

HAVE YOUR SAY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

Members of Birchanger Parish Council visited the roadshow put on by BAA and the Highways Agency when it came to Stansted on Wednesday 9th May, and were horrified by what they saw.

The roadshow forms part of a consultation process about access to the airport if a second runway is approved as well as other 'improvements' to the M11 between Junctions 6 (M25) and 8.

Make no mistake - the proposed changes to the M11 junction near Birchanger will have a serious effect on residents at the motorway end of the village, especially those in Duck End.

The plan is to build a new 'two bridge' junction close to Parsonage Farm to carry traffic to and from the new terminal serving the second runway. The problem is that they intend to combine it with the existing junctions 8 and 8a to make a huge 'spaghetti junction'. The existing slip road from the roundabout to the M11 northbound will be realigned to take traffic directly to the new junction 8b, along a new road to be built between the existing carriageway and Duck End.

The consultation has another unpleasant surprise for those Birchanger residents who ride horses, as the plan is that the bridleway on the far side of the M11 will be either sandwiched between two high-speed roads or moved to a new route this side of the M11.

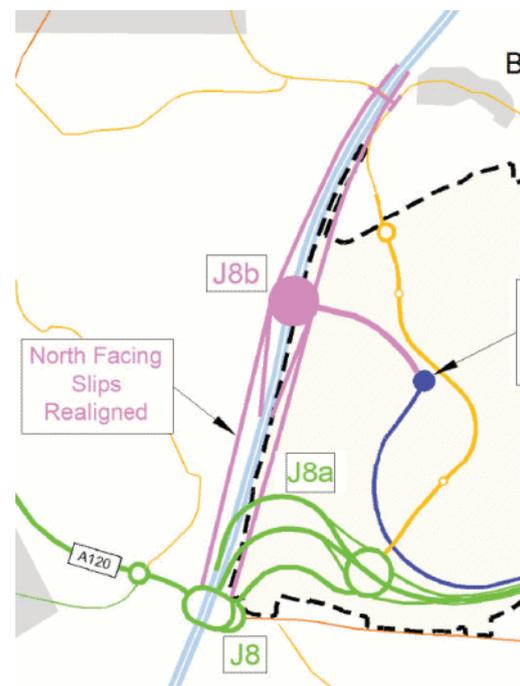
Rail commuters are not unaffected, either, as the consultation is asking us to believe that the railway will not require any major infrastructure upgrade until at least 2020.

There is only one roadshow left, on 25th May in the Memorial Hall, Sawbridgeworth. Opening hours are 1100 - 2100.

The consultation document can be obtained from

BAA at www.stanstedairport.com/futures. If you don't have Internet access then ask the Parish Council to discuss the consultation with you or try to obtain a printed copy of the document.

If you feel strongly about any aspect of BAA's plans then please make your views known. But hurry - the consultation ends on 6th June.



Detail from the consultation document

Elizabeth Wins

Elizabeth Godwin held on to the Birchanger ward of Uttlesford District Council on 3rd May, gaining over 90% of the vote. Full story on page 5. Other local election news on page 3.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS *Elizabeth Godwin*

Welcome to our new Rector

It is good to know that the Benefice has a new Rector, Paul Wilkin. Several people in Birchanger met Paul when he and the other candidates visited Birchanger on the final selection day. There were four excellent candidates in all. Paul comes from Hornchurch, and is expected to take up the Benefice at the end of July, although he will be seen about the villages before then.

There was a large congregation in Church on Good Friday to hear the Bishop of Colchester lead a short service in Birchanger Church. Maybe congregations in Birchanger will grow in the coming years. We do need this to show that we can keep St Mary's very much alive and a part of village life. Several people in Birchanger are working hard to achieve this, but they do need your support.

(More on the new rector on Page 4)

Limited highway improvements on offer

Way back in the mid nineties when work on the proposed development at Rochfords was discussed after the court case when the Four Parishes took the District Council to court over the proposed Airport Related Houses Developments, there was the promise of some highway improvements for Birchanger. These were to be funded by the developer and chosen by the villages of Birchanger and Stansted. Funding was and still is very limited, and it seems that now there is not so much on offer as was originally planned.

Schemes still include the possible partial closure of Forest Hall Rd, traffic calming, and the realigning of adverse camber. There have been many changes in the remaking of Forest Hall Rd, some definitely not for the better, and the camber still appears to be adverse in some areas.

Also included is the one way working and traffic calming for Tot Lane. There are still supposed to be traffic lights at Pesterford Bridge, but there is no roundabout or improvement planned for the junction at Birchanger Lane and the B1383. There

is a proposed traffic survey and unspecified traffic calming for Birchanger Lane.

In the past there have been more specific improvements such as controlled crossings, a 20mph speed limit, and a Traffic Order to restrict HGVs to access only in Birchanger Lane. Bradley Common was also singled out for more specific treatment, if funding allows.

Your views on this are vital, as the Parish Council must respond to the consultation this month. Things have changed in the last ten years and it may be that you believe that we now have more pressing needs and you have your own ideas. Please tell either myself on 812793, or our Parish Clerk Julia Peachey on 503912 what you think would be best for Birchanger.

The airport declines our invitation

Despite the fact that Birchanger will be the location worst affected by the new surface access proposals for the second runway, the project director, Alastair McDermid, has refused a request to bring the exhibition showing the new roads and their siting to the village. Residents here are supposed to look at the brief version of the consultation documents, the community newsletter, or make individual requests for hard copies.

This cannot be said to be a full and proper consultation, and one which will come back to haunt Mr McDermid at any future inquiry into Stansted Generation 2. BAA complained that on their last visit to Birchanger only 40 residents attended the 10 hour session. This was the poorest attended session in the district, but we were also one of the smallest villages visited.

As ever it seems that individuals cannot make any impression acting on their own. It does mean that there has to be a lot of representations from a great many more people living in Birchanger, as there have been in Burton End. If we do not want to see this new access eating yet further into the village, we all have to say something about it now. Please make your views known as soon as possible to the project manager, Alastair McDermid, at the airport.

Poor turn-out for the annual Parish meeting

It might have been the absence of the Parish Council Annual Newsletter this year, an unusually good evening on television, failure to read this magazine, or just plain apathy which attracted a very low turn out for the Annual parish Meeting last month. The issues are big and will not go away and those who are trying to preserve the village from the ever increasing threats of over development from many sources do feel discouraged when there are not the people there to hear about what is happening, and to express their views.

Brian Ross gave a very interesting and entertaining presentation on the airport and how SSE are proposing to handle the two forthcoming inquiries, and clearly demonstrated the need for a great many more people to become involved and ask to speak at the inquiry. You have until May 30th to register your desire to do this to Simon Osborn at 1 Lower Cottages, Yeldham Rd, Belchamp Walter, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7BA, or email him on sosborn@uttlesford.gov.uk.

We also heard from Mrs Millership, the acting manager at Essex County Highways, West Area. She also heard more than enough from the meeting regarding the prolonged work at Pesterford Bridge,

the problems on the lane, the dangers at the bends, buses driving at unsuitable speeds and much more. Despite the low turn out there was lively debate and the annual resolution for no further development at Stansted, and the preservation of the green belt around the village was carried.

Aged 16-25, looking for funding for that special project?

Are you looking for funding as a group in Birchanger or are you looking for funding for your own special project, maybe in your Gap Year? Perhaps have a pet project you would like to see happen, but cannot find the funds? It is just possible that the Hanningfield Awards could be your answer.

The Hanningfield Awards are aimed at groups or individuals aged 16- 25 who are working on projects to benefit others in the community, to develop a special talent, or who want to undertake challenges in their Gap Year. Perhaps you want to join an expedition to study abroad, to join a project in undeveloped countries, or to do something to benefit your own community either as an individual or part of a team. It might be that the Hanningfield Awards could help you to achieve your aim.

To discover more about the awards, please contact

Election News

Parish Council Elected Unopposed

There were only eight nominations for the Parish Council this time. As there are nine places on the Council it meant that yet again there would be no elections this year. It also means that there is a vacancy.

We do need you to give very serious consideration to becoming a Parish Councillor. The job is interesting and not unduly time consuming. It is open to anyone over the age of 18, and we would really like to hear from you if you are just possibly interested in finding out just what is involved. We have until **May 31st** to co-opt somebody, otherwise the election process must begin again. Co-option is painless as it simply involves your willingness to stand and the approval of the Parish Council who will supply your details to the District Council. If you are interested please call me on 812793.

We are very happy to welcome Maria Davy to the Parish Council for the first time. She will be joined by Geoff Driscoll, Elizabeth Godwin, David Holder, Philip Hoy, Anne Kent, Pam Lee and Ken Wheatley.

Elizabeth Godwin

New Chairman of BPC

At the Parish Council on 8th May Philip Hoy was elected Chairman. Last year's chairman, Elizabeth Godwin, was elected vice-chairman.

Ray Unsuccessful

The improved fortunes of the Conservatives in Uttlesford were enough to win them control of the District Council but were not quite enough to get Birchanger resident and County Councillor Ray Gooding elected as District Councillor for Elsenham and Henham. Ray's poll was a healthy 428 votes, but the ward returned two Liberal Democrats.

Benefice Gets New Rector

The Revd. Paul Wilkin takes up his post as Rector of the Combined Benefice at the end of July. Below is his letter of introduction.

Birchanger Village Magazine welcomes him to the area.

Hello everyone. My name is Paul Wilkin and on 30th of July I will be inducted as Rector of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham. I've been asked to tell you a little about myself, so here we go!

I was born in Luton in Bedfordshire, and many of my earliest memories centre on the Methodist Chapel where my family were staunch members. After leaving school I went to work for Electrolux Ltd., at first in their wages department but later in the Computer Department. This was in the days when computers were huge machines that filled entire rooms! When I was just 22 years old I married Janet, who I had first met through the church youth club. After I got married we began worshipping at our local Church of England Church. Janet and I went on to have three children – Andrew, Peter and Sarah. Janet and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary a couple of years ago and the children are all grown up now. Andrew is a computer scientist, Peter works for Sainsbury's and Sarah is studying Psychology at the University of Essex.

Ever since I was quite young I had a feeling that I was being called to ordained ministry. For many

years I did very little about it but when my thirtieth birthday came around I felt a real sense that now it was time to get a move on. After a while I went and had a chat with our vicar and began the long selection process which led to me leaving my job and going to study at Lincoln Theological College. After two years there I was ordained as a Deacon in 1990 and a Priest in 1991.

I served two curacies. The first was in Watford where a particular highlight was that I became involved in ministry in a large residential hospital for people with severe learning difficulties. In many ways the hospital was a horrible place (its buildings were those of huge Victorian 'Asylum' – now thankfully closed) but I learned so much and gained so much from being with people there that for me it will always be a special place. One summer I went with a group of the residents and their carers to Lourdes in France. We didn't go looking for any miracles but during the trip we did experience a real sense of community which transcended the divisions between those considered 'disabled' and those considered 'able'.



Revd. Paul Wilkin

**ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,
BIRCHANGER**

Presents
Songcycle

Evening Concert

**Saturday, 9th June 2007
Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 start**

**Ticket only event - £10 adult includes wine
and cheese supper (children free)**

**Available now from either Joy Wright or
Pam Lee (07702 171744). You will be made
very welcome. so come along and join us.**

Benefice Gets New Rector (cont.)

My second curacy was very different. I worked in a Local Ecumenical Project in Jersey (in the Channel Islands). I had care of a small Anglican congregation in a village called St. Aubin and a joint Anglican/Methodist congregation at a centre called Communicare (near Jersey airport!). Being a small island there were tremendous opportunities and I did quite a number of radio broadcasts and some TV work. When the Archbishop of Canterbury (George Carey) visited the island I was asked to organise an island-wide televised service at which he preached.

In 1997 I became Vicar of All Saints Squirrels Heath in the London Borough of Havering. All Saints has been a busy church with particularly strong ministry amongst younger children. Our links with our local

school have grown during my time here and I have been a school governor for quite some time now. I have also been an Assistant Area Dean for several years and have had pastoral care of the Readers (lay ministers) in the deanery. For the last four years I have also been a teacher on the Diocesan Course in Christian Studies which is a foundation course for people seeking to explore ways forward in their faith and possible future ministry.

I am very much looking forward to the new challenges that Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger and Farnham will bring and Janet, the children, our two dogs, and I are looking forward to being with you. (The dogs just don't know it yet!)

Elizabeth Walks It

Elizabeth Godwin retained her position representing Birchanger on Uttlesford District Council at the election held on 3rd May. Elizabeth, an independent candidate, polled 292 votes to her Liberal Democrat opponent's 30.

The result, announced by Returning Officer Alasdair Bovaird, Chief Executive of Uttlesford District Council, was declared at about 8.25 a.m., less than half an hour after the count had started at the R. A. Butler Leisure Centre in Saffron Walden on Thursday, 4th May.

Elizabeth sends the following message to the people of Birchanger.

'After the election this month, I shall once again be your representative on the District Council for the next four years. I would like to say thank you to everyone who voted for me, to everyone who helped me with the election process and to assure everyone who lives in Birchanger that I will do my very best for them throughout the next four years.'

'I will be available to discuss your difficulties and will always try to help. I may not always be successful but you can be assured that I will try my best. I am available on 812793, or at home at Moorswood 330 Birchanger Lane, where you are always welcome to come and see me, or I can come to you. I do welcome your views on all the issues which affect us'.

'I shall be standing down as Chairman of the Parish Council from this month. I shall still serve on the Parish Council, but I do think that the issues which affect Birchanger are huge right now, and I need to concentrate on these. It is more than time to make way for a new chairman. I would like to thank everyone who has served with me or helped me, particularly Julia Peachey, our Parish Clerk. I shall give the new chairman all my help and I shall still be writing for this magazine'.



Elizabeth at the count

School News

Rugby glory for tag team

Birchanger school recorded another first last month when a representative team took part in a tournament that was held at Stansted school.

The team of boys and girls played outstandingly well to take third place in the event, a real achievement when you consider that none of the players had ever played the game before three training sessions held in the weeks leading up to the festival!

These sessions were to give potential players a grounding in the art of rugby which can be very confusing to children more used to football or netball but all quickly gathered the salient points and although the first game was a bit nervy confidence quickly grew to leave the team with a record of Won 2, Drew 1, Lost 2

The festival itself was a great success and one that all hope will be repeated next year

The future England hopefuls from Birchanger led by Daniel Brett had a great afternoon and were shown the way to play by man of the match Jordan

Music first in Birchanger

Music is an important part of school life in Birchanger and all of the children are encouraged to learn and play at least one instrument during their time at the school.

This approach has proven to be very successful, as anyone who has attended the end of term recitals will testify, and so with so many children playing music the school has decided to award a special medal for outstanding musical achievement. It is obviously a tough choice to make but the first award went to Skye Fairlie Vogt – Congratulations Skye!

Record number of awards for pupils

The school has a policy of rewarding those children who work hard and attempt to improve the lot of their fellow pupils, this has been done by the awarding of Head Teacher Awards. These awards are given to children in assembly and are cumulative for example three awards rate a bookmark while gaining a further three awards merit the coveted Head Teacher's Badge.

There were a record number of children receiving bookmarks for their achievements in the Spring term and these children along with their contemporaries can look forward to building up their award tallies over the years but the really encouraging thing has been to see so many of the younger children getting their bookmarks. The basic awards are usually given at the rate of one a month

with six children receiving the top Head Teachers Badge last month.

Vouchers for play

A big thank you to everyone who collected Tesco vouchers and donated them to the school. Because of the vouchers the school has been able to purchase some new play equipment, which is now in use.

Examples of the kit bought are skipping ropes (including French skipping ropes), lollo balls (space hoppers to anyone older than 20), pom-pom and hedgehog balls and tag rugby equipment. This equipment is used by the children at playtime and in structured sessions and the fact that they are used so often proves the value of parents and others making the effort to collect the vouchers – Thank you!

Bertie Bin for Birchanger

It has been a slog but all the effort to get a recycle bin into Birchanger has, at last, paid off with the imminent arrival of Bertie Bin

The bin, which is provided by the council, will be installed just inside the school entrance and will be there to collect unwanted shoes and clothes and is for the use of the whole community, not just those attending the school. Please feel free to drop off items at any time

Fitness Workout

Exercise class suitable for all levels of fitness

Birchanger St. Mary's Hall
Fridays 12.30 - 1.30
£3

Further details about this class or the Uttlesford Healthy Eating and Lifestyle Programme can be obtained from
01799 581720

Letter to the Editor

70 Birchanger Lane

Dear Sir

I presume I am not alone in being greatly disappointed that local farmers have surrounded the village with fields of rape, which causes health problems for a large number of people. If you and your family experience sore throats, headaches and sneezing this spring and summer you know why.

Having encroached on local woodland and made some footpaths impassable our local farms have added insult to injury by making it difficult to go for a walk without a sneezing fit!

Chris Coe

(There certainly IS a lot of it about. Apparently it's currently ubiquitous all over the country and also in France. I wonder why that is? Is it due to changes in farm subsidy arrangements; its use as a biofuel; its increased use in both low- and high-quality culinary oils or all three?)

Rubbish Skip in Birchanger

There will be a skip for villagers' rubbish in the car park off Wood Lane on the following dates:

Sunday June 3rd, all day

Saturday August 18th, am only.

Sunday November 18th, all day.

Birchanger Social Club

The next dates for new members' interviews will be:

Wednesday 13th June
Wednesday 11th July

Interviews take place from approx. 8.15 pm to 9.15 pm

Useful Numbers

Here are some useful telephone numbers. If there are any organisations who would like to be included in this list please forward them to the editor.

Birchanger Church of England Primary School
Head Teacher Mrs. Denise Howell 812362

Birchanger Bowls Club
Secretary: Elaine Wright 813473

Birchanger Brownies
Jenny Jameson 815396

Birchanger Cricket Club
Secretary: Kevan Reid

Birchanger Nursery Unit
Enquiries to: Tina Crossley 814037

Birchanger Over Sixties
Secretary: Bernie King 655479

Birchanger Social Club 812810

Birchanger Village Magazine
Editor: Mr. Eddie Gilbey 816171

Church in Birchanger
The Benefice office 815243
Church Wardens
Peter Odrich 323927
Pam Lee 07702 171744

Church Hall
Janet Gage 813507

District Councillor
Mrs. Elizabeth Godwin 812793

County Councillor
Mr. Ray Gooding 260 Birchanger Lane

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Mrs Ann Kent 813204

Parish Council
Chairman: Mr. Philip Hoy 812703
Clerk to the Council : Mrs. Julia Peachey 503912

Princess Alexandra Hospital Harlow 444455

Cubs and Scouts
Trevor Stone 812994

Essex Police 07801 461666

Saturday Football Club
Mr. A. Lucas 813441
Sunday Football Club
Mr. Neil Gilbey 816039

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Village Diary
June

3rd	St. Mary's 11.00 am Matins
8th	Birchanger Social Club Poker Night. For details see Club noticeboard
9th	Songcycle 7.00 pm See ad. Page 4
10th	St. Mary's 11.00 am Family Service
17th	St. Mary's 11.00 am Matins
24th	St. Mary's 11.00 am Holy Communion

THE THREE WILLOWS
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July

1st	St. Mary's 11.00 am Matins
18th	St. Mary's 11.00 am Family Service with Baptism
15th	St. Mary's 11.00 am Matins
22nd	St. Mary's 11.00 am



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Birchanger Village Fete - 8th July

Contributions wanted for the Cake Stall. Any kind of homemade or bought cakes and biscuits will be welcome. Please deliver your goodies to The Three Willows on the day between 10 am and noon.

Also volunteer wanted to man a White Elephant stall between 12 and 2.30. Please contact Sue Gilbey on 816171.

Advertising Space Available

You could be advertising your business or service here!

For more information contact
Mark Crossley on 07979 708142