

## **LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL**

As there was no February meeting due to the delayed timing in January, the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March was exceptionally long. County Councillor John Spence attended and he had investigated the situation regarding the bus contract for our village. He was not hopeful that the bus service would continue and accepted its general unreliability was a major factor. Currently there is a trial of a bespoke taxi-bus service in the Dengie area and this might be the way forward. Council wanted at the least some kind of shuttle bus perhaps to Danbury Eves Corner and the local Park and Ride. It was accepted that some transport service must be provided. Additionally John will investigate the current lack of the pedestrian crossing across the A414 to Danbury Medical Centre and its lack of road signage. There have been several accidents in that area. He was pleased with the amount of road repair around the village.

Council will be responding to the consultation on extensive upgrading of the local sections of the A12 and it is hoped that as a result some Maldon traffic will be diverted from our small roads. Council approved the purchase of Speed Reduction stickers for our weekly food disposal bins and larger wheelie bins. Nothing has been heard about the second speeding assessment on The Ridge. The damaged bridge-weight restriction notice near Mill House will be repaired. There has been a repair to the manhole cover so stopping the rainwater flowing down the road past St Mary's Church. In response to the City Council offer of free "parish cleansing" it is hoped to get all our road signs cleaned and the area on Paper Mill Lock bridge tidied up again so there is a safe pedestrian walkway. In answer to concern about the delay in clearing the ditch at Wickhay Green it was hoped that a skip would be organised soon. The first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan committee had been very effective but there were still only 8 people so it was not fully representative of all age groups in the village. The first part of the Village in Bloom plan will start in April with a £750 budget to include the purchase of barrel planters put near the War Memorial & planted by volunteers and also the addition of a free bench by its bus stop.

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