

Guilden Sutton Parish Council

Newsletter January 2024 No 179

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Findings from the budget questionnaire - thank you to everyone who completed the recent questionnaire, there was an excellent response – a summary of the findings is given below:

1.What ideas would Residents most support as part of next year's budget? The two most popular items were a) supporting the local bus service and b) improving Station Lane pedestrian access. There are a number of considerations with both suggestions, but we're pleased to say both are being taken forward.

Other popular ideas included more benches, more sport/play equipment, a dog park and renewable energy sources such as solar panels. The Parish Council is in the process of considering these ideas. In the meantime, plans have been finalised for an extension to the play area, and the Council is supporting the Community Association with its vision for solar panels on the Village Hall – so watch this space!

2.Would you be supportive of the Parish Council funding extra work on open spaces around the village? The overwhelming feeling in the village is that residents would welcome more maintenance around the pedestrian and open areas in the village, particular better maintenance of footpaths. The Council is very grateful for the support of a volunteer who has been undertaking work in this area.

3.Would you be prepared to pay an additional £15 a year in your Council tax to pay for this? Many residents would be happy for the Council to increase the precept to cover this. The Council is mindful of the comments from some residents that the amount proposed represents a significant percentage increase in the annual precept at a time where the cost of living is still high. The Council would also require permission from CWAC to undertake work on the highway. Taking this into consideration, the Council has decided to focus resources on the areas most in need, negating the need to increase the household charge

significantly. Whilst this is not a permanent solution, we will review the impact this has had at the end of this year and seek residents' opinions on an increase in the precept for 2025.

More play equipment in the village! – The Parish Council was allocated some money for play equipment from the Wood Farm development. We are pleased to say that after many years of discussions, the Council has been able to adopt some land and has agreed specifications for a trim trail which we hope will appeal to older primary age children. This equipment should be installed by Easter.

Sustainability Open Forum– 7pm Wednesday 7th February before the PC meeting at 7.30pm. This meeting is open to everyone. Are you passionate about the environment? Do you have ideas about how we can improve the sustainability of our village? If so, please come along to the forum where ideas for sustainability and the environment will be discussed. If you can't make the meeting but would like to contribute, or find out more about the working group, please email Rachael.whelan@guildensuttonpc.co.uk

Community Speedwatch-We have been able to resume the Community Speedwatch after new regulations were put in place. A number of sessions were conducted before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who adhered to the speed limits. There were a few drivers doing considerably over the speed limit however, and these have been reported to the Police. Further sessions are planned in the New Year.

Guilden Sutton Bus Service- Due to the sustained level of interest in this topic, the Council has decided to deliver a survey to all households in the village. We would be grateful if you would fill in the questionnaire delivered with this newsletter and return it to the box in the Post Office. This will help us gather more evidence on the needs of the bus service within the village. The survey can also be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5H3D73V> or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Dates to note:

3rd February Councillors Surgery 10am-10:30am at the Post Office
Weds 7th February 7pm Sustainability Open Forum, followed by Parish Council at 7:30pm at the Village Hall.

Future Surgeries - **Sat 2nd March** and **Sat 30th March**

Parish Council Meetings 7.30pm **Weds 6th March** and **Weds 3rd April**
(including **Annual Parish meeting at 7pm**).

Parish Councillors: Chair Derek Hughes; Vice Chair Sue Ringstead;
Members: Mel Littlewood, Trisha Paterson, Alan Davies, Rachael Whelan, David Walters, Victoria Roberts

Contact: clerk@guildensuttonpc.co.uk

Answerphone 07733 414175

Web: www.guildensuttonpc.co.uk

To sign up to receive Parish Council information and newsletters to your inbox, visit the website or follow the QR code to the right:



Other useful contacts:

CWaC www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Ward Councillors: Graham Heatley and Margaret Parker

Local Police – See Facebook ‘chestervillagespolice’ or ring 0845 458 6375 for non-urgent local issues, 101 for general issues or 999 in an emergency.

Report an issue:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it> or follow the QR code below:



Wildflower Garden Update: Progress has been slower than we had hoped, due to the delays with the lease, but we are ready now to choose a name and we need your help! Please complete the box below and hand it in to the box in the Post Office. Please write 1 in the box next to your first preference, 2 for your second favourite etc. You don't have to use all 5 preferences if you don't like some of the names. Alternatively send an email to guildensuttonwildflower@gmail.com with your choices by Friday 2nd February.

Upper Hollows (a connection with The Hollows path in the village)	
Marigold Garden (Guilden Sutton's emblem is the Marsh Marigold)	
Jubilee Meadow (Some funding for the garden was linked to the platinum jubilee)	
Garden of Peace & Tranquillity (reflecting the atmosphere we hope to create)	
Fox Meadow (The garden is next to Fox Cover)	
Guilden Sutton Wildflower Garden (That's what it is)	

Thanks to funds available from the Cinema Club, we've been able to buy more seeds and bulbs while we wait for the Spacehive funds which will be transferred to the Parish Council when the lease is signed.

Come the Spring we'll be installing herb beds, a notice board, a fruit tree and seating. The remaining funds will cover grass-cutting around the edge of the garden and other maintenance. Volunteers will be needed from time to time, and we'll publish details through the Village WhatsApp, Facebook and a poster in the garden. The noticeboard will have information about what plants and flowers to look for in the garden.

Thanks to the members of the group for continued support and enthusiasm with very special mention to Tom Jennings, Tim Price and Beavers for their work in the garden.