



“Please, please, please return our lamp post...or at least replace with like for like!”

Amanda Cooke of Ouse Cottages has drawn our attention to the replacement lamp post erected on the Church Lane side of Hartford Church.

This is a conservation area and all the cottages which it serves are listed and subject to strict building controls. It can therefore not be correct that a traditional, old fashioned style lamp post should be replaced by a modern one which looks totally out of character and is an eye sore in the most picturesque, picture post card area of Hartford and Huntingdon. These three cottages and the church have featured in numerous paintings over the years.

Amanda attaches a before and after photograph to give you an idea of the scale of the misjudgment. She says “I understand that area appropriate replacement lamp posts have been erected in nearby Houghton and also in Fenstanton so implore you to do the same here. All the equipment (cabling & unfilled holes) to make the change remain in situ as the remaining lamp posts along the lane are yet to be replaced/removed, so now is the most cost effective time to act.”

She continues “According to Balfour Beatty/CC Council did in fact give the Town Council the opportunity to replace this lamp post with a heritage column.

The Town Council took the decision that the ornate column should be replaced with a standard column. They noted however in the same meeting that the responsibility for that decision would be with the District Council if the post was in a conservation area which of course it is. The District Council certainly can and, I believe should, take formal control/ responsibility for this particular column.”

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Huntingdon Town Council have begun to develop a neighbourhood plan for Huntingdon. In order to achieve this they have set up a working group of Town Councillors and representatives of local organisations. Hartford Conservation Group is one of these local groups and Angela Owen-Smith is our representative.

Full details of the process is available on Huntingdonshire District Council website under Neighbourhood Plan Process Overview. This details

- Stage 1 Getting organised
- Stage 2 Preparing the Neighbourhood Plan
- Stage 3 Getting the Plan in place
- Stage 4 Delivering the Neighbourhood Plan

Five meetings have been held and a questionnaire is being developed to identify the baseline and areas of concern for local residents. This questionnaire will be distributed in the next edition of the Town Council magazine “Huntingdon” previously known as About Town.

The best Neighbourhood Plans are based on strong community engagement, owned by the wider community and are uniquely local. Look out for the questionnaire in the next edition of HUNTINGDON; complete it and return it to The Town Council. Make sure your views are heard!

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

To mark Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, there is to be a national litter pick and community tidy up on Saturday 5th March. Hartford Conservation Group invite you to spend as little or as much time as you can by joining our volunteers to get the public areas and verges ready for the Spring.

Please meet at the Village Hall from 10.30am. We will have waste sacks, some gloves and litter pickers but all the better if you bring your own. Risks have been assessed and the project will be covered by HDC insurance. Call Mike Humphrey for details on 436444.

Here's your chance to show how much you love your village!

“Is anyone in your family gluten intolerant?”

**If so don't miss our speaker meeting at the Village Hall,
Tuesday 15th March by**

Rebecca Rayner of Glebe Foods, Abbots Ripton



Rebecca runs the farm with her brother Philip, an engineer. Glebe Farm is the only farm in the UK growing and processing gluten free oats into porridge flakes and oat flour.

A designated processing unit steams and rolls the gluten free oats to be used by manufacturers and bakers. The oats are also used in the Glebe Farm's own retail packs of gluten free porridge oats, muesli and granolas.

Everyone welcome, costs £1 including tea or coffee. Starts 7.30pm. Raffle.

Keep up to date with your local Conservation Group: minutes of our Committee Meetings are now displayed in our notice board at the bottom of Sapley Road.

This newsletter is produced by Mike Humphrey of the Hartford Conservation Group who can be contacted on 01480 436 444 or email info@hartfordconservation.org.uk . Registered Charity No 1025575