

Views invited on priorities for council projects

The February edition of the Parish Magazine had details of the budget set by the Parish Council for 2018/19, which required no increase in the parish precept. The figures also set out details of 'ring-fenced' amounts for major projects which were: additional parking facilities; lighting and repairing The Drift.

We are still looking for potential land to lease or purchase in or near the Centre of the Village that might potentially be used for additional parking. We are also trying to tackle the inconsiderate parking in Mill Lane on the Suffolk side of the bridge.

When it comes to lighting there are controversial views. Charles Clover, chairman of the Dedham Vale Society, wrote an interesting article in the same Parish Magazine. Since Dedham is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Conservation area clearly any agreed lighting scheme would need to be unobtrusive and environmentally sensitive. Some residents and particularly the elderly believe that additional lighting in some key areas would help people to feel safer in venturing out at night. For this reason the Parish Council has established a Working Party that had its first meeting last month to look at some limited improvement in areas of higher risk.

The third part of earmarked expenditure is for essential work on The Drift to improve both short and longer term safety in wet weather.

We would welcome views from residents, local organisations and our businesses on any of the above proposals and of course if one or other of these does not go ahead we would be seeking an alternative project to fund that would also benefit the whole community. In this regard I also invite you to



The Drift: one of the council's projects

let us know what you believe the priorities for the parish council's expenditure should be over the next five to ten years.

It is then proposed to consider and discuss your feedback at our annual Parish Assembly, which this year will take place on **Tuesday, 30 May** in the Assembly Rooms. Please let myself or our clerk have any views by **30 April** in order to plan for this session.

In addition to my Annual Report at this meeting we are also planning to have a speaker on Tourism following the successful opening of our new Tourist Information Point in the Craft Centre and the centenary anniversary of Munnings Museum with its associated activities (see page 24) I hope this will make an interesting evening for all and we hope to see some of you there. Dates and times are set out below.

Sheila Beeton

Annual Parish Meeting: Monday, 14 May 7.30 pm Assembly Rooms

Annual Parish Assembly: Tuesday, 30 May 7.30 pm Assembly Rooms

DEDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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