



February 2024

Chairman's Blog

February has been a very wet month and as a result we have had to postpone the planned celebration for our new playground until April 11th. In happier news, APC held the first SEND coffee morning, helping to bring parents and community resources together. We had a fantastic turnout and all were able to share their experiences and talk to the experts about what help can be accessed. We will be hosting more events like this so make sure to look out for details as they are posted!



Helen Jones

Land On Shenley Hill Saved!



Aldenhams Parish Council (APC) is delighted to report the success of the Shenley Hill Appeal! The Inspector recognised that the application did not have 'very special circumstances' that would justify the loss of Green Belt. The Inspector rejected the developer's arguments that due to the relatively small size of the site, the impact would be minimal. The Inspector recognised that allowing developments on this basis would lead to a nibbling away of the Green Belt, which is just as harmful in the long term. We had hoped this would send a clear message to developers that the Green Belt around Aldenhams parish is not up for grabs. However, we have now learnt they will be appealing the decision.

New Defibrillator At Letchmore Heath

APC was delighted to be able to help fund a new defibrillator at Letchmore Heath, that you can now find on the wall of The Three Horseshoes pub, facing the green. APC has also agreed to help fund a defibrillator at Patchetts Green, so all the main villages will have one. Having an AED (automated external defibrillator) in these places can mean the difference between life and death, providing residents with a sense of security.



Newberries Car Park - Change To Charges From April 2024



After years of subsidising parking at Newberries Car Park to support local residents and boost the High Street, APC faces a challenging decision. Despite their efforts, Hertsmere Borough Council (HBC), the owner of the car park, has decided to alter its parking fee structure and it now demands that APC increase its subsidy from £12,500 to an astronomical £60,000 annually.

APC's councillors find this demand unreasonable, fearing its detrimental impact on essential services due to the significant cost implications. Such a drastic increase would strain the APC budget, equating to a staggering 14.91% precept increase for 2024/25, a figure they cannot justify.

Regrettably, in light of HBC's decision, APC announces that effective 1 April 2024, it will cease subsidising the first hour of parking at Newberries Car Park. This change reflects the council's necessity to prioritise fiscal responsibility while still striving to serve the community to the best of their ability.

Community Plant Success!

Following the wonderful help from the local community, the display of daffodils at Phillimore Recreation Ground look absolutely stunning. If you have a love for gardening, we will be holding a Hanging Basket Tutorial later in the year, where residents can come along and watch how the Open Spaces Team make up the beautiful hanging baskets you see in the High Street.

