



HEYBRIDGE BASIN

Parish Council

Welcome to the latest edition of the Heybridge Basin Parish Council Newsletter.

REMEMBERING KEITH LAWSON



It is with deep regret that the Parish Council have received the sad news of the passing of a former Parish Councillor and Chair, Keith Lawson.

Keith was an avid sailor and took part in many races on the river Blackwater and other East Coast Rivers. His last racing boat was the East Coast One design, 'Wizard', before changing to cruising yachts. Keith was a very successful racing skipper and was always determined to do well. He also enjoyed and took part in many East Coast rowing races.

He served many years on the Regatta Committee before his involvement in local politics took up more of his time. Keith was a Parish Councillor for Heybridge for many years and was a very active member of the Heybridge Basin Referendum Team, which fought hard for the Basin to have its own Parish Council in 2019.

Keith was a foundation councillor and the first elected Chairman. He was a knowledgeable and influential member during his time at HBPC between 2019 and 2022 and was very supportive and helped settle in our Clerk who joined in 2021. In a time of need, Keith was always at the end of the phone or e-mail.

We are sure his loss will be felt by the whole community and our thoughts and sympathies go to his family and friends at this difficult time.

PRECEPT

The Precept is a tax that PC's charge their local electors to meet their budget requirement and is collected as part of your Council Tax Payments. Our annual budget for the next financial year of 2024/2025 was agreed at £31,500, which is a 7.35% decrease from the current financial year 2023/2024.

DAISY MEADOW CAR PARK (DMCP)

The PC has recently been working with a civil engineering design team to provide detailed design specifications and layout for the new entrance road to DMCP. The plan is to increase the width to a minimum of 6m where possible, improve drainage, re-instate speed restraints, and install a ducting system for future Electric Vehicle Charging Points. A detailed topographical survey has recently been undertaken to locate and identify services under the road and on the verges. In addition to this, an ecological assessment has been carried out and will be very helpful in identifying indigenous species to replace some of the foliage that has been removed. This will support and encourage wildlife to flourish.

Work has started at the far end of DMCP with the construction of a raised bed which will form a natural corridor for plants, trees, and wildlife.

BIRD BOXES

The Parish Council is pleased to offer a limited number of free bird nest boxes to residents on a first come first served basis. This project will support the Council's wider biodiversity policy. The boxes are built to British Trust for Ornithology specification. They come in three types – 25mm diameter for Blue Tits, 32mm for all common small hole nesting species and open fronted for Robins/Wrens. If you would like one, please contact the Clerk by 7th February with your name, address, phone number and state which type you prefer. Boxes will be delivered by the end of February complete with an installation instruction sheet.



D-DAY 80

On Thursday 6th June events will be held across the country to remember this hugely significant day. HBPC has set up a Working Group to plan a community event which will commemorate one of the most momentous achievements in living memory. The event will start late afternoon and involve local children. There will be singing, and the event will close with the lighting of a beacon at 9:15pm. The beacon represents the 'light of peace' that emerged from the darkness of war. More details will follow as the day approaches.

We are interested to know if any residents know of any involvement by villagers in D Day, whether in the preparation or execution. Please contact the Clerk.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (VDS)

The Council, alongside the village Conservation Society have decided to proceed with a modest review of the current VDS which was published originally in 2006. A resident's questionnaire is being prepared to seek the views of all residents and this will be distributed in February. Your views on the current VDS and how it could be updated to reflect the needs of the village now, would be very helpful.

St Peters Hospital

An 8 week public consultation period on proposed changes to services at local community hospitals has begun and will end on 21st March 2024. For more information and to have your say please go to:

www.virtualviews.midandsouthessex.ics.nhs.uk/changes-to-services