

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

**Paul Gaunce from Garrafibre was in attendance to update on the fibre broadband project. Main points:**

- Residents need to pledge to government that, once fibre has been installed, they will sign up for a minimum 1 year contract with one of the recommended companies.
- Each pledge earns £1,500 for a domestic address and £3,500 for a business (Residents do not pay this - it is funded by government)
- It is estimated that the total pledges need to realise approx. £500,000 for the project to go ahead
- Fibre broadband to the house will then be installed to each residence TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE
- Paul has worked through the process for his home parish and is confident that, although there is a lot of work, it can happen
- Diptford does need majority of residents to sign up and it is promising that £15,500 has already been pledged

See the website for further information and FAQ

<https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/>

**It was agreed by all that DPC would support this project and councillors extended their thanks to Paul Gaunce for taking this forward. Leaflets will be delivered to residents over the next few weeks.**

### **Report from Cllr Hosking**

Please see the full report on DPC website

<https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

- SF Questioned why permanent signs had been erected when work is scheduled so soon on the depression on the road from Avonwick to Diptford. RH to investigate
- CP congratulated DCC on the quality of resurfacing work approaching Garra Bridge
- SF requested road ploughing again - pointing out that it is false economy as roads are being damaged due to the build up of debris – example of road from Diptford valley up to the village
- DPC noted the letter by a resident to DCC regarding dangerous potholes that have caused substantial damage to cars and potential danger to road users. RH said that he had sent a response to the resident.

### **Report from Councillor Pannell**

Please see the full report on the website

<https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

### **Community Noticeboard**

There was a brief discussion regarding the use of the new noticeboard and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the January meeting. SF also requested that the Countryfile Tree Planting project be on the January agenda.

### **New website**

The clerk gave a brief update on the progress with the website: Training is now complete and the clerk feels the website is very user-friendly. Photos of councillors are still outstanding and a policy is needed for community group use. There is still a bit of editing to be done.

### **Diptford Playing Field**

The tennis courts are still locked and work had begun on removing the moss from the surface of the courts. It is hoped this will be completed in the next couple of weeks. There is concern that frequent cleaning of the surface will accelerate deterioration of the surface and increase the cost of resurfacing at a future date.

### **Road ploughing and sweeping**

Four quotations had been requested and 2 received (one of which was withdrawn at a later date)

The quote received:

*The cost for the Road Sweeper for a full day hire (8hrs on site) will be - £380.00*

*Tipping, if not supplied by yourself, will cost a further £85.00 per load*

*Skid Steer Hire, including Bucket & Brush attachments will be £450.00 per day*

*All prices include Delivery and Operator*

*All prices plus VAT.*

It was agreed that, prior to the January meeting, all councillors would compile a prioritised list of roads with an estimated distance. TC and JF would estimate the time this would take and the estimated cost would be considered at the January meeting.

#### **Finance**

It was agreed that Cllr Baggott would work with the clerk to finalise the budget proposal and the impact on the precept demand for agreement at the January meeting.

#### **Diptford Village Christmas Tree**

Council thanked the Crocker, Foster and Lethbridge families for erecting and decorating the village Christmas tree.

**Next meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021**