

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Summer has arrived with a bit of a whimper! Rain, winds and very chilly! Roll on summer please....

On April 11 we held our Annual Assembly which went very well with presentations from Sir John Whittingdale MP, who described the work he carries out as an MP, Madam Mayor - Linda Mascot who told us about her charity work, Police – Restorative and Mediation Service – Abby Hare who covered their role within the police including ensuring the welfare of prisoners being held in custody, a Neighbourhood Development Plan update from Judy Cecil and a brief description of the Warehouse Group and the proposed development. Refreshments kindly supplied by Julie Fisher.



In our last Topics, we gave full details of the nine warehouses outline planning application 23/01930/OUT which has been given an extension to mid-June for Highways to respond. This means we will not hear of the outcome from Planning until July. Around 750 of you kindly put your objections to this plan, for which we, and the Warehouse Committee, are very grateful. We do not think Chelmsford will agree with this application but will have to wait and see. The applicant could appeal the decision, but we hope this will be the end of this threat to our green and pleasant lands in Sandon.

Also, we gave details of Hammonds Farm which is in the Chelmsford City Council review of the Local Plan to 2041. You have up to 15<sup>th</sup> June to comment via their web page

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-local-plan/local-plan-review/>

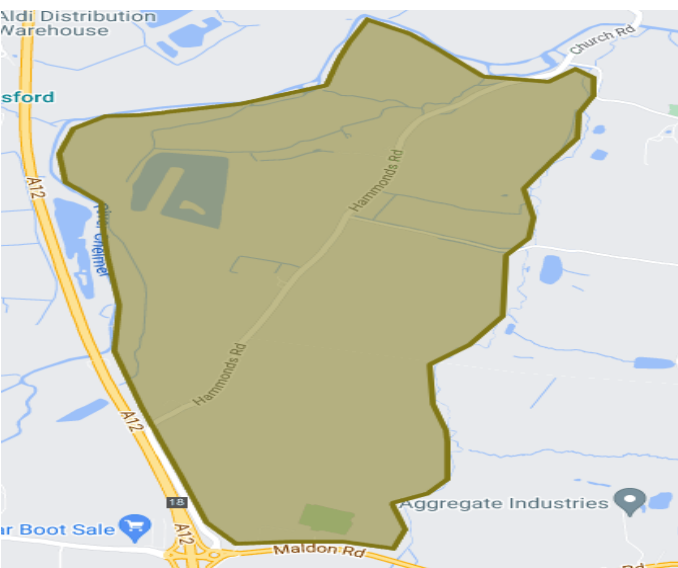
This review is a five-year update of the existing Local Plan, and you can comment on all the sections, plus their preferred options for future housing developments, and this includes Hammonds Farm. Most of you will have received a leaflet outlining the reasons you can object on, and the dates of the four public meetings in Danbury, Boreham, Sandon and Little Baddow, which were well attended. The presentations were made by Peter Irvine who is not only the chair of Little Baddow Parish Council but is also the chair of the No To Hammonds Farm Working Group. There is more on Hammonds Farm development elsewhere in the Topics. For further information log onto [www.notohammondsfarm.co.uk](http://www.notohammondsfarm.co.uk) and [www.hammonds.info](http://www.hammonds.info)

## Hammonds Farm

### Background

Chelmsford City Council is required to have and keep an up to date 'Local Plan', which meets local development needs. This includes new housing and commercial areas.

The Local Plan outlines the strategic priorities and long-term vision for Chelmsford. Its development covers needs such as employment, retail, leisure commercial and transport development. It is set out alongside the National Planning Policy Framework.



The current Local Plan runs from 2013 - 2036 and to keep it up to date it is in the process of being reviewed and revised to cover the period up to 2041. So, it will need to increase the identified areas for development and provide options for sites for this projected growth.

The process involves public consultation on the Chelmsford City Council's planning departments, 'Preferred Options'. The planners should look at the viability of the sites they select and provide the rationale for their selection. They then ask the public and other agencies to provide feedback.

This is why Hammonds Farm has now become the focus of considerable debate and objections from residents and others who will be significantly affected by the proposals.

Hammonds Farm is covered in the in the City Council's proposals under 16a/16b

It sets out a plan for at least 3,000 houses and 43,000 sq. meters of business space, with the capacity for a further 1,500 homes beyond 2041. The consultation commenced on the 8th May 2024 and is currently due to conclude on the 19th June 2024 at 4pm.

The parishes of Little Baddow, Danbury, Sandon, Boreham and Bicknacre have all agreed to oppose the plan and as you may be aware several local meetings have already been held to provide presentations on the proposals and the impact it is likely to have on the villages. These have all been well attended with the vast majority of people against Hammonds Farm. It would seem that the only people who are in favour of this option are the developers and planners!

There are many reasons for the objections, not least the significant increase in traffic and how this is highly likely to create 'rat runs' through the rural lanes and roads in the vicinity of the development. As everyone is aware, the A12 already struggles to cope with the current traffic levels. What is being proposed is the size of another Beaulieu Park entering the road network that will see little in the way of any expansion of capacity.

The A12 has always been seen as a barrier to protect and preserve the villages and the beautiful countryside that surrounds them. It provides a natural habitat for many birds, animals, and plants, and a place easily accessible to the people of Chelmsford, many of whom visit the area to enjoy it peace and tranquillity.



Many people are not aware of how plans are formed or even that this area is at risk, the consultation period provides a small window of opportunity to make your feelings known.

Part of the Parishes job has been to raise awareness of what is happening, the local meetings were one way of doing this but a website has also been set up which is [www.notohammondsfarm.co.uk](http://www.notohammondsfarm.co.uk) This provides all the details and comprehensive links to information about the

plans. It also enables anyone to make an objection via the website as opposed to the Chelmsford City Councils portal, which many have found very difficult to use.

In addition, you may have seen posters and banners displaying No to Hammonds Farm.



Once the public consultation closes on 19th June 2024, the City Council will look at and should take account of the objections. If they have merit and cannot be mitigated, then the option should be discarded. If it continues, a further public consultation should take place in the early part of 2025.

## **FIR TREE WOOD**



At the end of May, the fantastic news was announced by the Essex Wildlife Trust that the target had been met and a total of £400,000 had been raised to 'Save Fir Tree Wood'. Local residents in our parish and neighbouring parishes enjoy this area and value nature and wildlife and a big heartfelt thank you to every single person that helped with the appeal, whether it was through donations, helping to spread the word or organising and supporting fundraising events.

This was a joint campaign run by Little Baddow Parish Council and Essex Wildlife Trust and now that Fir Tree Wood has been saved, the 25 acres of woodland will continue to be available to the public to enjoy. The 25 acres of land have now been purchased and in terms of ownership, it will be split in to two halves with each owning half.

For those of you not already familiar with this beautiful woodland, it is located just off the eastern side of The Ridge, Little Baddow. A stone's throw away from the ever-growing urban environments surrounding Chelmsford and Maldon, Fir Tree Wood is a safe haven for nature. A critical piece in the jigsaw of habitats across Danbury Ridge, Fir Tree Wood is at the heart of an expansive interconnected landscape for wildlife. The beautiful woodland supports busy badgers, rare barbastelle bats, lesser spotted woodpeckers, delicate lily-of-the-valley wildflowers, shy dormice and many more special species.

Fir Tree Wood forms a green lung in the community and is an oasis for wildlife. During the day, woodpeckers drum in the trees, butterflies flutter from flower to flower and the sweet scent of lily-of-the-valley fills the air. At night, dormice scuttle up tree trunks, bats swoop through the skies and larger mammals quietly emerge from their dens and setts. Many of these species are at risk throughout the UK, but at the moment they can all move freely across Fir Tree Wood.

Let's hope the weather improves as the woodland is certainly a walker's paradise and a true wildlife haven. However, the woodland is so enchanting, it is fun to explore and enjoy whatever the weather.

Although the £400,000 target has been met, should you wish to, you can still make a donation as all funds raised above the target will be invested in the management of the Danbury Ridge nature reserves. Please visit <https://www.essexwt.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/fir-tree-wood>

## **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

In May there were two Councillor Surgeries held in the Parish. On Saturday 4th May at St Andrew's Church in Sandon and on Saturday 11th May in Howe Green at the United Reformed Church. Both surgeries ran from 10am until 12.30pm with the purpose of giving the public the opportunity to meet the Councillors and discuss any areas of concern that they may have. As you can imagine, there is always a great deal currently going on in the local area!

At the Surgery in Sandon, there were Chelmsford City Councillors Julia Jeapes and Stephanie Scott, representing the Little Baddow, Danbury and Sandon Ward and Charlotte Lyons, Parish Councillor from Sandon Parish Council. Charlotte joined Sandon Parish Council at the start of this year and has been working closely with the City Councillors on the key issues affecting residents in the Parish and was keen to attend her first Surgery which she thoroughly enjoyed. Saturday 4th May was one of the first warm and sunny days in a while and that might explain the low public attendance at this surgery. This was despite the extensive range of home baked cakes and biscuits being offered! The main concerns raised at this Surgery were in relation to outline planning application for the nine huge warehouses in the Sandon and Great Baddow area and the current levels of congestion around the A12 Junction 18 Howe Green Interchange.

The second Surgery held in Howe Green on 11th May had many more members of the public in attendance, perhaps word had got out about the delicious home baked cakes on offer! At this surgery were Julia Jeapes and Charlotte Lyons and some of the key concerns raised by the public were once again related to the outline planning application for the nine huge warehouses in the Sandon and Great Baddow area. In addition to this, there was great concern raised by members of the public relating to the proposed Hammonds Farm development for 3,000 houses plus 43,000sqm of 'employment space.' Although the public consultation period for the outline warehouse application (reference 23/01939/OUT) finished on 17th May 2024, the public consultation for the outline planning application for the Hammonds Farm development runs until 4pm on 19th June 2024. Many residents are concerned about the impact of the proposals in their effect on the environment and increased traffic and the strain on local services.

A few other topics raised in the Howe Green surgery related to St Peter's Hospital in Maldon and the proposal to relocate the health services from the hospital and also some Highways related issues.

As always, if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact your Parish or City Councillors who will be happy to help. The next surgeries will be in the Autumn, and we look forward to seeing you then.

## **COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH**



Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices.

Registered keepers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit are contacted - initially with a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their dangerous behaviour. Repeat offenders will receive a visit from the local police, irrespective of where they live. Beyond these friendly gestures, focused enforcement and criminal prosecution follow based on the collated evidence.

CSW Online operates nationally on behalf of the police and communities to organise and join up Speedwatch activity. The organisation coordinates responses based on the collated data from all groups involved. Speeding is not just a local phenomenon - and neither is Speedwatch.

Speedwatch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in their local community.

Sandon Parish Council run a small group of residents who hold regular Speedwatches in the Parish. If you would like to join you need to pass the theoretical training and can go to <https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Register.php> to find out more.

## **TEA ON THE GREEN**

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July, we are looking forward to the Salvation Army Band again on the Green this year. A time of fellowship, a time to enjoy the weather, a time for cakes and tea and a time to meet one another. If you have any special hymn requests please let Andy Horne, [andyhorne57@gmail.com](mailto:andyhorne57@gmail.com), 07467 037578, know by 14<sup>th</sup> July.

The speaker this year will be Major Ian Mountford from the Chelmsford Salvation Army. Tea and cake will be served from 3 pm and Songs of Praise from 4 pm. If you want to contribute to the selection of cakes please contact Christine. Her email is [menniec@aol.com](mailto:menniec@aol.com), and tel no. 01245 281305, also by 14<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you,  
Richard Cecil

## **THE REVEREND TERRY BROWN**



This year, the Sandon Cup was awarded to Rev. Terry Brown. This was in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the lives of so many people in the local community and, of course, to say thank you for all that he has done.

Terry was presented with the cup at the village hall, following his last service, by parish councillor and PCC representative, James Colbeck.

We would all like to wish Terry well in his retirement. He will be missed by many.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

<b>TED MUNT – CLERK</b> Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ. Tel: 01245 477111 <a href="mailto:sandonparishclerk@gmail.com">sandonparishclerk@gmail.com</a> Hours 09:30 – 12:30 Mon a.m. and Wed a.m.			
Parish Councillors		Areas of responsibility/representation	
<b>DEE HYATT</b> Peartree Lodge, 2 The Old Orchard, Howe Green CM2 7TX Tel: 01245 763744 <a href="mailto:cllrhyattsandonpc@gmail.com">cllrhyattsandonpc@gmail.com</a>		<b>CHAIRMAN</b> Planning Neighbourhood Development Plan Speed Watch	
<b>MARTIN CROSS</b> Magrathea, East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green CM2 7TQ Tel: 01245 478910 <a href="mailto:cllrcrosssandonpc@gmail.com">cllrcrosssandonpc@gmail.com</a>		<b>VICE CHAIR</b> Finance	
<b>CEDRIC CALMEYER</b> 25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245 478900 <a href="mailto:cllrcalmeyersandonpc@gmail.com">cllrcalmeyersandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Maintenance and Allotments Community Centre	
<b>ALAN KALBFELL</b> 4, The Tythings, Howe Green CM2 7TU Tel: 07802 762620   <a href="mailto:cllrkalbfellsandonpc@gmail.com">cllrkalbfellsandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Personnel Community Centre Village Hall rep	
<b>DARREN CHAPLIN</b> Tel: 07391 516403 <a href="mailto:cllrchaplinsandonpc@gmail.com">cllrchaplinsandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Sandon Sports Club Rep, Community Centre, Personnel, Conservation and Sustainability	
<b>CHARLOTTE LYONS</b> Tel: <a href="mailto:cllrlyonssandonpc@gmail.com">cllrlyonssandonpc@gmail.com</a>			
<b>GARY NICHOLLS</b> Tel: 07712 535313 <a href="mailto:cllrnichollssandonpc@gmail.com">cllrnichollssandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Community Centre	
<b>JAMES COLBECK</b> 51 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 07949849674 <a href="mailto:cllrcolbecksandonpc@gmail.com">cllrcolbecksandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Parochial Church Council (PCC) Rep Community Centre	
<b>ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b> <b>IAN GRUNDY</b> Tel: 01277 840737 <a href="mailto:Ian.GRUNDY@chelmsford.gov.uk">Ian.GRUNDY@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>			
<b>CITY COUNCILLORS (LITTLE BADDOW, DANBURY &amp; SANDON)</b>			
<b>JULIA JEAPES</b> (the CCC councillor looking after Sandon and Howe Green) Tel 07752 533341 <a href="mailto:julia.jeapes@chelmsford.gov.uk">julia.jeapes@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>			
<b>JACOB ARMSTRONG</b> Tel 01245 605880 <a href="mailto:jacob@chelmsford.gov.uk">jacob@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>			
<b>STEPH SCOTT</b> Tel: 07775 870638 <a href="mailto:stephanie.scott@chelmsford.gov.uk">stephanie.scott@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>			
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>			
Chelmsford City Council	01245	606606	
Police	01245	491491 or ring 101	
Broomfield Hospital	01245	443673	
Citizens Advice Bureau	01245	205605	For U.C. 0800 1448444
Neighbourhood Watch	01245	471589	
<b>LOCAL ORGANISATIONS</b>			
St Andrew's Church - Priest in Charge	Revd Terry Brown	01245	698988
Church Wardens	Mr R. Cecil	01245	224747
	Mr A. Horne	01245	475279
	Mrs J. Cecil	01245	224747
PCC Secretary	Mr N. Bobeldijk	01245	471756
PCC Treasurer	Dr M. Worboys	01245	224612
Bell Ringers	Mrs D. Gray	01245	223609
Women's Institute	Rev Paul Stein	07810	396410
Howe Green URC	Mrs P Knott	01245	471691
Howe Green URC Elder	Ms J. Fisher	01245	475976
Village Hall Management Committee			
Village Hall Bookings	<a href="https://www.sandonvillagehall.co.uk">https://www.sandonvillagehall.co.uk</a>		
Cubs	Mr Steve Eatley	07957	802898
Scouts	Ms J. Blake	07956	580404
Sandon Tiny Tots/Mother and Toddler Group	Mrs A Read	01245	474858 or 07720 718372
Danbury and Villages Rotary	Mr M Penry (sec)	<a href="mailto:mikepenry@btinternet.com">mikepenry@btinternet.com</a>	
Chelmsford Rambling Club	Ms M Say	01245	381262
Sandon Parish Magazine Editor	Mr R. Cecil	01245	224747
Sports Club	Mr R Pegrum	07903	824276
Are your details correctly listed? If not, please contact the Parish Council Clerk on 01245 477111			

All Parish Council information is available on our website including minutes of meetings at [www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk). The Council meets at 7.15 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. We alternate between St Andrew Church Hall and the Howe Green Reformed Church. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS**



## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEED YOU!

We would love to have some feedback regarding the format of Sandon Topics. Hopefully you enjoy reading each edition and we are keen to find out a bit more about your preferred format and if there is any particular content you would like to see included?

Format type - tick all which are of interest

- Hard copy (current format)
- Digital copy

If you like to receive it as a hard copy, what is your preferred size? Tick only one

- A5
- A4
- Other size (please state)
- No preference

If you would like to receive it as a digital copy, which of the following formats would be of interest? Tick all which are of interest

- Email
- Facebook
- Sandon Parish Council website

What is your preferred frequency for Sandon Topics?

- Quarterly
- Bi-annually

Is there any particular content you would like to see? Whether it be around charity initiatives, local news stories, events, volunteering opportunities, good news stories and so on and so forth, please provide the details below:

Thank you taking the time to complete this feedback request which is much appreciated. Either send via post or drop your response off to the Sandon Parish Council offices at Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Sandon, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7SQ or send your answers via email to Cllr Chaplin and Cllr Lyons: [cllrchaplinsandonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrchaplinsandonpc@gmail.com) and [cllrlyonssandonpc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrlyonssandonpc@gmail.com)