

Apology

On 11th June 2018 a letter of apology from Yvonne Smart, Chairman of Trimley St Martin Parish Council, was sent to Mr Ian Cowan (Trimley St Martin Parish Councillor 2006 to 2015). The body of the letter is as follows:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of Trimley St Martin Parish Council. Having joined the Council in 2017, I have no direct personal knowledge of the matters explored by the Deputy Monitoring Officer of Suffolk Coastal District Council in his report into your code of conduct complaints. Although the Deputy Monitoring Officer did not uphold the complaints you made against six current councillors and three former councillors, he did draw attention to the inclusion of false and misleading statements in the agenda for the meeting held on 1 March 2016. These statements, which were repeated in the minutes of that meeting, presented allegations about you as though they were established facts. The statements said that you had been responsible for bullying and harassing other Councillors, the Clerk and the Internal Auditor.

The allegations had previously been included in a Code of Conduct complaint against you, but in 2015 the then Deputy Monitoring Officer had found that they were not justified. The allegations should not have been included in either the agenda or the minutes and I am writing now to apologise on behalf of the Parish Council for the fact that they were included. In order to make the position clear the following steps will be taken:

- *a correction will be appended to the March 2016 agenda and to the minutes of that meeting;*
- *a link to a copy of this letter will be placed on the homepage of the Parish Council website to remain there for a period of six months, and*
- *a copy of this letter will be published in the Parish Pump.*

I hope that it will now prove possible for the difficulties of the past to be put to rest and that everyone concerned can now move forward.

The Parish Pump

Newsletter of Trimley St Martin Parish Council July 2018

Road, Rail and Footpath

Network Rail Upgrade Works

The machines which prepared the ground for the new track and ballast will soon complete their work and be replaced by rail mounted vehicles laying the track and sleepers. The next major element of work will be the installation of new signalling equipment which is currently scheduled to take place over the 2018 – 2019 Christmas to New Year period.

Ben Porter, Senior Project Manager for VolkerFitzpatrick, is keen to maintain the positive relationship with local people. With summer holidays approaching he would like to remind everyone, especially young people, that construction sites and the railway are extremely dangerous places. Ben and his team take care to keep the site secured, but if you have any concerns please speak to a manager or call at the site office.

Details about the Felixstowe Branch Line scheme can be found on the Network Rail website via this link: www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/anglia/felixstowe-branch-line.

At the time of writing the outcome of the public enquiry held in January 2018 has not yet been announced.

Roundabouts and Beds – An update

Last month we reported on the overhaul of the planting to the roundabout and surrounding beds which was carried out with the generous assistance of Taylor Wimpey. Sadly, thieves have stolen many newly planted shrubs, including Choisya Sundance, Red Robin, Spirea and Weigela, from the bed next to the bus stop in Howlett Way. The first shrubs were stolen in May and more were lost in June. If you have any information about this, or if you have recently been offered plants like these for sale from an unexpected source, Suffolk Police would be pleased to hear from you.

Diversion of Traffic Through Trimley St Martin

Unfortunately, a further diversion of A14 traffic may take place in the late summer or early autumn. We do not yet have full details but Parish Council representatives have met with Highways England and Suffolk County Council Highways to explain what a major problem these diversions cause for local residents. Regulations prevent the use of contraflow - the A14 is too narrow for this to be done safely- so Highways England and Suffolk Highways are going to work together to explore how best to keep problems to a minimum. They will be considering several ideas including an advisory 20 mph speed limit, and weekend working to coincide with low HGV traffic.

Rights of Way

If you find a problem with one of the many footpaths in the village the quickest and easiest way to report it is to complete Suffolk County Council's online form which you can access via:

www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/report-a-public-right-of-way-issue

You will be asked to give details and make clear what and where the problem is. The online form is the easiest way to do it, but you could also email customer.service@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk or telephone 0345 606 6171,

Planning

Land off Howlett Way

The Trimley Estate is promoting an outline planning application on land to the south of Howlett Way, which was identified for development in the Felixstowe Area Action Plan. The proposals are for up to 360 new homes, an Early Years (nursery education) Centre, and open space. The houses will be a mix of types and styles, including up to one third affordable housing. The plans will include houses suitable for elderly people looking to downsize and young families looking to have their first property. Alongside the new homes, the Trimley Estate will be working with the District Council to agree appropriate contributions towards local infrastructure including primary and secondary education. You can find out more by dropping in to the public exhibition on Tuesday 17 July between 4pm and 8pm at the Trimley Sports & Social Club, High Road, Trimley St Martin, IP11 0RJ.

You can see more about the project at www.trimley-howlettway.co.uk or call the Freephone information line on 0800 148 8911.

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan

Last year the District Council consulted local people on the issues and options being considered for the revised local plan. The first draft of that revised plan will be out soon. It will include planning policies for the district and identify sites for a range of different uses. Suffolk Coastal will hold a **public consultation on the First Draft Plan from 20th July to 14th September 2018**.

The Parish Council will respond in depth to any proposals for the village, but we have only one voice. It is important that local residents also take the opportunity to have their say. Find out more and make your own comments by going along to one of the local drop in sessions. The two nearest events will be at the Kirton Recreation Ground Pavilion on Tuesday 24 July and at Felixstowe Town Hall on Thursday 2nd August; both sessions run from 4pm to 7.30 pm.

Village Recorder's Blog

An introduction and a request from our Village Recorder

My name is Liz and I am the Village Recorder for Trimley St Martin. I record people, events, our surroundings and anything of interest in our Village. You can read an expanded version of my aims at:

<http://trimleystmartin.onesuffolk.net/home/village-recorders-blog/>

At the end of the year all Recorders send an Annual Report to Suffolk Record Office. I want to share things with you as they happen or as I record them and have started the Blog where mini reports may be viewed. Most of all I would like our children and grandchildren to read about our lives in our village. I would love to hear from you, about yourself or anything in the Village which interests you. Please contact me at: trimleystmartinrecorder@gmail.com

Centenary of the Armistice

Over the last week or two you will have seen pots of poppies springing up around the village. The pots have been planted in memory of the fallen and, when you take a closer look, you will see that as well as flowers, each one contains an individual plaque commemorating the lives of two of the local soldiers who lost their lives in World War 1. Our thanks go to Councillor Roger Clarke who has put in a huge amount of work to prepare and distribute these tributes. Thanks also go to Councillor Carol Garrett who has used recycled materials to craft some bold and beautiful poppies which are now on display.