

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

The final full Parish Council meeting of 2007 was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The year end usually heralds a plethora of quizzes however as far as the Parish Council is concerned we seem to be receiving a survey or consultation on every conceivable aspect of Parish business. We recently had to deal with a consultation regarding the R5 bus route - the new bus stop signs which have recently appeared being one of the proposals. This month we have received surveys from the Police, Fire Brigade and Highways. The Highways satisfaction survey will no doubt be the easiest to complete - Very Dissatisfied!

Not wanting to be left out the Parish Council agreed to carry out an allotment survey which will fall through your letterboxes during the next quarter.

The Clerk reported that a request had been received from EDF for access across Parish Council land to enable them to reduce the height of the radio mast. This came as a bit of a surprise as over the past few years we have regularly dealt with applications to place more equipment on the mast notably from mobile 'phone companies.

The Council has recently been advised that Halstead & Knockholt will shortly benefit from an extra half a PCSO. How this will actually work in practice we will have to wait and see however extra police support manpower in the village can only be welcomed.

In years gone by the Parish Precept was always dealt with at the January meeting of the Council however in recent years this work needs to be completed by year end and so the Finance Committee had met and considered all the funding requests from the Committees of the Council. These ranged from expenditure at Lett's Green Pond from the Amenities Committee to a lap top, projector & screen from the Planning Committee to deal with the introduction of electronic planning. Despite several new demands on the budget for 2008/9 the Finance Committee were able to propose to the Council a 0% increase to the Parish Precept. As has been said in previous years whilst your Council Tax will surely rise next year the Parish Council will not be contributing to any increase.

The Fort Halstead working group continues to progress matters and there have recently been meetings with Hines, the developers. At present effected Parishes are working together gathering information so as and when an application is put forward we are fully equipped to respond to same. Currently it is thought an outline planning application will be submitted in the Summer of 2008 - when this happens we will surely see increased attendances at Parish Council meeting!

The first meeting of the New Year will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 7.45pm in the Village Centre. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and parishioners are able to ask questions and the beginning and end of each meeting. The Parish Council take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Alan Hildrew*