

Coddenham Parish Council Newsletter

A warm welcome from your Parish Council. Working for You. August 2023

Welcome to our newsletter which aims to keep you in touch with the work of the parish council so that everyone in the community feels involved and connected. There are contact details at the foot of this newsletter. Please do get in touch.

Community Litter Pick



The March litter pick was a morning of contrasts. It was heartening to see an increased number of eager parishioners brandishing litter grabbers as they set off to clear the pavements and verges. However, it was extremely disappointing that the amount of litter being discarded within our parish had, once again, increased. The eager pickers not only collected the expected drinks cans and food packaging but also the more surprising. Such included a large enamel bowl, bits of cars and a discarded Amazon parcel. Fifteen sacks, over half of the total, was collected on the B1078 from the bridge to the A140. Refreshments were provided by The Coddenham Centre where the weary “wombles” gathered to swap stories of their more unusual finds.

Thank you to all who helped and please join us again for the next litter pick on Saturday 23 September from 10.00 to 12.00, starting from The Coddenham Centre.

Green Spaces

Broom Hill

Wildflower enthusiasts will have noted that 2023 is a good year for the pyramidal orchid, especially in our churchyard and Broom Hill grassland. It is also increasing in number on Three Cocked hat and the grass slope below the tennis courts at The Coddenham Centre. The number of foxgloves and spread of wild honeysuckle has also increased in the woodland of Broom Hill. The wet spring and more recent rain have not only resulted in abundant growth, albeit not always popular when adjacent to our footpaths, but have enabled the oak saplings planted in February on Broom Hill to thrive. Ramblers and dog walkers on the footpath adjacent to the Broom Hill grassland may not be aware that the sewing machine-like sound they hear is the “song” of the Great Green bush cricket. Suffolk Wildlife Trust have suggested that the presence of this rare species, as well the small scabious and small heath butterfly, may warrant the grassland of Broom Hill as a candidate to be designated as a County Wildlife Site. The annual grass cut of Broom Hill and the churchyard has been scheduled for September. Following Suffolk Wildlife Trust recommendation, Three Cocked Hat will next be included in the 2024 cut.



Three Cocked Hat



In March, the parish council, with the help of volunteers, installed a litter bin next to the layby on Three Cocked Hat and are pleased to report that this has significantly reduced littering in the area. Signs were also installed on each side of the island to request that road users respect Three Cocked Hat as a wildlife site. Unfortunately, the lime trees planted in the winter of 2021/22 did not survive the extreme heat of last summer and replacement limes will be planted this autumn.

Tree Works

Having regard to public safety, the parish council engaged an arboricultural consultant to survey the condition of the trees on Broom Hill, Mill Hill and Three Cocked Hat. The report recommended priority works on four common lime trees on Three Cocked Hat as branches are overhanging the highway. Work to clear ivy from an oak on Mill Hill and a climbing survey of a second oak on Mill Hill are also scheduled within the next 12 months.

Volunteer Working Mornings

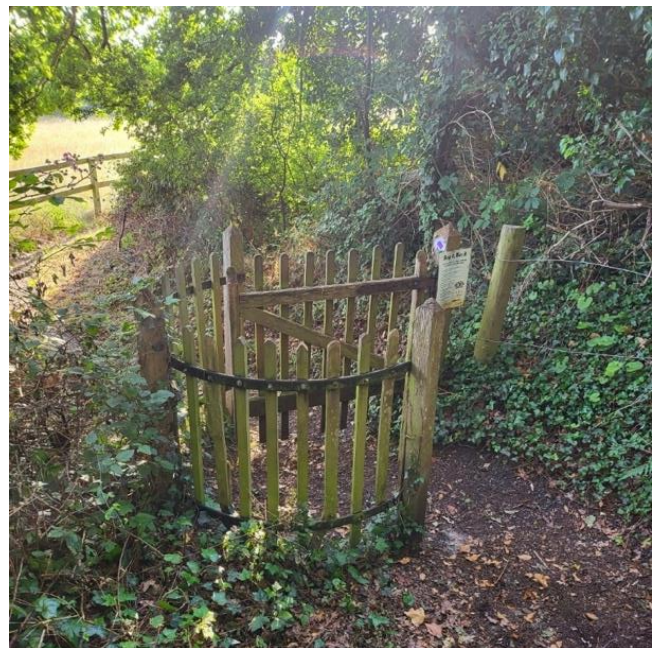
The quest to control bramble and bracken on Broom Hill and Mill Hill continues and volunteer working party mornings are planned for October. If you value our green spaces and can spare some time to help you will be very welcome. Working party mornings are always very sociable and there will be cake!

Footpaths and Rights of Way

Maintenance and Seasonal Clearance

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is responsible for clearance of seasonal growth and the repair of structures and bridges. SCC uses a tractor mounted mower to cut all the vehicle accessible paths. Since the 1990s, the parish council has received a payment from SCC to clear seasonal growth by hand on those footpaths not accessible to a tractor mower. In 2022 the parish council decided to relinquish this work because it had struggled to find sub-contractors willing to take on this work so that this reverted to SCC. This year the parish council has received a number of complaints about certain overgrown footpaths close to the village. Therefore, the parish council is considering its options as regards footpath cutting in 2024.

Kissing Gates



Kissing gates are a traditional way of allowing people to walk a footpath whilst preventing livestock from passing through. The one in the picture is at the western end of Broom Hill. There are also three more at the entrances to the churchyard. These are residual features left over from the days when sheep grazed the churchyard and cattle roamed on Broom Hill. In 1985, the remnants of the kissing gate at the eastern end of Broom Hill were dismantled. There is no prospect of livestock being grazed in the churchyard or on Broom Hill in the foreseeable future and, therefore, the kissing gates are redundant for their original purpose but they are a historic feature and have character.

The use of kissing gates and styles are more recently discouraged as they do not allow for disabled and pushchair access along paths. The gate shown in the picture needs repair work as one of the posts has rotted. The parish council wants to know whether to repair these gates as they deteriorate or remove them. Please email your thoughts to the clerk.

Parish Council Website

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that some pages on the parish council website are in need of a refresh. Whilst our clerk, Sue, keeps the section under “Your Parish Council” up to date, the rebuild of the remainder of the site is currently underway.

Duke’s Head Update

As the third anniversary approaches of the granting of planning and listed building consents to convert the Duke’s Head into a residential dwelling, two “discharge of conditions” applications, which are required to be satisfied before work can commence on site, are underway. New documents have been uploaded to the Mid Suffolk District Council planning portal and are available for public viewing. So, it would appear that the applicant and their agent are working behind the scenes to finalise with the local planning authority the discharge all these various pre-conditions to enable the physical work to commence. The parish council is, therefore, hopeful that the day when the Duke’s Head is restored and becomes a lived-in home is finally getting closer.

Sizewell C Project Update

The parish council hosted Michelle Emmerson-Grey, a Coddtenham resident, and Zoe Botten from the Sizewell C Project Community Relations team on 25 July at The Coddtenham Centre to which all residents were invited. They provided an update on the strategies and commitments provided by the project to ensure that all project traffic uses main arterial routes and does not use the B1078 through Coddtenham. Their presentation and other project documents such as the Freight Management Strategy and the Construction Worker Travel Plan will be available on the parish council website.

Coddtenham Parish Council following Local Elections

Following the local elections in early May, your new parish council is in place to serve the community for the next four years. Although we have 11 seats, we start this new phase with six councillors. All councillors are committed to working with other parish organisations and our county and district councillors for the collective benefit of parish residents. In the latter case, this will include a new district councillor, Dave Penny (Green Party), whom we welcome. Our other district councillor is John Whitehead (Conservative), who retained his seat and is well known to many residents of Coddtenham for the support he has provided over the past four years. He is also now one of us, having both moved to the village and become a parish councillor in addition to his district responsibilities. Matthew Hicks (Conservative), leader of SCC, remains our responsible county councillor.

Your Parish Councillors

- Councillor Donald Burton
- Councillor Rob Denning
- Councillor Sarah Gregory (Chair)
- Councillor Nick Mills (Vice Chair)
- Councillor Jane Soanes
- Councillor John Whitehead

Councillor Areas of Focus

Alongside their collective roles, individual councillors will take the lead in the following areas:

Finance/Precept	Clr Gregory, Clr Mills and Clr Whitehead, with the Clerk
Green spaces and footpaths	Clr Burton, Clr Mills and Clr Soanes
Newsletter	Clr Gregory
Planning	Clr Denning and Clr Gregory
Roads and traffic	Clr Denning
Websites (Parish and Parish Council)	The Clerk, Clr Mills (Interim)
Ten Village News	Clr Mills
Energy conservation and recycling	Clr Gregory, Clr Mills and Clr Soanes
Community shop liaison	Clr Whitehead
The Day Foundation liaison	Clr Denning
The Coddtenham Centre liaison	Clr Mills
CCRG liaison	Clr Mills
SALC	Clr Gregory
Gardemau Trusts liaison	Clr Whitehead

Become a Parish Councillor

We are keen to encourage others to join the parish council to fill all or some of the five open positions through the co-option process. Parish councils benefit from having a range of views from residents who want to contribute for the good of the whole community. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a councillor to come and talk to one or more of us and to sit in on a parish council meeting. These are held six times a year. Please contact the clerk or feel free to approach a councillor known to you.

Help for Suffolk Pre-payment Meter customers

A package of support has been created for pre-payment meter customers in Suffolk who are struggling with their energy bills. The service is now able to offer specific help for households struggling to pay their energy bills via a pre-payment meter, in addition to its existing support. If you are struggling to pay your energy bills or know someone who is so affected, please get in touch. Pre-payment meter customers who would like support can contact prepay@eastssuffolk.gov.uk to find out more, or call: Prepay West at 07769 365796, or Prepay East at 07769 366229. To find out more about the support on offer, visit: <https://www.warmhomessuffolk.org/>

Broadband investment in Suffolk under Project Gigabit

Better broadband is on its way for around 80,000 properties across rural Suffolk in a £100 million investment under a £5 billion government infrastructure programme, Project Gigabit. Once connected, residents and businesses should enjoy access to broadband services over a network capable of supporting speeds of up to 10Gbps. If you are aware of any particular black spots in the parish where the broadband speed is currently slow, please let us know and we will pass those details on. Please also visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/project-gigabit-uk-gigabit-programme>

Coddenham Parish Community Plan

The Coddenham Parish Community Plan 2023-2030 (Plan) was published in June 2023. It was produced by the members of the Coddenham Community Response Group (CCRG), which includes the parish's charitable, statutory and voluntary organisations, including the parish council. It was funded by the Day Foundation.

Residents have been asked to join one of the five working groups which the Plan proposes should be formed or to provide further input. Whilst responses to the 2022 survey are the main basis for the Plan, the intention is that the Plan will respond to feedback. The Plan has no formal status. However, as it represents the views of the parish's organisations and many of its households, it is viewed as a valuable input to future decision making, grant awards and dealing with issues experienced by the parish.

Our parish council supports taking the Plan forward, but its responsibilities do not change as a result of the Plan. If any Plan activities lead to requests for financial contributions from the parish council or the parish council wishes to be the sponsoring organisation, they will be approved by the full council in the usual way.



**The Coddenham Parish
Community Plan 2023 is
NOW AVAILABLE**

For your comments, participation
and contributions



Point your smart phone camera or go to
www.coddenham-parish.uk/shape-the-future

How to contact us

Please contact the parish council through the clerk, Sue Frankis. Email: clerk.coddenhampc@gmail.com; Phone: 07548 152181. The parish council website's address is: <https://www.coddenhampc.org.uk>