

Autumn 2024 Newsletter from Framingham Earl Parish Council



In October, all members of the parish council were out planting bulbs in the village, courtesy of some grant money from the district council. We have planted a mixture of bulbs by the village green, the roundabout on the B1332 and around the "Dell" area on Pigot Lane and Long Road. If all goes well, we should see some welcome flowers early in 2025.

Our volunteer litter-pickers continue to work hard to keep the streets as clean as they can. The One Stop shop have still not reinstated their litter bin and it sometimes takes our volunteers over an hour to clear the area around the village green as a consequence. If you can take your litter home with you that does help us enormously to keep the area tidy.

South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council costs make up the bulk of the annual council tax bill, alongside charges for the police and social care. The charge you pay for Framingham Earl parish council this year (our "precept") is around £2.50 per month for a Band D council tax payer. We will shortly be setting our budget for next year. We have seen increased costs for litter and dog bin collection, grass cutting and verge strimming amongst others - but we will always strive to manage these costs carefully. We do not have any source of income other than the council tax precept we receive from South Norfolk so we do anticipate that the charge will have to go up next year. However Framingham Earl will remain one of the lowest parish council precepts in the district.

We have had the bench on the village green refurbished with help from the local Men's Shed. On the 11th November we will lay a poppy wreath on the grave of a World War 1 soldier who is buried in the churchyard at St Andrew's and on Remembrance Sunday, a wreath will be placed on the village green flower bed which was originally created in honour of those who had served in the armed services.

As winter approaches, it is vital that all drainage ditches are kept clear. It is nearly always the responsibility of the landowner adjacent to the ditch to keep it clear whether or not the title deeds or any covenants mention this specifically. Issues caused by the blockage in a ditch near you may not be apparent but could be affecting another resident some distance away. Later in October we will be inspecting the ditches on Gull Lane with the local authority to see if there are any improvements that can be made to drainage along the road there.

We are hoping to receive funding in 2025 to conduct traffic surveys on Long Road and Pigot Lane. The parish council has long campaigned for a reduction in the speed limit on these roads to 30 mph, in keeping with all the surrounding roads in the village. The character of both of these roads has changed considerably in the decades since the current limits were determined, especially with additional housing and increased traffic. We are also conscious that these roads are popular with cyclists and pedestrians. These surveys will help build a case for a change in speed limits but there will still be further funding needed to implement any recommended changes.

We know that there have been issues with postal delivery in the area in recent months. A number of meetings have taken place, led by our district councillor and including the involvement of the newly elected MP for the area. This has resulted in a much improved service of late. Please do bear in mind however that the issues have been with Royal Mail and not the Post Office. It just happens to be the case in Framingham Earl that the Royal Mail delivery office is located behind the Post Office/One Stop shop. The Post Office staff have been very helpful to customers who have experienced these postal delays but they are not responsible for them and we would hope everyone would therefore treat them with the appropriate respect and courtesy.

We publish news and updates on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. We will be updating and improving our website in the coming months but in the meantime you can still learn more about what we do, our councillors and the minutes of all our meetings on our existing website which is <https://framinghamearpc.wixsite.com/framinghamearpc>