

USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency Numbers

Police, fire or ambulance	999
Electricity	0800 028 0247
Gas (24 hr)	0800 111 999
Water (24 hr)	08457 145145
The Samaritans	08457 90 90 90
Social Services (out of hours)	01604 626938

Advice & Information

Age UK	01604 611200
Alcoholics Anonymous	0845 7697555
Citizens Advice Bureau	0844 4111 4444
Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
National Drugs Helpline	0800 776600
NHS 111	111
General Hospital	01604 634700
Sleeping Rough	01604 629804
Community Law Service	01604 621038

Northampton Borough Council

All Council Services (Standard Rate)	0300 330 7000
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Waste and recycling collections are provided for Northampton Borough Council by Enterprise Managed Services.
recycling@northampton.gov.uk or visit
www.northampton.gov.uk/recycling

Out-of-hours

To report a stray dog out-of-hours
01604 837999

To report other complaints eg noise ring 01604 838000 to leave a message. This will be dealt with on the next working day

Northamptonshire County Council

Switchboard	0300 126 1000
School transport	01604 236132
Street Doc (Road Maintenance & Lighting)	0845 6011113
Trading standards	08454 04 05 06

USEFUL WEBSITES

Report Rubbish & Graffiti online
<http://selfserve.northampton.gov.uk/mycouncil>

Report problems with Potholes, Street signs etc. online
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/contactusstreetdoctor



CONTACT US

Please email us if you wish to comment on anything in this newsletter
hunsburymeadowspc@gmail.com



British Waterways

Maintenance of canal towpath

You may have seen British Waterways making improvements to the canal towpath by the road bridge. The Parish Council are aware of the damage caused to the verges whilst they undertake this work. We have been in touch with the relevant parties and have been assured that everything will be put back to its original condition prior to the work starting.

Sunshine WINDOWS
Traditional methods, hands on!!
Reliable and friendly service.

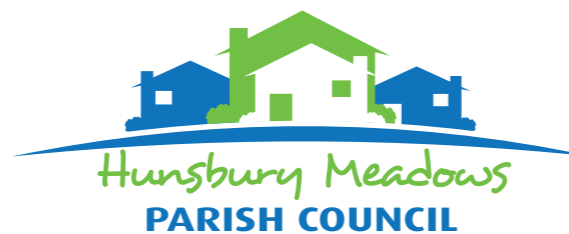
**Looking for a window cleaner?
For a FREE quote call today
07856 593775**

Sunshine EXTERNAL VALETING
Pressure Washing of Driveways · Patios
Timber Decking · Garden Furniture
Conservatory Roofs · Garage Doors
Fascias · Soffits · Guttering

YOUR ADVERT HERE

Your Parish Council is keen to provide a facility for local tradesmen and businesses to advertise their expertise in this newsletter; which will be distributed free to every household in the Parish, whilst at the same time helping the Council to reduce the cost of newsletter production.

The cost of an advert this size is just £24 per issue, or £60 per annum (a minimum of 3 issues) inc VAT. Please contact the Council to place your advert in the next issue.



PARISH NEWS

January 2015

A message from our Chairman

Whatever happened to 2014, the year just seemed to fly by and here we are already into January 2015. It seemed as if just the other day, we were looking forward to a great summer and watching the daffodils and poppies bloom on the earthen mound in Banbury Lane as we either walked or drove into Hunsbury Meadows. Although 2014 seemed to fly by, I am personally very proud of what has been achieved by your Parish Council during the last few months. Some very real and tangible improvements have been secured for the benefit our parishioner's and the overall environment here at Hunsbury Meadows.



We finally installed the second of the VAS speed indication devices in Banbury Lane, helping to create more speed awareness in passing drivers and improve overall safety. We believe these devices to be a major contributor to reducing speed and ensuring that crossing the road is now generally safer for our school children and our older and more infirm residents. The installation of three new park benches, two high profile litter bins and three additional dog poo bins have been installed on and around the green space in Banbury Lane and they are being used already on a daily basis. We should not forget to mention the new landscape planting and installation of two oak planters as you enter into Hunsbury Meadows from both ends of Banbury Lane. These will be professionally maintained on an ongoing monthly basis from this point on.

New Hunsbury Meadows road signs have been installed in consultation with MGWSP (NCC Highways) to enhance residential recognition of where we live, helping us all to be just a little bit more proud of Hunsbury Meadows, enhancing our image as a compelling residential area in which to live. Your Councillors have also been busy negotiating over several months with the Borough Council and with Enterprise their landscaping contractors to ensure measurable improvements in the quality of grass cutting, hedge trimming and future tree management.

We continue to seek out new Neighborhood Watch coordinators for additional schemes particularly from the Pineham Lock development and the area around Samwell Way.

We were delighted that we had a number of residents who attended our Parish Council meeting in November. We benefited from some lively discussion and a number of local issues were raised. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month with the next meeting falling on February 3rd. You are most welcome to attend and you will have every opportunity to make sure that your Parish Council understands and appreciates the issues that impact on your daily lives living in Hunsbury Meadows. We have suffered from some minor vandalism issues in latter months and the Parish Council are dealing together in with the Police to ensure this is finally stamped out and the culprits suitably dealt with.

Finally your Parish Councillors will need to stand for re-election in May 2015 should they wish to continue to represent you. If you would like to stand as a Councillor for the Parish Council, then this is your opportunity to help make a difference and continue to work to improve the quality of where we live. The local elections will fall on the same day as the General Election for National Government, so a very important day when hopefully everyone at Hunsbury Meadows will exercise their right to vote.

Steve Jelley - Chairman, Hunsbury Meadows Parish Council

CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE

101

IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

WHEN SHOULD I USE 101?

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, if:

- Your car has been stolen
- Your property has been damaged
- You suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood

Or to:

- Report a minor traffic collision
- Give the police information about crime in your area
- Speak to the police about a general enquiry

You should always call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.



Trees and Shrubs

The Council is well aware that the height of many established trees throughout the parish, particularly along Banbury Lane, is becoming a problem. The Borough and County Councils are being as helpful as possible in their respective areas, but before too long, action will need to be taken to cut back the trees at high level, which the Parish Council may have to fund.

Meanwhile, could we please ask all home owners who have hedges or shrubs in their gardens which overhang public footways, to please keep them regularly trimmed. Thank you.

The Council has also noticed one or two instances of garden waste being dumped in hedgerows and ditches. We would ask residents to desist from doing this – the brown bins provided by the Council are more than adequate for the purpose. Dumping of grass cuttings, etc. only makes the hedges and ditches look more untidy and even more difficult to manage.

Bus Stops and Services

Following a suggestion from a resident, the Council is considering approaching the Northamptonshire County Council to see whether bus stops can be provided on Upton Valley Way, near to its junction with Banbury Lane, to provide a stopping facility for the bus service (Service No.50/50a) that runs along Upton Valley Way to the Pineham Business Park. This is a regular bus service and would provide an additional bus facility to that provided by the bus that runs along Banbury Lane to Towcester (Service No.87) The Council would like to hear from anyone who would be likely to use this route, so that we can make the case to the County Council. Please let us know by emailing hunsburymeadowspc@gmail.com



Possible Parish Hall Community Centre?

A suggestion has been put to the Council that we should endeavour to provide a Community Hall within our Parish. What do you think? Please see the attached questionnaire incorporating further details. Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire, as directed, and return it. We need your views and as much public participation in this idea as possible, so that we can move forward, if that is the general wish..

Parish Council Elections

Residents attention is drawn to the fact that next May will see the first opportunity for parishioners to elect their Parish Council. This will be the first available election opportunity since the Council was formed in 2011. All eight seats on the Council are up for election. All existing Councillors and co-opted members must put themselves up for election if they wish to stand again.

Nomination papers will be available in due course through the Borough Council's Website or from Electoral Registration at the Guildhall, either by post or by downloading.

The Council hopes that there will be at least sufficient nominees to fill the vacancies. Hopefully, there will be more nominees than vacancies so that we can have an election.

The Council is entirely non-political so here is the chance for every interested resident to put their names forward to join the Council and to play a part in caring for our community.



Litter Collection

What are you doing on Saturday 11th April this year?

The Council is planning a grand litter pick across the parish. We want as many people as possible to assemble in the children's playground off Banbury Lane at 10.30am. The more people who turn up, the more of the parish we can cover and the more effective and quicker it will take. Protective gloves,sacks, etc will be provided. Tea and biscuits will be provided at the end of proceedings.

Please make a big note in your diary.

Electoral Registration

Are you registered to vote?



The General Election is next May – DON'T LOSE YOUR VOTE. (There will also be elections for Borough and Parish Councillors.)

Have you recently moved into the Parish ? Are there any new voters in your household ? Is your name on the Electoral Register?

If you have any reason to believe your name is not on the list, check with Electoral Registration at the Guildhall. If you have just moved into the Parish, you may be registered at a previous address and require a postal vote in respect of that address, if so contact your previous Local Authority NOW.

DON'T LOSE YOUR VOTE !

Recycling Centre - Sixfields



Please note that the County Council has advised that, due to significant reductions in funding, as from 1st February 2015 the Sixfields Recycling centre will be closed on Mondays and Thursdays. On all other days of the week, the Site will be open from 10.00am until 6.00pm.



Bins

We have now funded and installed an additional three dog waste bins and two new litter bins in the Parish. We have also arranged for these to be emptied weekly. Please make use of them and help keep Hunsbury Meadows tidy.

2015/16 Parish Council Precept

Your Council has agreed its budget for the forthcoming financial (2015/2016) and has determined a precept (the amount we ask the Borough Council to collect on our behalf) of £14,220. This compares to a precept for the current financial year of £13,820; an increase of just under 3%.

Hunsbury Meadows is, of course, a growing parish, which means that our tax base, year on year, is also growing. The effect of the expansion means that we are able to spread the burden of the precept to include the growing development at Pineham Lock.

Consequently, we anticipate that the Band D Council Tax for the Parish in 2015/2016 will be £29.08, exactly the same as for the current year's figure.

Despite maintaining the precept at the existing level, we have been able to include, within the Council's budget provisions to upgrade the children's playground, to provide a new Parish sign and to significantly reduce the height of the trees in Banbury Lane.

Vandalism

There has been a recent spate of vandalism in the area ranging from criminal damage to Parish Council benches and theft/removal/destruction of garden ornaments and planters. We have been liaising closely with the Police on this matter and the incidents are currently being investigated. Should any further incidents occur may we remind you as residents to report them to the Police on 101 as soon as they happen, many thanks for your co-operation on this matter.