

## **LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL**

The meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> December was immediately preceded by training on the Neighbourhood Plan. Council are pleased that there are now 12 villagers willing to be involved in its writing and hopes for more, particularly trying to ensure a cross-age group. At public question time it was suggested that the Council use Facebook to attract interest in volunteering amongst 30-40 year olds. Meanwhile there is now a sufficiently large group for an application to be made to the necessary City committee in order to make a start.

As previously reported, Council strongly opposes the proposed large scale housing development on land east of Runsell Green View. A full analysis of the published traffic data has now been done and used. It describes the relevant Transport Assessment as “fundamentally unsound”. Additional concerns may be added to the Council’s objection letter regarding the inability of the local schools to cope, once data is cross checked, and also regarding pressure on the Medical Centre. Additionally Councillors stated that they remain fully opposed to any significant housing development on Hammonds Farm land on the Little Baddow side of the A12 and strongly objected to a differing statement on behalf of the local Conservation Society in the December’s issue of Little Baddow News. There was no objection to the only application in the development agenda item.

The 2016-17 Budget was agreed with additional allocation for Village in Bloom and re-building the Hall reserve. The precept has been increased by 2.75% and there are minor increases to the Hall letting fees and Sports Ground charges. It was agreed to move the Council’s funds to the National Westminster Bank which is free for community banking.

There is major concern about the current proposal to axe the 31A bus and it is hoped that many villagers will object in its Consultation. County Councillor John Spence will be told that the main problem is its unreliability and that there is a need, particularly by the young and the disabled, to connect this village to Danbury. Council wants to be sure that if this bus service stops then at the least a reliable shuttle service will be provided to and from Danbury.

*Details of items in this independent report can be obtained from the Council. GH.*