

Spaldwick Parish Council Meeting – January 24

Happy New Year

HDC have produced their first Town & Parish Council Newsletter

With the Police & Crime Commissioner Elections this year and almost certainly a General Election. The District Council's Elections Team need to increase their pool of polling station staff and staff for the counting of ballot papers. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Regarding the Green Bin Tax (Subscription Charge) this will come into effect from the 01 April 24 / The cost will be £57.50 per annum. If you sign up by 31st January then the cost will be £50.00 per annum and if you pay by Direct Debit, this price will be held for 3 years. The cost for a second Green Bin will be £30.00.

Residents will still be able to take their Garden Waste to the Alconbury Household Waste Collection Centre and dispose of free of charge.

Civil Parking Enforcement - HDC is working with Cambridgeshire County Council to implement a legislative change in relation to on street parking enforcement. This change will come into effect early in 2025 and will give HDC the ability to enforce several on street parking offences.

Community Litter Picks, HDC are proud to recognise and support the large number of parishes, community groups, schools and businesses that carry out litter picks in their local area. To support this HDC will loan parishes, community groups etc with the equipment you need ie grabbers and bags and will pick up the litter free of charge.

The County Council is proposing a 4.99% increase in Council tax for 24/25 with a total of 2% of this dedicated to Adult Social Care Services. The CC has launched a budget consultation survey on this, to comment go to www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation-2024-5

Get involved in Buy Nothing New Month – Its, that time of year when many of us are making New Year Resolutions. So, this January why not try Buy Nothing New Month. The campaign is run by Keep Britain Tidy, the campaign challenges us to prevent and reduce waste, by making use of the things we already have.

Our new Local Highways Officer is Karen Southwell and our new Public Rights Of Way Officer is Dan Wiggs.

The County Council is reviewing its policy not to remove weeds from our streets, due to the large number of complaints from councillors and residents. This will be reviewed at the Highways & Transportation committee meeting on 23rd January 24

The County Council have reopened applications for 20mph zones. Parishes need to apply by 5pm on Friday 15th March

Free Outdoor Learning experiences for disadvantaged young people at Grafham Water Centre after the County Council secured £42,375 of funding. The fully funded residential and day visits are being made available to groups of under-represented young people throughout January, February & March 24. The money has come from the UK Youth Charity. The places are going to groups such as young people living in poverty, young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) young carers and looked after young people. The Young people must be between 11 & 18 or up to 25 for those with SEND.

The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton, the other two being Manea & Sutton. The proposal is to redistribute our Operational resources from three of our low risk areas (ie fewer call) By doing this the FA can have two additional wholetime fire engines available in the daytime at weekends. St Neots and Ely have 2 fire engines at these stations.

Should this proposal go ahead the second fire engines will be crewed by on-call firefighter. When the second fire engine is available at the station, the new wholetime fire engines could be roaming pumps that can travel outside the of the town (St Neots in our case) to provide more strategic cover in the rural areas and carry out vital community safety work when not responding to incidents. The Fire authority has had difficulty in attracting sufficient on call staff to provide operational cover particularly during the day. The FA say they can only get cover for 2 days per week.

The FA will be looking at the feasibility of this proposal in the New Year, to see if the proposals will deliver the improvements to the service the FA thinks it will. The FA will be consulting with residents in the areas most affected, listening to concerns and explaining the proposal in more detail with local data.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County & District Councillor for Spaldwick.