



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE NEWS

Edition 2. February 2012

Some current issues in the village

- **Snow Patrol** The village now has a team of 12 volunteers who will swing into action if we get a sudden fall of heavy snow. It is aimed to try to keep the pathways in key areas safe. We are grateful for the support offered by the magnificent 12. Anyone else willing to join can phone Harry Stone on 241026.
- **Broadband** Provision of fast wireless broadband has been secured by "County Broadband". It is now available to the majority of the village at speeds between 2 and 8 Mb/sec. About 100 households are already connected and the take up will increase. Speeds in excess of 25Mb/sec. are to be introduced in 2012.
- **GP surgery** A survey is currently being carried out by our Doctors' surgery. The aim is to advise the recently formed "Patient Referral Group" of how the practice is viewed by residents in order that good practice can be enhanced and if there are any areas of concern these can be tackled. The process will be assisted by as many returns as possible. **Please return your completed forms.**
- **Safety and Security** Two recently reported problems here:- 1. The village has experienced the nuisance of rubbish bags being tampered with and strewn around. The motives for this are not clear but the police are aware. The advice is not to put out rubbish bags until the morning of collection. 2. The village is not often plagued with vandalism but recently there has been damage to cars in Mumford Road and Close and New Church Road. The police would welcome any information. Any resident affected should report it and ensure they receive a crime number.
- **Village School** Plans are in place for Essex County Council to expand Heathlands School. These plans have recently been passed. The Parish Council felt it right to object to the aesthetically poor design. It is also disappointing that the plans were passed without due regard being taken for the safety concerns voiced about an ever increasing amount of traffic and the congestion around the school area at key times.
- **Dog Fouling** There have again been complaints from residents regarding dog fouling in some areas. Marcus Harrington (one of our Borough Councillors) has arranged for the Dog Warden to patrol the village. A fixed penalty of £50 can be issued, without warning, to offenders who do not clear up after their dogs. There are plenty of dog bins in the village to use. It is the few offenders who are giving a bad name to other dog walkers. **Please clear up after your dog.**

More news and information is available on the village website - www.westbergholt.net. The next issue of the "Village Bulletin" is due at the beginning of March and will contain a pull out of the updated report of the Parish Plan.