

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

There were three meetings in May, which kept your Clerk very busy: the Annual Parish Meeting, which is held for Parishioners to come along and have their say about matters that affect them; The Annual Parish Council Meeting, which determines the Parish Council arrangements for the year, including voting John Foster as Chairman and Sue Franklin as Vice Chairman for the next year; and the normal Parish Council Meeting.

The Diptford Annual Parish Meeting started with a very interesting talk from Diane Lethbridge from South Devon AONB on 'South Devon AONB: Celebrating 50 years as a protected landscape', which explained all the exciting activities taking place within the AONB. Support from local people was needed to:

- Supply 1960s photos for the 'Then & Now' archive (the photos are scanned, so you don't lose the originals)
- Vote for your favourite photo online through the 'Our Beautiful Place' photo competition
- Provide traditional skills for their training programme.

Have a look at their website, [www.southdevonaonb.org.uk](http://www.southdevonaonb.org.uk), for things to do, walks and trails – or phone them on 01803 861384.

Reports from the various community groups demonstrated what a vibrant and lively place Diptford is. Calls for support came from Riding for the Disabled, who needed volunteers on Wednesday afternoon, with training offered. PC Hopper introduced the Community Messaging Service, in which you can apply to receive police appeals for information by phone or email as an effective weapon in the fight against crime. The service is free and you can register through the website, [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk), by phoning 08452 777 444, or by picking up a form from the Police Station, and you can specify when you are contacted and the Watch Scheme, for example Horse Watch, Farm Watch or Local Alerts

The South Hams Local Development Framework Rural Site Allocations DPD (Publication Stage) formed the focus of public discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Plan is proposing about 10 dwellings at Wheatpark by 2016, of which 60% will be affordable housing. The plan is available on the SHDC website, [www.southhams.gov.uk](http://www.southhams.gov.uk) (look under Planning Policies), and the deadline for responses has just been extended to the 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Diptford Parish Council has responded that, having completed a Housing Needs Survey, there is an obvious need for affordable housing and the Parish Council would support suitable development for local people. One point of concern was that local people in housing need may not be on the housing register and therefore would not be considered for any affordable housing – apply online through [www.devonhomechoice.com](http://www.devonhomechoice.com) or phone South Hams District Council on 01803 861234 for more details.

Planning Applications Just one – the wind turbine at Broadley Farm. The Parish Council raised no objection and confirmed that it supported renewable energy, but queried if there was sufficient wind at that location and noted its position within the South Devon AONB

Broadband Measures to improve the current abysmal broadband speeds are being investigated and the Parish Council considered proposals by Rutland Telecom, which may increase speeds in the village to 24Mbps – but at a cost of up to £50,000! Alternative solutions include using the school's fibre optic supply or a community hub.

Finance The Parish Council's accounts for the previous financial year were approved for submission to the District Auditor. During 2009/10, the Parish Council spent £5863 of its £6185 income and, after the Clerk's expenses, the largest expenditure, over £1930, was paid to Diptford Amenity Trust for cyclical maintenance on the playing field.

Finally, Devon County has sent me some leaflets 'Helping you to make work pay – Are you entitled to benefits, tax credits or help with childcare costs?' It gives examples showing eligibility for Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit, and useful contacts; there is an online benefits calculator at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk), a Tax Credit Helpline on 0845 3003900, or visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau for advice.

The next Diptford Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. You are welcome to attend.