**GREAT WAKERING PARISH COUNCIL**

**From the Clerk**

**Allotment Competition**

The annual allotment competition for the plot holders of the Parish Council allotments has recently been judged. The results will be announced in the next newsletter once the winners have been informed.

Please continue to take care on the allotments, remember to sanitise hands and equipment frequently especially before and after touching shared resources. Please do not wash produce or equipment in the water tanks.

There is a waiting list for allotments but if you would like to rent an allotment plot please contact the Parish Council Office to be added to the waiting list. Parishioners of Great Wakering have priority on the list over non-Parishioners.

**Xmas Parcels**

The Parish Council resolved to continue the Christmas parcel giveaway for 2024 and details and forms will be available from mid-November on the Council website and from the Office foyer.

**ECC Bus Consultation**

Residents are being urged to share their views on the future of 162 local bus services across Essex. A new consultation will explore how to make the bus network fit for the future.

You can share your views online until Thursday 5 October. Physical copies of the consultation are available by calling 0345 743 0430.

A small number of bus services in Essex are subsidised by Essex County Council as commercial bus operators will not run them. The consultation is about these non-commercial services, which generally run in rural areas and at less busy times.

Since the pandemic, the amount of people using buses has declined. We need to ensure future routes are viable financially and are meeting the new demand. It will also look at how to ensure it provides value for money for taxpayers.

As part of the consultation, 162 services across three groups are being consulted on:

* the vast majority where no change is proposed until at least 2028
* a group which will be supported until at least 2026, but where passenger numbers need to increase
* a low use group which are not currently meeting the needs of communities.

**£2.00 Bus Fare Cap Extended**

The government has extended the £2 bus fare cap and it will continue until 31 December 2024.

This includes routes tendered or operated by local councils, including those supported by the Rural Mobility Fund and the Stansted X30 service.

**Great Wakering Household Recycling Point**

The confirmed upcoming collection dates for the recreation ground are as follows:

Saturday 20th July
Saturday 17th August 2024
Saturday 21st September 2024
Saturday 19th October 2024

What can be taken:

Non-recyclable waste (sacks only)

* Bulky items such as mattresses and small furniture
* Electrical appliances (items that can be fitted into a standard sized carrier bag)

**What cannot be taken:**

* Garden waste
* Gas bottles
* Asbestos
* Any hazardous waste including chemicals and paint
* Hard core/building rubble/plasterboard
* Commercial/business waste

The vehicles will attend from 9am and will leave the site once they are full or at noon. Any waste left here by residents after the vehicles have left is classed as**fly tipping.**

**Parish Council Burial Ground**

If possible would users please take their rubbish home with them to reduce the increasing disposal costs. Please remember not to place glass on the graves as this may be removed for safety reasons.

**Fly-tipping** is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment ifconvicted in a Magistrates' Court. The offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to 5 years imprisonment if convicted in a Crown Court.

Kind regards

Sharon Hyatt – CEO/Clerk to the Council/Responsible Financial Officer