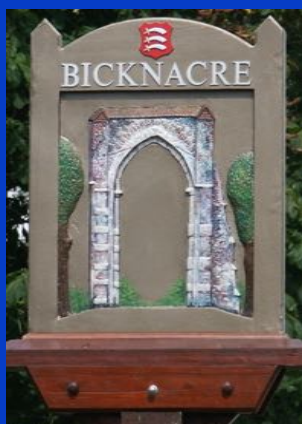


Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council Newsletter

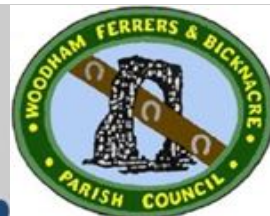
Winter 2024



Parish Council Funding – The Precept

Financing the Parish Council -
Figures, funding
and how it's calculated...

[Read more on Page 3](#)



The Parish Council meet on the first Tuesday of each month; agendas are available on the website or notice boards or by contacting the clerk three days prior to each meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and may address the Council at the start of the meeting during the public session.

	Cllr Mary Shay—Bicknacre Ward—Chairman
	Cllr John Robins—Woodham Ferrers Ward
	Cllr Richard Poulter—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr Albert Mair—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr Paul Walton—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr John Sharman—Woodham Ferrers Ward
It could be YOU!	VACANCY
It could be YOU!	VACANCY
It could be YOU!	VACANCY
	Miss Lucy White Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer clerk@woodhamferrersandbicknacre-pc.gov.uk Articles not written by the Parish Council are not necessarily the opinion of the Parish Council and they accept no responsibility for their content. Images supplied by Freepik.com

Clerk's Report – Lucy White



Financing the Parish Council

Parish Council Funding – the Precept

The Precept is a tax, included within the local Council Tax, which enables the Parish Council to perform its functions.

Parish Councils can apply for other funding such as grants and funding awards, generally for specific projects, but they do not receive funds directly from central Government.

How is the Precept calculated?

The Parish Council is required (in law) to agree a budget before it can set its Precept and both must be agreed by the full Parish Council.

Once the Parish Council has forecast its budget requirements for the following financial year, it requests this funding from its 'local billing authority' – in our case, Chelmsford City Council – in the form of the Precept.

Chelmsford City Council then converts the Precept into an amount per Council Tax payer that is added to the Council Tax bill (according to the property band) for all the dwellings within the Parish area.

The Tax Base

The Tax Base is produced from the Council Tax system at Chelmsford City Council which gives a list of all the properties in each town or parish in the District. It then adjusts this to take into account any discounts that are given, for example, single occupancy, second homes or homes that are empty or exempt.

The properties are then translated in to Band D equivalents using the following ratios:

Band A	6/9
Band B	7/9
Band C	8/9
Band D	9/9 (base line)
Band E	11/9
Band F	13/9
Band G	15/9
Band H	18/9

For example Band A is six-ninths of Band D and Band H is twice Band D.

Finally, the estimated number of B and D equivalents to be built in the year are added to the list. This then gives the total number of Band D equivalent properties to use for the Tax Base.

The Tax Base is used to calculate the Band D charge for each town or parish which is done by dividing the total Precept requirement by the Tax Base. This figure will be compared with the previous year's Band D charge and supplied to the Parish.

For instance, for the 2023-2024 financial year for Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre, the Tax Base was 1,258.77, but the estimated Tax Base for 2024– 2025 is 1,320.61.

There are a number of reasons why the Tax Base changes. It can go up if more homes are created, but it can go down due to more properties in the town or parish claiming for discounts – most commonly an increase in the number of properties claiming the single occupancy discount. Other factors will include homes being demolished, becoming empty, becoming second homes, boundary changes or even a change in collection date.

I am pleased to advise that the Council has resolved to set the precept at £100,377.00—a ZERO percent increase, which for a Band D property is actually a DECREASE of 5% due to the increase in the Council Tax Base.

Lucy White, CiLCA

Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY



The recent spell of wet weather created huge extra pressures for our Highways team. In one 24-hour period we received around 800 enquiries covering flooding and wind damage – more than four times the amount earlier in the month! One night we cleared some 75 fallen trees across the county and have been continuing to clear up ever since – its amazing the numbers involved in total. Overall, the team have kept the county's roads moving safely and deserve our thanks. Let's hope the weather is kinder to us over the next few months, roll on spring!

You may have noticed there is going to be a purge on the collection of food waste. Every council in the county will be taking part to encourage residents to reduce the amount of food that is thrown away. Food waste makes up roughly 25% of the waste found in our black bins contributing to climate change and of course a waste of money. It is suggested in the UK we throw away 4.5 million tons of food that could have been eaten. When food goes to landfill it releases methane, a harmful gas that contributes to climate change. It is also costing us taxpayers millions of pounds to dispose of – the message is recycle your food waste.

It's this time of year we prepare budgets and no surprise there will be some tough decisions to be made. We remain committed to a balanced budget and prioritising those vulnerable children and our older people.

As always if I can help on any issue, please let me know.

Ian Grundy

Email: cllr.ian.grundy@essex.gov.uk

Tel: 07920286384

CALLING COMMUNITY HEROES!

Could you be a Councillor?

There are currently three spaces on the Parish Council.

Would you consider being co-opted?



Are you interested in local affairs?

Want to know more?

Please contact the Clerk:

clerk@woodhamferrersandbicknacre-pc.gov.uk

Or download the Co-Option Policy and Application Form following this link:
[Co-Option-Policy-January-2023.pdf \(woodhamferrersandbicknacre-pc.gov.uk\)](#)

Community Speed Watch

Please see below the results of the Community Speed Watch group for Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre. You will notice that the number of sessions dropped off sharply from October which was due to rainfall and wet roads. We are not allowed to set up in rain so on a number of occasions the "Watch" had to be cancelled during the later part of the year.

In essence, 1,130 excess speed reports were submitted and 113 sessions were carried out - approx 9.4 per month with the highest speed recorded in October at 60 mph.

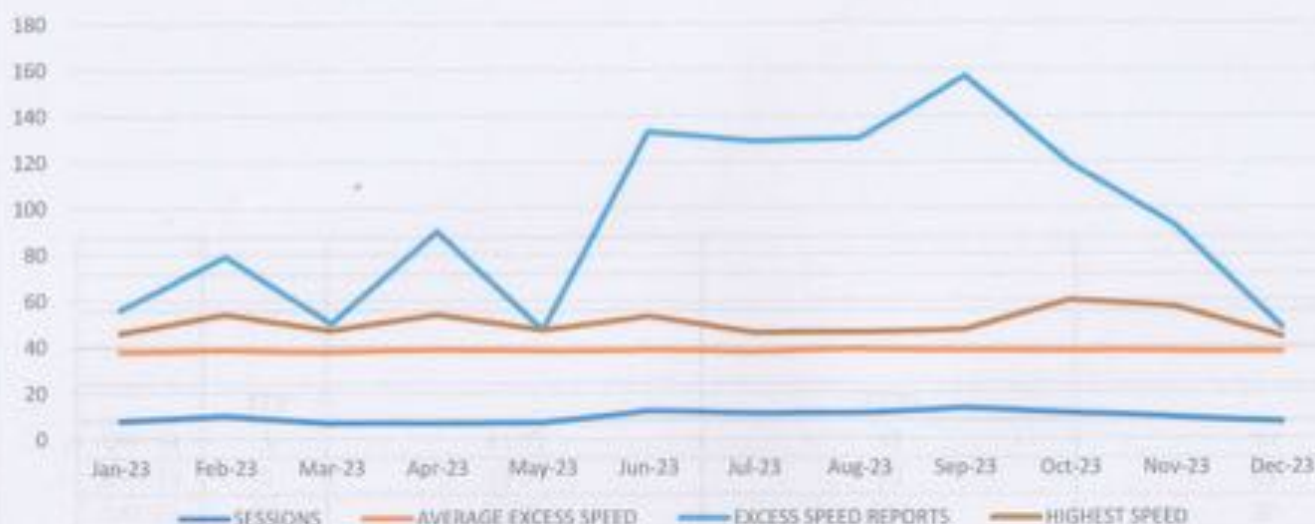
It is unfortunate that too many motorists believe that 30 mph is the "minimum" speed they must travel at whatever the road conditions and have forgotten the knowledge they had when they passed their driving test. Our villages have signage warning that motorists are entering a Speed Watch Village with a 30 mph speed restriction. This is backed up by large 30 mph signs followed by smaller repeater 30 mph signs and if they can remember their test then street lighting also marks an area as 30 mph unless signs are to the contrary.

One area of success is with motor cyclists who on the whole have really made an effort and rarely do we find any speeding nowadays, indeed we usually get a wave or thumbs up from them so I would like to thank the motorcyclists passing through our villages for being so much more careful indeed we know of one occasion when a speeding "L" motor cyclist was stopped by a group of more experienced persons on their bikes and told him off for giving a bad name to those on two wheels.

Iain Fraser—Community Speed Watch

DATE	SESSIONS	AVERAGE EXCESS SPEED	EXCESS SPEED REPORTS	HIGHEST SPEED
Jan-23	8	37.89	56	46
Feb-23	10	38.49	79	54
Mar-23	7	37.80	50	47
Apr-23	7	38.79	90	54
May-23	7	38.07	47	47
Jun-23	12	38.37	133	53
Jul-23	11	37.76	129	46
Aug-23	11	38.65	130	46
Sep-23	13	38.04	157	47
Oct-23	11	37.97	119	60
Nov-23	9	37.74	92	57
Dec-23	7	37.42	48	44
	113		1130	

Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Speedwatch Results 2023



FLY FISHING WITH IAIN FRASER

OR

HOW TO ENJOY LATER LIFE KEEPING ACTIVE IN MIND AND BODY.

Well 2024 has arrived and I suppose I am now in the winter of my life but I am still active, I think my mind is still good and I enjoy life. Many of you may already be retired and some may be approaching retirement and wondering how you are going to fill your days. I am possibly more busy than I was when I worked. Back in the days before working from home or when everyone had a laptop or PC I did a basic 8 hour day was paid overtime if I did more and lived within relatively easy travelling distance from my place of duty. I was not expected to be a typist, there was a typing pool and clerks and people to do the admin work. I did the frontline stuff, wrote reports by hand in pencil and later in pen and later in biro. The work was done efficiently and if it was not it came back and you were likely required to make the corrections in your own time and suffer a verbal barrage from those in charge. Some things did change as there was no such thing as paid overtime, no choice if you were required to work after your hours finished or on your day off but I think we still enjoyed our job.

Anyway, back to the present. I have been retired for 15 years this year and here is how I keep fit and active.

I am a volunteer Community First Responder with the East of England Ambulance Service and get sent to life threatening incidents such as heart attacks, strokes, breathing difficulties etc where the regular ambulance is going to be delayed in its response time. I cover the South Woodham Ferrers area and about 5 miles from home. It is not a type of work for everyone but very rewarding when a life is saved. Training is given by the EEAS and after successfully completing the course there is regular training each month plus CBT courses to be completed each year. The EEAS holds courses two or three times a year so if you would like to give something back to your community then make enquiries. There are no shifts or set days other than what your group decides and you being a volunteer can decline a duty.

Until Covid hit I was also a Home Safety Volunteer Officer with the Essex Fire and Rescue Service dealing with safety at homes and security matters, fitting smoke detectors and checking CO2 emissions. Again, training was given, a good tool kit and ladders and uniform supplied. I worked out of South Woodham Fire Station and did have a fairly wide area but mileage was paid. As a volunteer no one could demand that you worked a set shift and you chose how many hours you wanted to work.

I am the Chairman of the Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Community Speed Watch Volunteers. You will probably have seen us out by the road side pointing a radar gun at motorists who are travelling at excessive speed through our villages. We are a keen bunch and many of our members will do 6 or 7 hours a month. It is up to individuals how often they want to attend, and it is not an arduous task but is there to try and educate motorists to conform to speed limits. It seems to me that a lot of motorists think that 30 mph is the minimum speed they must travel at. At the entrance to our villages there are notices that a motorist is entering a "Community Speed Area" with a 30 mph speed limit. There are of course 30 mph speed limit notices and repeater signs plus as every motorist should know there are the overhead streetlights which also mean they are in a 30 mph area. To make things even clearer when CSW volunteers are doing a duty they place warning signs at least 100 yards from their activity. We are covered by the Police and Fire Commissioners Dept and training is given through them plus all equipment and fluorescent jackets. In January I am giving a talk to a local Primary School about the dangers of speed and the work of the CSW Volunteers.

I am also the Co-ordinator of the Essex Voluntary (Water) Bailiff Service - at last something water related. This organisation was created about 2016 and at that time I was looking after Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk but gradually managed to get volunteers to look after those counties and the volunteers. Training is given by the Angling Trust and we work closely with the Environment Agency and Police.

Once training is completed uniform and an official notebook is supplied. There are no set duties that must be attended we do have Joint Patrol patrols when Police, EA Fisheries Enforcement Officers and VBS patrol together looking at anglers without a licence or other offences under the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act and Theft Act offences. On other occasions VBS members will patrol local waterways acting as the eyes and ears for the EA/Angling Trust and Police.

Even before retirement I volunteered as a water bailiff for a fishing club on a relatively short stretch of the River Blackwater but after retiring I wanted to make sure I kept regular walking exercise and became a bailiff for another club which controlled over 10 miles of the River Chelmer and parts of the Blackwater and would encourage me to get up and out to take exercise whilst at the same time meeting lots of people and checking on the wildlife that inhabits the riverbanks. How many people have seen families of otters in the water, seen herds of deer swimming across, seen kingfishers darting along shimmering their electric blue plumage or diving down to take a small fish, watched herons and all the wonders that nature has to offer. This developed and I have been a member of the club committee for many years although I hardly ever coarse fish but enjoy the walks in the countryside.

I have been a fly fisherman for trout and grayling since I was 14 years old and after retirement, I attended a course held at Northampton Agricultural College and became a qualified Coach/Instructor in game fishing. I regularly teach fly fishing and fly tying.

This led to my becoming the Chairman/Sec for the Essex Police Sports Association, Fly Fishing Section and arrange competitions in the Eastern Region mainly on the big Midlands Reservoirs each month between March and November. As an angler I am not too bad and regularly fish for the EPFFA England squad in PSUK International events all over Great Britain and Eire.

River fly fishing was how I started and is my greatest passion and again have competed for EPFFA at PSUK International level all over Great Britain and Eire. I am now the Chairman of the England Police River Fly Fishing Association representing the members from any of the 43 police forces who are members of their own force sports clubs.

I regularly assist with the Charity "Fishing for Heroes" which helps veterans suffering the effects of PTSD or other injuries from their service to the country. Essex hosts an event about every 6 weeks, but the charity holds gatherings all over England and Scotland. I also teach newcomers or those interested in taking up the sport on a one-to-one basis.

I am also involved in the Masonic Fly-Fishing Charity which gives disabled and disadvantaged children and adults fly fishing experiences on a one to one/two basis, providing them with a lunch as well as a morning learning to fish for trout.

I don't think I have missed anything out apart from the usual things that living brings up. I have a wife, family and 5 grandchildren who we see regularly, a garden that need attention and the usual running around shopping etc. Oh yes one last thing – my wife is on the Woodham Ferrers Village Hall Committee, and I was roped in to be the minute taker at their meetings but have so far resisted any entreaties to actually join. I don't have the time.

Basically I do not have the time to get old and with so many hats to wear and people to look after my brain does not get a chance to switch off. So if you are wondering what to do with time on your hands I hope this has given you something to think about and of course if you would like to take up fly fishing for trout then do have a look at my website which can be found at www.flyfishingwithfraser.co.uk .

Best wishes and tight lines to everyone for 2024.

Iain Fraser.



Well here we are in the New Year and writing this in the cold spell in the middle of January. We would like to thank everybody in the villages [and beyond] who bought our Xmas Raffle tickets [record sales again] or supplied Raffle prizes. Many did both!

This year we had a stand selling tickets at the craft fairs at the White Swan and at the Village Hall, we will attend these again next year as they made a big difference to our ticket sales. We also had some donations from villagers before and after Christmas to help with field maintenance. It is much appreciated guys! We would also like to thank the Village Stores, the White Swan and Danbury & Bicknacre Football club for selling Raffle tickets.

The fields this week are frozen solid so no mucky boots at present, but the weather apparently to become mild and wet at the weekend. Back to the Wellies then!

The December work party was cancelled due to constant rain but the January one went ahead even though the fields were very boggy. We spread some more woodchip in wet areas but it was too wet to get truck loads to the areas it was urgently needed. The damage we would do, would be counter productive in the very muddy areas. We did manage to get one load in this week on the frozen ground but it still needs to be spread.

We managed to clear some obstructions in the main brook, also in the old brook and cleared dead wood and some scrub at the Priory fields entrance.

We hope all of our visitors, dog walkers, etc. have a Happy, Healthy New Year and continue to enjoy our lovely fields.



The orchard in the summer



Wild flowers in the meadow



The East Water Meadow



View of The Arch from the East Water Meadow



Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Neighbourhood Watch

LINES OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION WITH THE POLICE

Emergencies: always call 999 —If a crime or serious incident is being committed (or is occurring) and observed, or if there is an immediate threat to life, of bodily harm, or to property.

To report a crime or incident that has already occurred —where a crime or incident has already occurred and the circumstances are not an emergency, then the channels of reporting are: report a crime, incident, or other matter **on-line** using the links on the **Essex Police website**: www.essex.police.uk

For example: ‘Report’: domestic abuse (always use 999 in an emergency), crime, road traffic incident, antisocial behaviour, lost or stolen vehicles, etc. an emergency), crime, road traffic incident.

Tell us about: something you’ve heard or seen (see reporting intelligence below), suspicious activity (including possible terrorist activity), etc.

‘Live chat’: you can access live chat for non-urgent enquiries, between **09:00 and 17:00**

POLICE TO PUBLIC/NHW

The **Police** are keen to share information (news, information, alerts, etc) with the public/NHW, using **social media** and through using their **Dispatch** newsletters:

Use these **Facebook** links for up-to-date information:

‘Essex Police - Chelmsford District’

‘Essex Police - Maldon District’

Police **Dispatch** provides communities with a weekly overview of news from **Essex Police**, along with crime prevention advice, information.

You can subscribe using the following link:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essexpolice/au/about-us/dispatch>

or search on ‘**Essex Police Dispatch**’ – you can then subscribe to the Police regular dispatches for **Chelmsford** and/or **Maldon**.

website. www.essex.police.uk

nhwbicknacrewf@yahoo.co.uk or tel 226438



The Cygnet Room

Community Corner

Take what you need, give what you can.

Located at The Cygnet Room next to the
White Swan Pub.

Open Wednesday - Saturday 10:30-16:00
Sunday 10:30-17:00
Friday 10:30- 20:00

This has been set up to help our local community. Come
along and take what you need. You don't need a referral
or voucher. No questions asked, no judgement.

We welcome donations that don't need to be
refridgerated or frozen, such as :

Canned foods:

Soup
Beans
Tomatoes
Fruit

Tea
Coffee

Sweet Treats:

Biscuits
Jam
Jelly

Books (all genres, all ages)

Children's Toys
Jigsaws
Board games

Hygiene Items:

Hand wash
Body wash
Body lotion
Sanitiser



Safety advice

Keeping hydrated

Keeping hydrated is important for staying healthy and helps to prevent infections of your urinary tract.



The urinary tract removes urine from your body. It includes the kidneys, bladder and urethra.



We should aim for
eight big glasses a day
(at least 150ml)



Water is best, but tea, milk or fruit juice are also fine. Fruit juice is high in sugar so best to limit yourself to one glass a day.



Avoid fizzy or alcoholic drinks. Coffee can count to your total, but be aware of how much caffeine you are drinking.

Remember to check that loved ones are drinking enough, especially older people or those with dementia as we can get less sensitive to thirst as we age.

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) affect your urinary tract, including your bladder, urethra, or kidneys. Sometimes a urinary tract infection can develop into a severe infection that can cause you to become very ill and you may then need to go to hospital. Regular drinks, like water or squash will boost hydration and help your body stay healthy. The NHS Eatwell Guide recommends that people should aim to drink 6 to 8 cups or glasses of fluid a day. Water, lower-fat milk and sugar-free drinks, including tea and coffee, all count.

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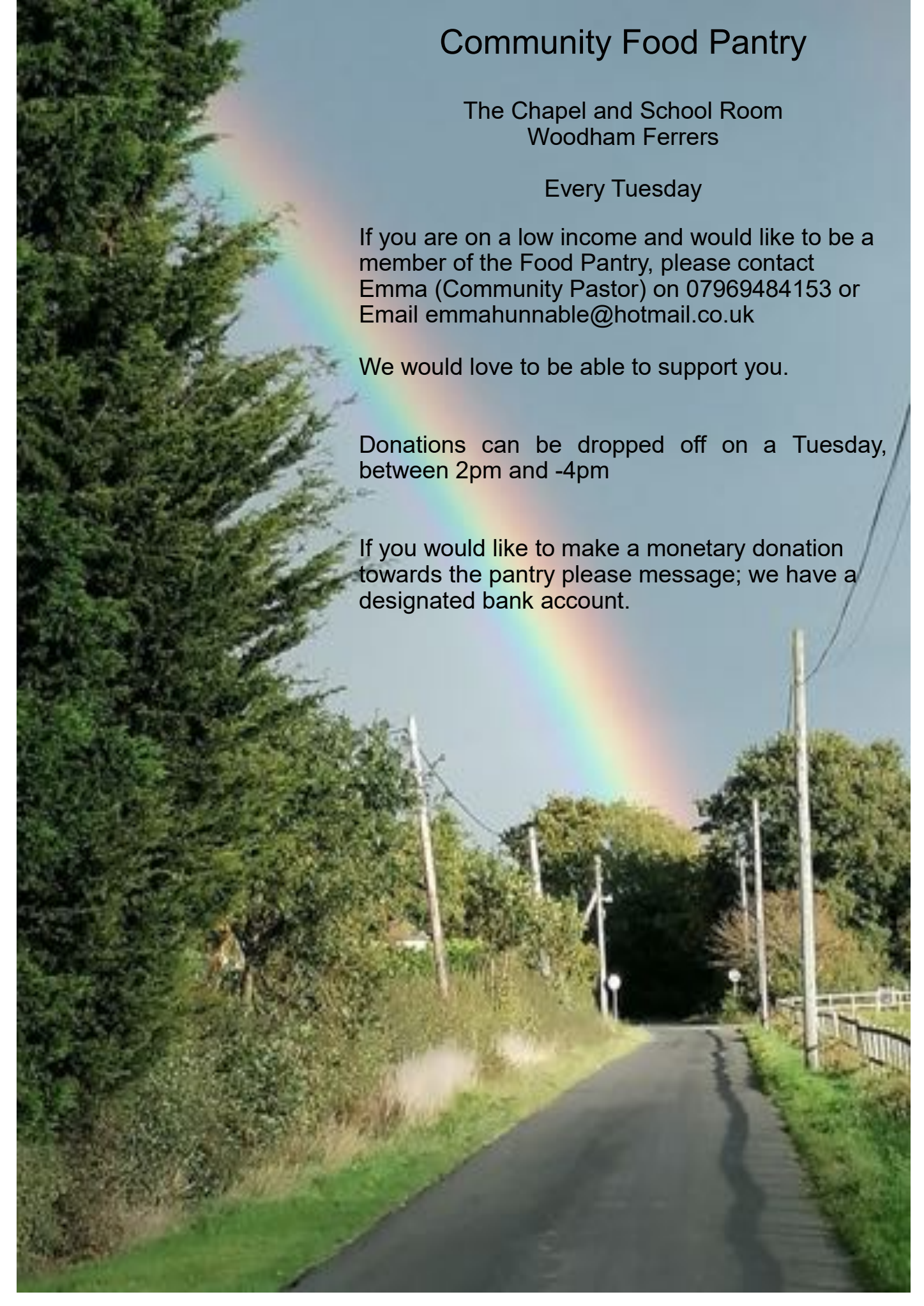
WHERE ARE WE?

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OPENING TIMES

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Saturday
0800-1200
Sunday
CLOSED*

*cheshowroom@directhp.co.uk
01245357993 (OPTION 3)*



Community Food Pantry

The Chapel and School Room
Woodham Ferrers

Every Tuesday

If you are on a low income and would like to be a member of the Food Pantry, please contact Emma (Community Pastor) on 07969484153 or Email emmahunnable@hotmail.co.uk

We would love to be able to support you.

Donations can be dropped off on a Tuesday, between 2pm and -4pm

If you would like to make a monetary donation towards the pantry please message; we have a designated bank account.



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southern Fried Chicken

Strips £1.00 each or 3x£2.50

onion Rings - Buttered Tots

CHIPS

£1.95

£2.65

£3.20

onions Cherkins(wallies)

**mushy Peas
Curry Sauce**

Sausages £1.40
in batter £1.50
Saveloy £1.40
Fish Cake £2.00
Pancake Roll £2.20
Chicken Nuggets £2.25
Roe £2.20

Burger £2.00
with cheese £2.20
Chicken Burger £2.50
with cheese £2.70

Scampi £4.35

Chicken 1/4 breast £3.95

FISH

Cod £5.50 or £6.50

Rock £6.50

Skate £6.00 or £7.00

Haddock £6.00 or £7.00

Plaice £7.00

Kids Meals

Burgers x4 £2.60 x5 £3.25
Fish Bites £3.50
Sausage £1.75 in batter £1.85
Fish Cakes £3.00



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Oak Farm Barn, Woodham Walter

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The re-modelling of Oak Farm Barn will comprise 5 contemporary ultra-modern three bedroom new homes. Each property will afford versatile accommodation including two bedrooms, family bathroom and a mezzanine landing to the first floor. On the ground floor there will be a fantastic open plan living room, dining area and high specification kitchen along with a bedroom with en-suite shower room. Also a utility room and cloakroom.

Many high quality fixtures and fittings including underfloor heating, bi-folding doors, cctv and security systems.



Ground Floor



First Floor