



SEPTEMBER 2023

Parish Councillors:

John Smith (Chairman), Lyndsey Barwick (Vice-Chairman), Richard Evans, Ian Ewing, Maggie Henderson, Wayne Middleton, Gerry Munson

D'ARCY DIARY

Contact your Parish Council:

Parish Clerk:
Michelle Curtis
Po Box 13205
Maldon, Essex CM9 9FU
07483 325853
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Full Council Meeting Dates 2023/24:

Tuesday 26th September 2023
Tuesday 31st October 2023
Tuesday 28th November 2023
Tuesday 2nd January 2024
Tuesday 30th January 2024
Tuesday 27th February 2024
Tuesday 26th March 2024
Tuesday 30th April 2024
Tuesday 14th May 2024

Meetings are held in the Village Hall.
Members of the public are welcome to attend.



Visit our website to keep up to date with what is happening in your Parish:
www.tolleshuntarcy.org

You can also follow us on Facebook



Message from the Chairman

Regrettably Richard Scott and Jason Brown decided not to stand for re-election this year. Both Richard and Jason were very "hands-on" councillors and can be very proud of their contribution to their community. Perhaps they may serve again at some time in the future? There were an insufficient number of people seeking election but fortunately, there were a number of people interested in being co-opted to fill the vacancies. Ian Ewing, Richard Evans and Wayne Middleton were subsequently selected and we have been extremely fortunate to have three councillors who are taking a very positive and active participation in their roles as parish councillors.

As you will know the Queens Head sadly closed but hopefully it will soon reopen and once again be a focal point for the parish.

John Smith – Chairman

Local Council Award

At the Parish Council meeting on 28th March 2023, Mike Eldred, Vice Chairman, Essex Association of Local Councils, presented the Certificate for the Local Council Quality Award and congratulated Tolleshunt D'Arcy Parish Council on their achievement. Mike explained that there are 10,480 parish/town councils in Great Britain, and the number of councils with the Quality Award in the country is 80. It is hoped that the Parish Council will continue their hard work and look to work toward the Gold Award.

To get the award, the Parish Council had demonstrated:

- Good practice in governance
- Community engagement
- Council improvement whilst going above and beyond their legal obligations



Highways/Speeding Issues

Highways and speeding issues in the village are reported to the Parish Council/Parish Working Group regularly.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council has very limited powers concerning highways matters, nevertheless, we have been active and have taken action where we can including the following:

- We have a Service Level Agreement in place with Maldon District Council for the Community Engagement Officers (formerly the CPOs). The agreement includes the TruCam (speeding) patrols. Captures using TruCam have the same consequences as those made by the police so the road and positioning need to be approved by Essex Police and we have 3 authorised sites in the village.
- We have signed up for the 20s Plenty Campaign which is a national campaign – more information is available at www.20splenty.org and we have purchased two banners which are displayed near the school to show support to the campaign.
- Together with the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Academy we have organised a competition for children to design speed reduction posters.
- We successfully applied to ECC Highways for the extension to the 30mph limit in Tollesbury Road.
- We have submitted two applications to the ECC Local Highways Panel (1) for road narrowing signage between North Road/Station Road and (2) for village gateways at various locations entering the village. Due to a reduction in the LHP budget from £400,000 last year to £170,000 for 2023/24, we are unsure whether these schemes will be approved. The Parish Council did set aside some funds in the 2023/24 for speed reduction. If we are unable to get the gates funded, we may have to consider purchasing them ourselves meaning we would have to do the project over several years. Essex County Council would need to grant permission for the installation of gateways and this would not be a quick or cheap process. We will continue to look at funding opportunities for what is considered to be the most cost effective speed reduction initiative.
- Parking - If a vehicle is parked causing an obstruction, you can report this directly to Essex Police. The Parish Council has no powers to deal with this however, if a vehicle is parked on a parking restriction regularly, then please let us know and we can report it to the Community Engagement Officers who have the power to issue parking tickets.
- We have received complaints regarding the parking around Ruby's during school times. We respectfully ask parents to think about their parking during pick-up and collection times.

Community Speed Watch

The Parish Working Group (PWG) has been very active and recruited 12 volunteers for Community Speed Watch (CSW). The application form has been submitted to CSW and it is hoped that CSW will be up and running within the next 2-3 months.



The benefits of CSW include:

- The opportunity for residents to increase road safety in their area, and support activities to reduce road traffic collisions and injuries.
- Enhancing the role of community members as volunteers and developing better links with the community.
- As CSW volunteers are highly visible and make use of a speed detection device, it is usually clear to vehicle drivers their speed is being monitored. This may be enough deterrent for many motorists to slow down.
- The 'community' element of CSW could have a more positive effect on some vehicle driver's attitudes compared to engineering schemes.
- The letters vehicle drivers receive as a result of exceeding the speed limit may make them continue to reduce their speeds at all times.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the PWG.

Recreation Ground

In July, Bee-Fit CM9 gave the Parish Council notice that they would be relocating to Tollesbury. We are very pleased to announce that Blackwater Gymnastics has taken over the lease and classes will begin in September 2023. Blackwater Gymnastics offers a variety of classes, including gymnastics, acro-dance, tumbling, yoga/pilates, aerial silk sling, acro-aerobics and pole fitness.

More information is available at:

Website: blackwatergymnastics.co.uk

Telephone call 07808 132543

Email: blackwatergymnastics@gmail.com



