

Diptford Parish Council
Zoe Oldman, Parish Clerk
01752 873446
diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk

The Parish Council met on 12 February 2019. The Tree Warden, Beverley Sugden, advised parishioners about the **Greater Horseshoe Bat project**. Devon Wildlife Trust are running this project, with help from the Woodland Trust. South Hams tree wardens have been asked to help by identifying landowners who might be interested in getting involved. This could be simply a case of being sent an information pack, or there are also a number of grants/free tree packs that can be provided. Beverley is happy to be contacted by any interested landowners or with suggestions about whom she could approach. Please contact her at: Beverley.sugden@btinternet.com

A parishioner commented that, “The beautiful **Magnolia tree** that was planted in the school grounds to commemorate the school’s centenary in the 60’s, by the oldest former pupil, Mr Albert Blake and two of the youngest, Linda Colwill and Tim Perring, is now beginning to be spoiled by another tree.” The Tree Warden advised that this is a rogue beech tree. The Parish Council and Tree Warden agreed that Richard Paul will be approached for a quote to remove the beech tree by the Chairman of FODS.

Training in the use of the **Defibrillator** will take place in the Village Hall on 28 March from 6 – 8 pm. Donations will go to St John’s Ambulance who are providing the training. Please contact Cllr Franklin at: johnsue_willowbrook@outlook.com to book a place.

SHDC Cllr Steer gave his report. There has been another brief issue with the waste collection in Diptford but this was quickly resolved. A new waste contract has been issued to a private company. This will increase the collection of recyclables. There is a proposal for SHDC to build a hotel on the site of an SHDC owned car park in Kingsbridge and lease it to a national chain. Objections were raised about SHDC moving into property development and borrowing money. The Parish Council were also concerned about the loss of car parking spaces in towns.

Please come to the **Annual Parish Meeting on 28 May** at 6.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This event will provide information on the work of all the local charitable and community groups. It will also be themed around the new development at Wheat Park, specifically the affordable homes and how to apply for them through Right to Buy SW.

Mike Cox provided an update on the **Playing Field Group**. In 2017 the Town and Parish Fund provided new oak sleeper steps to the WI bench to improve access, new oak planters for the village square and new tennis nets with posts. The old steps were piled up to create a bug hotel. The 2018 Town and Parish Fund has again improved access to the park by creating a shingled picnic area. A donation of £600 from the WI may provide a canopy over this area for shade in the summer months. Funding has also been secured from Diptford Community Fund to repair the shelter. A large grant application for £14,900 has been submitted to Pocket Parks Plus for general improvements and to resurface the tennis court and turn it into a multi-use games area. We should know whether this application is successful at the start of March.

There were four **planning applications**. There were no objections to an extension at Crabadon Farm Cottage as it appears to be a sympathetic design. The Parish Council objected to the demolition of the existing barn and erection of new dwelling at Cross Farm, Diptford. The access through the original farm entrance onto cross roads right by the Playing Field entrance is very difficult. The Parish Council also objected to the erection of new buildings and hardstanding at Gladsfield, Diptford as they could interfere with the enjoyment of the neighbouring amenity land.

Cllr Peach has contacted DCC and Cllr Hosking regarding further damage to **Gara Bridge**. A large vehicle has clearly shunted the sidewall of the stone parapet of the bridge. The Parish Council is still awaiting sight of the options and formal design to improve the vehicle approach to the bridge. They were promised in 2017 that work would be carried out in 2018/19.

IMPORTANT Please note that the Village Square is not suitable for car parking. Please do not park there – even temporarily. It will cause damage.