



# UPWOOD AND THE RAVELEYS PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021 EDITION

## Parish planning

Vice-chairman Jan Burgess

### **21/02139/FUL – 28 dwellings and associated infrastructure and works in the informal open space east of 47 Farm Close Upwood**

In February, Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association (BPHA) Ltd. advised of its intention to apply for planning permission to develop this land. During the initial consultation, the parish council received 17 letters of objection, with two particularly poignant letters received from our younger residents. Councillors agreed unanimously with the concerns of the residents and further noted that with 250/750 homes already designated as affordable and scheduled to be built as part of the RAF Upwood, Tunkers Lane and Valiant Square developments; plus four already built on Church Lane, Upwood, there appears little justification for further provision at Farm Close. It was noted that the aggregated impact of individual developments is not considered by planners. The volume of traffic arising from 1600 new homes (with no improvements to the road network) in Ramsey and Bury will already impact hugely on Upwood and the Raveleys and these concerns have been well documented.

Councillors also agreed that BPHA Ltd. has historically been less than cooperative with the parish council's attempts to work in partnership for the benefit of the community, and general maintenance and aesthetic issues (such as its responsibility for the boundary fence and ditch) have long been neglected. Despite some revisions prior to submission of this planning application; the above concerns remain valid.

Given the continuing strength of opposition from residents; the lack of supporting infrastructure; fears for the over-development of an already congested area around the village school; the proposed loss of green space; the ongoing risk of flooding; and the significant developments already underway in Bury and Ramsey, the parish council resolved to register its objection to this proposed development.



## Traffic, highways and road safety

**Councillor Gemma Bonnet-Kolakowksa**  
 Councillor Bonnet-Kolakowksa confirmed in advance of the meeting that: the speed reduction application (speed reduction, street furnishings to include build outs; a speed camera; new signage; and road markings) for Huntingdon Road and Ramsey Road has been submitted. The parish council would seek funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy and the Local Highway Improvement Initiative (LHI). The LHI application for Great Raveley phase two has been submitted. Councillors were also pleased to note that repairs to the pavement along Huntingdon Road are underway.

## Parish maintenance

**Councillor David Awit, Councillor Jason Edwards and Councillor Andrew Perkins**  
 Councillors Awit, Edwards and Perkins are working on plans to incorporate the sustainable management of verges, hedgerows and trees into a new parish maintenance strategy. It was noted that applications for the re-wilding of highway verges need to be submitted to the district council by the end of January to be considered as part of its 2022 planting plan.

Advice is also being sought regarding two horse chestnut trees in St. Peter's Churchyard, which would benefit from some work.

## Create your space competition winners

**Councillor Rebecca Mashford**  
 It gives me great pleasure to announce the winners of our competition. The judges were so impressed with all the entries, which all showed a huge amount of thought and effort.

**Winner: Freddie**  
**Highly commended: Fynn and Oree**

Freddie not only designed an exciting play space but made considerations for its use, making provision for waste bins for example to ensure that the space remained clean and tidy for the enjoyment of all – something we are all very passionate about as well.

## Dog fouling

While most dog owners in the parish are caring, responsible individuals, there are sadly still some who do not clean up after their pets. Further to complaints from residents and several failed attempts by the parish council, District Councillor Haines has approached HDC to request the installation of two dog-waste bins, one at either end of the path between Farm Close and Fairmead.

If you see dog fouling, you can report the incident online at:  
<https://forms.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/REPORTASTREETISSUE/guidancenotes>