

Your parish council

Name	Address	Telephone No.
David Goodchild	Home Farm, Poy Street Green, Rattlesden, IP30 0SR	01449 736122
Gina Suter	Lalinde, High Street Rattlesden IP30 0RA	01449 737981
Arthur Davey	Manor Cottage, Half Moon Street, Rattlesden, IP30 0RH	01449 737108
Richard Edwards	Institute House, Lower Road, Rattlesden, IP30 0RJ	01449 736863
Brian Edrich	4 Rectory Meadow Rattlesden, IP30 0RE	01449 737806
Martin Evans	Bruges Cottage, Rattlesden, IP30 0RD	01449 736304
Camilla Keeling	Model Farm, Louse Lane, High Town Green, Rattlesden IP30 0SY	01449 737118

The parish clerk is Bridget Goodchild (Tel 01449 736122).

Rattlesden Parish Council Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2009

As is normal, the major routine expense for the parish council this year was the maintenance of the cemetery. A new set of charges was agreed (resulting in the first increases for many years) and these charges are available on the village website, together with the cemetery regulations.

Our biggest unexpected expense this year was the refurbishment of the bus shelter on Rising Sun Hill, following vandalism.

Allotments association

The parish council welcomed the formation of an allotments association in the village and set about trying to find a suitable plot of land for the would-be allotment-holders. To date, we have been unsuccessful, but Penny Otton, our County Councillor is now trying to find out whether any County Council land could be made available.

Play area near Windyridge Road

We have also been working with Penny Otton to see if it would be possible to have a play area for the children living on and near Windyridge Road, after receiving a petition to this effect from local residents. The news at the moment is that a local housing association is considering whether more affordable housing could be put on the site. If this goes ahead, the plan for the new houses would include a play area.

Highways

We have protested vigorously about poor quality of some recent resurfacing in and around the village and have been promised that this will be rectified in the summer. Also, in the summer, we are expecting the white lines to be reinstated at the junctions of Birds Green and Lower Road and at the bottom of Half Moon Street.

We have also been trying to persuade the County Council to take some measures to make life safer for people turning out of Rising Sun Hill onto Lower Road. Despite repeated requests from the police, people are still parking opposite the junction and forcing traffic onto the wrong side of the road. Penny Otton is hoping to find some money from a road improvement budget to pay for white-lining of a section of the road, in the hope that it will encourage cars to stay on their side of the road.

We have complained about cars speeding through the village and have asked the police to conduct speed checks. Unfortunately, this has not resulted in any prosecutions so far. We are also continuing with our campaign to have the 30 mph speed limit extended further along the Stowmarket Road.

Footpaths

We have agreed with the County Council that, in future, it will cut the footpath from Half Moon Street to Poy Street. In exchange, a local farmer has volunteered to cut some footpaths that were previously the County Council's responsibility.

Aircraft noise

The parish council took part in the campaign of protest against proposals that would have seen aircraft held in stacking patterns

over Rattlesden. We have heard that these proposals are being reconsidered, but have no further news at present.

We also protested against the proposed expansion of Stansted, because the new stacking proposals seemed to be based on the assumption that this would require more aircraft to be held over Rattlesden before landing.

Pavilion

We congratulate the Community Council on raising the funds for a new pavilion and look forward to seeing work begin. We have agreed to support the project with a grant of £2,500, payable when the work starts.

Acknowledgements

The parish council is very well supported by a group of volunteers who have taken on jobs around the village. In particular, we should like to thank:

- Carol Williamson, who acts as our tree warden
- Graham Reid, who has taken on the job of our internal auditor
- David Keeling, who keeps an eye on our footpaths
- Arthur Davey, for clearing the cemetery path and Brian Edrich for putting out the cemetery bins
- Rattlesden Parochial Church Council, which allows us to insert a monthly report in *Rattlesden Revelations*.
- Kerry Burn, who is the webmaster for village website (www.rattlesden.suffolk.gov.uk). Parish council minutes and monthly reports are available there.