

Diptford Parish Council
Sarah Woodman, Parish Clerk
01364 642145
diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk

The Diptford Amenity Trust Meeting preceded the Parish Council Meeting. The Trust oversees the Playing field and all the Parish Councillors are Trustees. A number of trees on the playing field have been causing problems: the tree surgeon will be removing a branch overhanging Cross Farm, and Tree Warden Beverley Sugden will be consulted about the ash trees overhanging the tennis court fencing.

The Draft Housing Needs Report was discussed at the start of the September Parish Council Meeting. The Report recommends that 9 affordable homes are needed over the next five year and Rural Housing Enabler John Scott will be providing more details at the October Meeting.

A Councillor vacancy has arisen, following the sad death of Amanda Chapell. If you are interested in being 'co-opted' onto the Parish Council, then please contact the Clerk or Chairman John Foster on 01548 821654. Get involved with your community – being a Parish Councillor is rewarding and interesting! Training is provided and your commitment is not too onerous – just one evening a month.

Traffic speeds through Diptford have been measured by the Police, focussing on vehicles passing Diptford Playing Field. Mean vehicle speeds of vehicles travelling towards Diptford were 20.1 mph, with 20.5 mph for vehicles leaving the village. This shows a good compliance with the speed limit – which means that the highway authority will not be introducing any speed reduction measures. However, the safety of pedestrians and, in particular children visiting the playing field still remains a concern for the Parish Council and we would welcome any suggestions on how to improve pedestrian safety.

Planning applications were dominated by 'Certificates of Lawfulness', where continuous usage must be proved over a period of time. Councillors questioned whether The Workshop and surrounding land at Higher Beenleigh Bridge had been used continuously for the last ten years for the repair and parking of vehicles awaiting repair and decommissioning. An application for Certificate of Lawful Development over more than four years for the chalet building incidental to the dwellinghouse at Bradridge Lodge raised a number of procedural queries.

No objections were raised to planning applications for the proposed agricultural livestock building at Diptford Downs Farm, or to the alterations and extension to Boreston Foot Cottage, Halwell.

Broadband speeds - or rather the lack of them - has focussed attention over the last month, as the Parish Council reported our abysmal speeds in a survey conducted by Devon Renaissance, which is working with Devon County Council to identify Broadband 'Not Spots'. Slow Broadband speeds are not only frustrating, but can impede the development of businesses locally. Two village-centred Broadband projects are currently being undertaken in Devon and the Parish Council will be pressing for a similar project in Diptford.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th October in the Village Hall. You are welcome to attend.