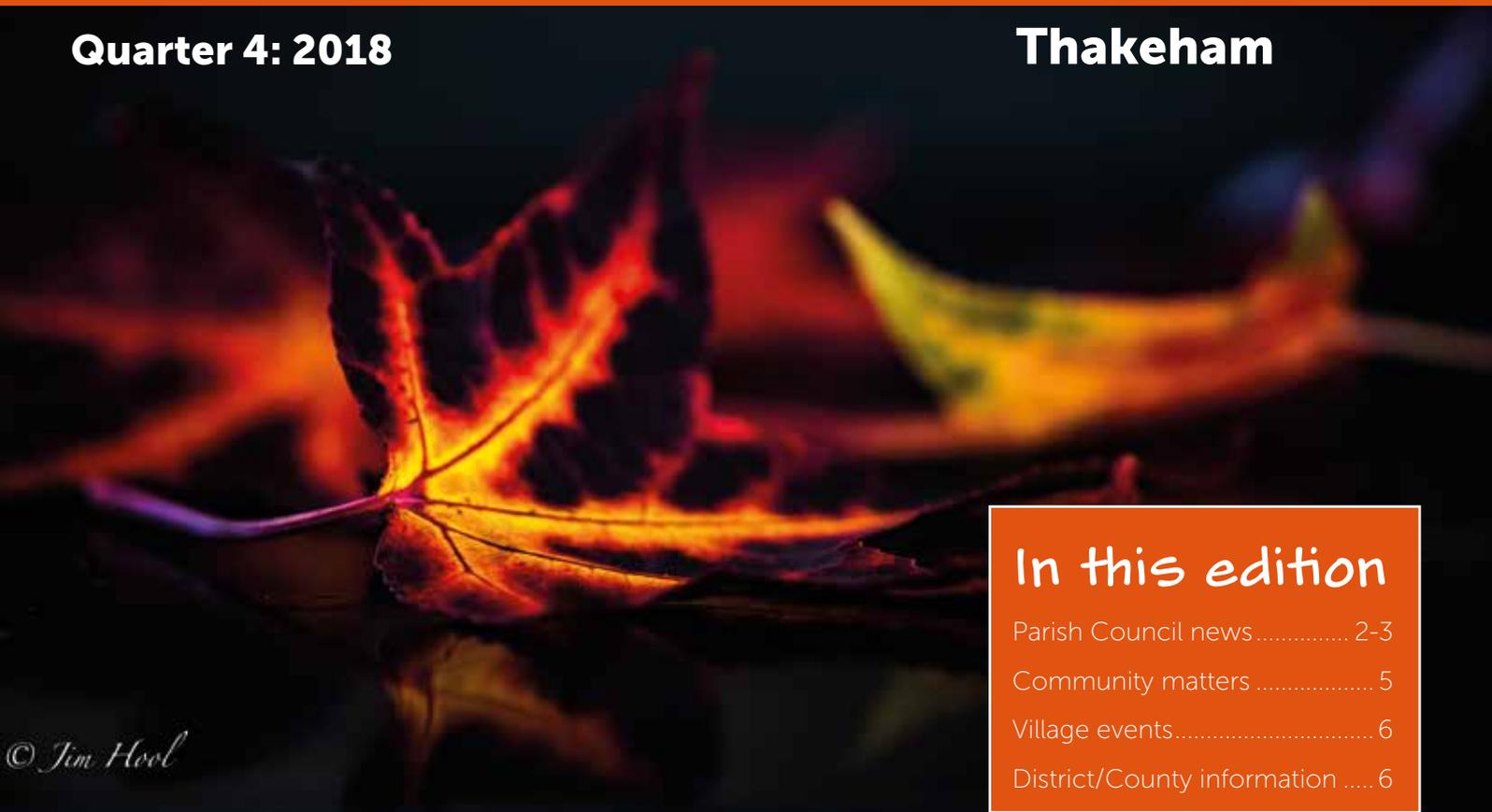


Quarter 4: 2018

Thakeham



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In this edition

Parish Council news 2-3

Community matters 5

Village events 6

District/County information 6

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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

From the Chairman

Village Day on September 15th was very successful – it was great to see a bigger event including evening entertainment for adults and the turnout was very positive. Less positively, the strain of organising an annual event of this size, which currently falls on a very small number of people, is not sustainable. We have already begun planning for next year's event but we really need more volunteer helpers (see separate Village Day piece for how to get involved).

Although the process continues to be slower than forecast, the new Abingworth community buildings are nearly complete, and are looking great – as those visiting Village Day will have seen. The Parish Council is pressing for transfer of these assets as soon as possible, subject to inspections and sorting out legal and financial wrinkles. Amongst those issues is our aim of extending the existing Storrington-based community

minibus scheme in a more regular way to Thakeham, which is requiring further work on financial sustainability.

Elsewhere on the planning front, a formal proposal for 90 houses at the Thakeham Tiles site off Rock Road has now been received, following informal consultations and public meeting in April 2018. Housing development at this site is envisaged in our Neighbourhood Plan, although at time of writing the PC has still to consider its comments on the detail of housing mix and numbers, and impact on local infrastructure.

The general planning context has been affected by substantial recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which seems to be a mixed bag. The main new feature is the introduction of quotas for new house numbers being issued directly to district authorities from central government, which raises concerns about the ability of local authorities in areas of high housing demand (such as our area) to manage housing growth with appropriate local control. There are also concerns that the new framework does not sufficiently discourage those developers

who, for reasons of their own, delay the building of projects approved within the local authorities' plans. But there are also some welcome features, including further support for Neighbourhood Plans being given considerable weight in the planning process.

In relation to traffic calming, while welcoming the recent progress with installation of this scheme, the PC has also been acting as conduit for some concerns, mainly relating to the northern pinch-point; see the item below on the indications emerging from the safety audit process.

The progress we are making in Thakeham continues to rely too much on the work of a relatively small number of committed volunteers, many of whom have been carrying this load for decades. I hope that with the encouragement of seeing the new community facilities finally emerging, we will see an increasing number of new volunteers lending a hand in the various ways outline in 'Get Involved' below, and putting themselves forward when local parish elections come around again in May 2019.

Alan Hunt, Chairman
Thakeham Parish Council



Playground news

The new 'Mega' play tower at High Bar Lane has been getting great use. The need to progress this project before all the required funding was in place has left the PCs budget under great strain so you will be seeing further fundraising events advertised over the next few months. Please also consider making a modest donation to help us bridge the budget for the project, and be part of having made this happen! Visit this web link to donate <https://chuffed.org/project/high-bar-lane-playground-bringing->

back-the-wow-factor Donors will receive a free e-version of the excellent mushroom cookbook that was created for our recent Village Day.

Our ideas for bringing the High Bar Lane play area fully up to modern standards include completing the rubberised surface under all equipment, refurbishing older but still solid equipment, new swings and chains, new seating, improving the football area surface, and possibly more adult-friendly facilities ranging from exercise equipment to a possible new family barbecue area. But this will obviously need further funding.

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WASTE AND RECYCLING

Fly tipping

Unfortunately over the summer we have seen a big increase in dumping of mainly garden waste along the verge of High Bar Lane near the playground. This is not an acceptable way of dealing with garden waste, which should be either put in brown recycling bins, or taken direct to a local recycling facility. This is also a reminder of the responsibilities we all share to help prevent fly tipping, which is a chronic issue on the verges of our rural roads, i.e. anyone employing a contractor to undertake work that involves taking away waste may find themselves legally liable if that waste ends up fly-tipped. Please be mindful to only use responsible contractors who can show their waste carrier license.

Local bin provision

The Parish Council is reviewing current waste bin arrangements in the light of housing growth, complaints received about dog waste, etc. Considering new bin locations and costs raises complex issues, e.g. dog waste locations have to be authorised by HDC, and additional general litter and dog waste bins add to precept costs for all residents. We will work through these issues to enhance this provision.

Contact the Parish Council

Clerk: Owen Richards
Web: www.thakehamparish.co.uk
Email: clerk@thakehamparish.co.uk
Telephone: 01798 815305
Office: Thakeham Parish Council, Storrington Road, Thakeham RH20 3EJ
 Councillors' full contact details can be found at:
<http://thakehamparish.co.uk/councillors>

Can you help?

Our councillor team is kept busy covering the various aspects of the Parish Council's remit, but we could be more effective with a bit of extra help from local residents on some specific projects. Current priorities that would benefit from extra person-power are: assisting with community events and communications, and setting up a volunteer-based local minibuss scheme. Contact the Clerk to find out more!

TRAFFIC MATTERS

In relation to the Abingworth traffic calming scheme, we know that some residents are puzzled about the positioning of the new pinch points. The reasons for this were discussed in depth at the time of public consultations (17 November-18 January). The scheme designers were able to show that there is no safe/viable position for the southerly build-out to be on the west carriageway. The position of the northern build-out on the west carriageway was also queried but there seemed to be safety problems with alternative options, and the scheme designers convinced Highways (who make these decisions, not the PC) that it would work. Since implementation, the PC is aware of concerns, particularly about the northward sightline from

the northern build-out. The post-implementation safety audit of these features has just happened at time of writing and we now await the independent inspector's directions. We are hearing that this is likely to include changes to the northern arrangement, and we will publish this report as soon as we can. We also understand that further review of the impact of the scheme on average speeds will be undertaken (when it is finalised).

School Buses – following representations to WSCC, the 514 school service to the Weald is now stopping at the 'proper' bus south Abingworth bus stop. There is still an intention to re-route school buses via Abingworth Crescent, to allow pick-up/set-down to be moved off the B2139, but the timeline of this depends on the completion of Abingworth phase 2 housing.

We are also strongly pressing Monaghans Mushroom managers to finalise their proposals for remodelling vehicle access to their site, in line with requirements in the Abingworth planning permissions, and hope to see a planning submission during November.

At time of writing there is also a real possibility of closure of the B2139 at Dukes Hill from 26 to 29 November, for Southern Water to create supply connections to adjacent sites. We are very concerned about the disruption this would cause, including a long proposed diversion via the narrow roads of West Chiltonington, and we are trying to work with WSCC Highways to minimise impact.

If you witness cases of speeding, driving while using a mobile phone or other anti-social driving behaviour, and you have the registration number, report it! www.operationcrackdown.org

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COMMUNITY MATTERS

■ Updating St Mary's Thakeham

Around 40 people met in July to discuss proposals to update St Mary's Thakeham, seeking the best ways to modernise this treasured church building. The meeting organisers report that key points arising were:

- General support for the idea of a new extension with toilets, baby change facilities and a vestry. There was also support for enlarging the vestry slightly to allow it to be used as a multifunctional/meeting space.
- Moving the bell ringers' chamber to the mezzanine level was desirable, although some design issues with stair access remain to be resolved.
- Agreeing the need to eliminate draughts and renew heating, electrics and PA.
- Locating a kitchen area in the North Transept was not supported and alternatives need to be explored.
- A consensus to retain the pulpit in its current position.

The project group will update the proposals in the light of this feedback, and review comments from amenity bodies before bringing forward finalised proposals.



■ Thakeham Gardeners Club

Meets second Monday of each month, 7.30pm, Village Hall. Annual Flower Show, outings and talks! **Contact Linda Turk on 01903 741068.**

■ Thakeham Parish History

The Parish Council has begun the process of creating a local history archive web page (<http://thakehamparish.co.uk/archive-area/>). We seek photographs, maps, sketches etc. relating to the parish from Victorian times to the end of the 20th century.

Contact Cllr Roger Taylor (edstrct@gmail.com; 01798 815969)

■ Thakeham Bellringers



Based in St. Mary's church, we practice on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m. and organise outings and links with other societies. We welcome anyone who is interested in finding out about ringing, and to see the bells.

To find out more, visit <http://thakehamparish.co.uk/thakeham-bellringers> or contact Christine Hounslow (01798 815993 christinehounslow@hotmail.com) or Roger Watts (01798 813775 country.crafts88@gmail.com).

■ News from the Village Hall Trust

The new Village Hall managers have been hard at work preparing for the transition, bookings for new facilities, new website, etc. Sarah Skelding is now Bookings Secretary, and can be contacted via 01798 815794/info@thakehamvillagehall.co.uk. We are still interested in more volunteers for the Committee, to help manage this wonderful new facility.

Contact John Bearman (Village Hall Chairman) on 01903 744971/ johnbearman47@hotmail.com.



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Village Events



Our Village Day on 15 September was a great success – huge thanks to everyone who attended and helped make it happen. The weather was kind, visitor numbers were well up, and bringing the event

to the new heart of the village at Abingworth fields worked really well, alongside the nearly-complete new Village Hall and other community buildings. While keeping our strong links with local schools and remaining kid-friendly, it was a more ambitious event that aimed to cater for all ages and sections of the community, with a good mix of stalls and catering, and the whole event had a fun mushroom theme. The evening Fun Guy Fest for grownups showcased some great local bands, with professional stage, sound and lighting support. We have received great feedback and are already planning next year's event, which will be on Saturday 6 July 2019.

Balancing the many positives, it also has to be said that this event is a big challenge to produce, and to balance the books. Members of the small organising group found themselves under great strains this year. To ensure that Thakeham can continue to enjoy an annual Village Day we urgently need more volunteers to get involved to spread the load, in advance of the event and on the day. To get involved, please contact me.

Unfortunately the planned 12 October fireworks event organised by the local schools had to be cancelled due to adverse weather, but we expect there to be another autumn firework event next year.

Cllr Caroline Instance

Contact: 01403 741369 / caroline.instance@btinternet.com

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Kerry at Eyelevel Design

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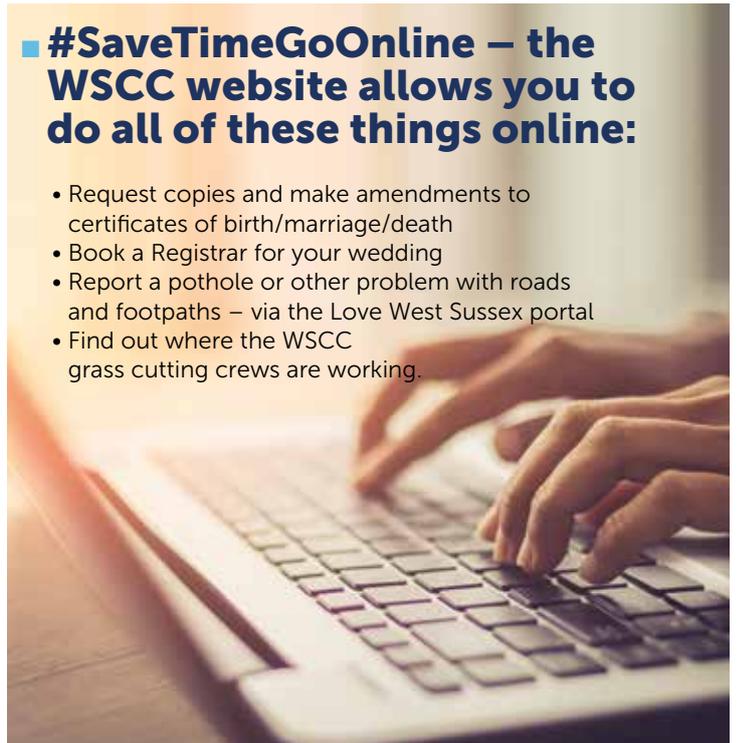
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■ New licensing arrangements for vans using HDC waste sites

If you drive a commercial-type vehicle you will now need to have a permit to dispose of your household waste at the WSCC-run recycling sites. The free permit applies to anyone who uses a van, pickup or single axle trailer and is available to West Sussex residents only. Find out more at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/van-pickup-and-trailer-waste-permit/

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- Find out where the WSCC grass cutting crews are working.



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