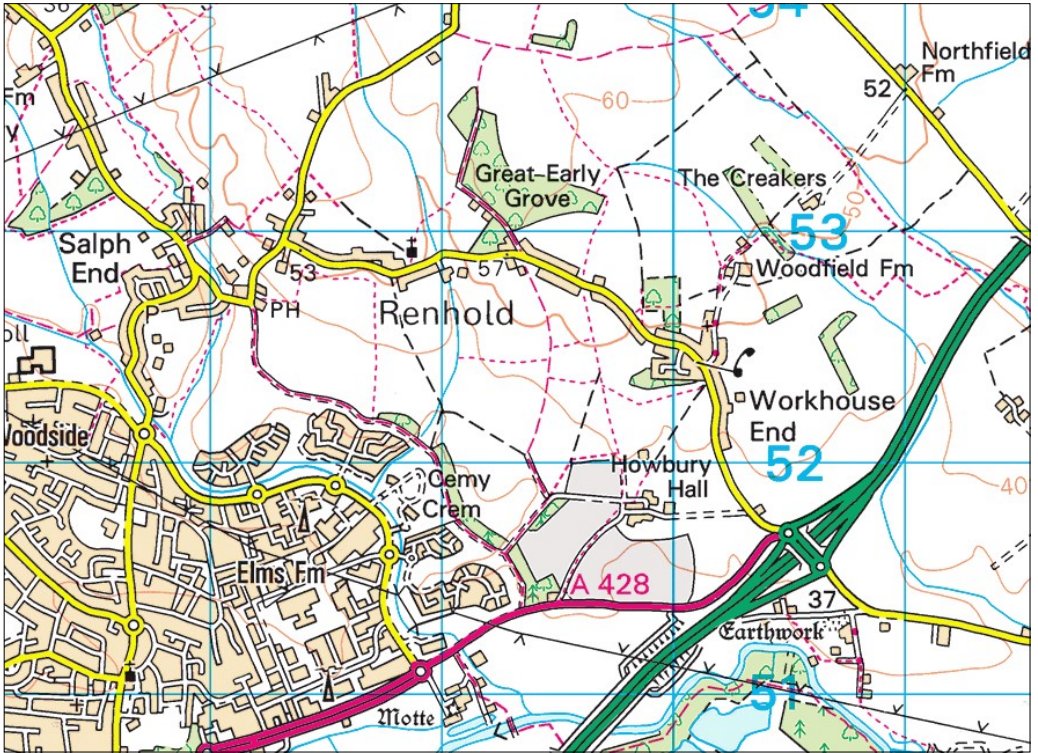


# RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



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### Our Vision for Renhold

**‘A cohesive village where individuals work together for the benefit of all residents, irrespective of race, religion, age, gender, origin or background’**

# RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

### FOREWORD

As I write this annual report, the country is in lockdown and facing a crisis never before seen in peacetime. I believe that it is only right to thank those very special individuals in our own community who are continuing to work on the front line to boost our health, safety and wellbeing and those who have so selflessly volunteered to help those who are lonely, isolated and vulnerable. You are all heroes and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> report that Renhold Parish Council has prepared for delivery to every householder we have the honour of serving. I hope that it will explain what we have been doing on your behalf over the last 12 months and will clarify how your money, in the form of the Parish Precept, has been spent.

In May 2019, Ian Slater, who had been on the Parish Council for 14 years, 10 of them as Chair stood down and with him, after 20+ years of loyal service, Albert Gurney. We are indebted to them both for their knowledge, perception and dedication.

Ian and Albert's shoes were hard to fill, but I believe that over the year we have forged a very successful working partnership with our newly formed Team, who do their very best to embody the Nolan principles: selflessness, integrity objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

We have replaced the previously BCC-funded Parish Council's website with our own in-house one and Lizzie, our indefatigable Parish Clerk, continues to update those residents who are on the circulation list. Please let us know if you would like to be added to this by emailing: [lizzie\\_barnicoat@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com).

As part of our commitment to community cohesion, we have worked closely with the Church, the School and the Chapel to commemorate 'Renhold Remembers' and we are indebted to the skill and dedication of Martin Roberts who planted and now watches over the beautiful Remembrance roses at our War Memorial.

We were hoping to forge closer links with everyone in the Parish with a V.E. Day Commemoration Fayre on May 10<sup>th</sup> and we were very much encouraged to see the diversity of talent within the village. This celebration is, of course, on hold until we receive more positive news about COVID-19 - as is the Parish Electors' Meeting which was due to be held on April 9th.

Renhold is continually faced with expansion - from large scale developments such as those planned at Salph End and from the new East-West rail link; developments which will undoubtedly bring with them more traffic, more pollution and greater uncertainty. We want to do our best to represent you as forcefully as we can so:

**PLEASE TALK TO US. WE ARE LISTENING.**

Amanda Quince, Chair

## **THE PARISH**

The name Renhold is first found in 1227 when Sybil de Renhold and others owned about 15 acres of land in this parish. By the middle of the century, Renhold was held by William de Beauchamp. Renhold was assessed as being worth half a knight's fee, which means that it was considered capable of giving rise to half of the revenue that might be needed to equip and support one knight – approximately 750 acres. William is recorded as having ownership of 45 knight's fees – so Renhold was only a small part of a very large feudal landholding.

Since then, it has grown exponentially. It now comprises 1375 some households: the original village (essentially a collection of 'ends', each with its own distinctive rural character) and the three new estates off Norse Road, namely Cranbourne Gardens, Aspire and The Spires - each with its own vibrant community and individuality.

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL**

I am delighted to report that we have a full complement of councillors - five who represent the village ward and four who represent Cranbourne, The Spires and Aspire.

We are truly fortunate to have retained the services of our outstanding clerk, Lizzie Barnicoat who, for twelve years now, has been a fount of all knowledge in terms of planning, legislation and due protocol.

We are also superbly represented by our Ward Councillors: Stephen Moon, Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant, Christine McHugh and Tim Caswell.

## **HOW WE WORK**

Over the past year, the Parish Council has met nine times (one of which was 'virtual'). Meetings are open to the public and have been held at the Village Hall and at the Baptist Chapel. In an attempt to boost inclusion, we have added another venue to our list and we hope to meet for the first time in May at the Fiona Way Pavilion, provided restrictions are lifted. We have a loyal band of followers who regularly attend our meetings. They are our vital critical friends as during the Open Forum they challenge us, call us to account and inspire us - and to them we say a very big thank you. We try to conclude our meetings by 9:30 pm, but at times the liveliness of discussion and the varied opinions expressed mean that we stay on a little longer. For those of you who have not yet attended one of our lively meetings, we extend the warmest of invitations.

Our hard-working Ward Councillors attend regularly to update us all on Borough Council news and to support us with time-consuming Ward Fund applications for our village organisations.

Our own Parish Council Team regularly attends training and reports back the key learning points at each meeting. Richard Cook, Julian Polhill, Ian McIver, Darren Rayner and Martin Warwicker attended the induction for new Parish Councillors and I attended the two sessions on Chairmanship.

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## **HOW WE WORK (continued)**

Ian McIver also attended the Borough's Ethics and Standards training and Project Involve regarding future website provision for Parish Councils.

In between our full council meetings, we occasionally have meetings with Borough Council departments. This year we have met regularly with the Highways Team in an attempt to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problem of establishing a safe route to school for the pupils and their parents. We also attend site visits, if and when the planning committee decide to make a site visit.

We always ensure that we have at least one representative at all meetings run by the Association for Town and Parish Councils, the Borough Council's Town and Parish Network and the Borough Council's mini planning conference. We have also sent representatives to the Bedfordshire Police Priority Setting, the Police Quarterly Review, the Police Commissioner and Parish Annual Conference and the Borough Assembly. We have visited the Cardington and the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan meetings and the East-West Rail consultations to keep abreast of local developments. We are in the process of forming a Village Team to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan, so if you would like to influence the future of Renhold and its development, then please contact me: [pace.quince@gmail.com](mailto:pace.quince@gmail.com)

## **PLANNING**

The Borough Council consults us on all planning applications made within this parish as they pass through the various stages. Since May, we have looked carefully at 74 different applications. We now have a small planning group who make site visits to almost every planning application and report back ahead of each Parish Council meeting and we are about to purchase a small projector to ensure that everyone who attends our meetings can see and understand plans clearly.

Meetings now start at 7:00pm so that we can focus on the ever-increasing number of planning applications and the increasing complexity of the planning and appeals process. We have also begun to attend Borough planning meetings - even if Renhold does not have a live application at that time - to better understand the arguments that work and those that don't.

For the first time, we have engaged the services of a professional planner as the three applications for 440 houses in Salph End and Hookhams Lane threaten to undermine the rural character of the village. The amount of insight needed and the work involved in putting together a strong case is huge. We have been delighted with the proactive support that we have received from local residents, both in canvassing opinion and in attending the Borough's planning meetings. It is vital that this energy and dynamism continue, as although Renhold has no need nor allocation of houses in the 2030 plan and the 5-year land supply has been agreed, a developer has already challenged it, so the call for new sites could very soon be upon us. Even more reason for you to join the Neighbourhood Planning Group if you wish to influence the future of Renhold.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRAFFIC**

Increasing traffic volume and speed continue to consume much of our meeting space and our time in between meetings as we proactively engage the support of our Ward Councillors and the Borough's Highways Team. We are indebted to our village Speedwatch Team who brave the elements to record invaluable data for us. Sadly, the Traffic Restriction Order (which was agreed as part of a package with the arrival of the A421 and the Great Barford bypass) - breaches of which are recorded by the Speedwatch Team - would appear to be unenforceable as we face, on a daily basis, motorists who see Renhold as a quick cut through. We also regularly challenge parents who persistently park on double yellow lines and on the zigzags outside the school gates, ignoring the camera that was installed to prevent such flouting of the rules. Residents also continue to report those who consistently park in lay-bys and lorry drivers who ignore the weight restriction on Hookhams Lane. Speed cameras have made a significant difference at least to the speed if not the volume of traffic, and we have repeatedly asked for cameras to be installed along Hookhams Lane and Ravensden Road. Speed cameras are costly, in great demand and in short supply, so the Parish Council has recently purchased two sets of Vehicle Activated Signs for Hookhams Lane and Ravensden Road in an attempt to encourage motorists to slow down.

The numbers of children at Renhold Primary have increased dramatically and the Parish Council and School Governors have been working closely with the Highways Team to find the best solution for a safe route to school. The Borough has no obligation to consult residents on this issue, so we are grateful that we have had several meetings with them. The outcome, however, is far from satisfactory, as the Borough has decided to install a zebra crossing and to remove the free bus as they deem the path from the new estates to be a safe route to school.

Interestingly, the Education Department has ignored the fact that there are no continuous paths in the old village and yet the bus is to be removed. The Parish Council feels that the only safe crossing is one controlled by lights as we all know just how impetuous young children are, but the Borough Teams do not agree. Furthermore, the Parish Councillors have made it very clear that removal of the bus will inevitably mean more cars.

Pot holes, particularly those at Pinchgut Hill, continue to plague us and the temporary repairs that have been used as a quick fix are of limited use, so Richard Cook has taken up the liaison role to expedite longer term solutions and to ensure that Renhold's road repairs are included in the Council's budget plan.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Parish Council is proud of its dark skies policy within the old village of Renhold and is in regular contact with the CPRE whenever developments threaten to undermine it. We are also very grateful to them for their support in our campaigns against the proposed total of 440 new houses in Salph End and Hookhams Lane.

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## **ENVIRONMENT (continued)**

We have reviewed the grass cutting contracts during the year and we have added in extra cuts and extra locations in an attempt to keep Renhold beautiful. We are indebted to the army of unsung heroes who collect litter on a regular basis and, to boost the number of litter street champions, we held our first Community Litter Pick on September 7th 2019.

We have introduced an asset inspection rota and every month we each check on the maintenance and safety of the assets for which we are responsible such as the War Memorial, the parish noticeboards and the village benches to expedite speedier repairs and/or replacements. We have also had to chase up the removal of council-cut trees and vegetation along Hookhams Lane and Ravensden Road and the persistent problem of unemptied dog bins and litter bins.

The traveller encampments on the Orbit site caused considerable concern and Darren Rayner is liaising with the Borough re preventative measures such as installing bollards or bunding to prevent future sorties.

The daffodils that we planted after the Queen's Jubilee are now in full bloom and we are looking to increase the number of bulbs on our verges and to plant pocket nature reserves on selected splays.

## **FINANCE**

The Parish Council is funded by the Parish Precept. It is shown on your Council Tax Bill as Renhold Parish Council. Council tax bills have gone up by 3.9%, but your contribution to Renhold has, in fact, gone down marginally. This is in part due to the careful stewardship of the money which we carry forward from year to year.

This reserve has meant that we have been able to increase the number of cuts to the grass verges, to purchase some Vehicle Activated Signs for Hookhams Lane and Ravensden Road and to extend the number of much needed and well-deserved grants for our village organisations. To date this year, we have agreed grants to All Saints Church, the Village Magazine, the Baptist Chapel, the Playgroup, the Gardening Club and the Sports Field. We are also in the process of reviewing a prospective grant for the WI's wonderful Millennium Record.

We also have to reserve some money to pay towards the ongoing cost of our average speed cameras, and - should land become available - to purchase more land to provide extra burial spaces, as the All Saints Church graveyard is very near to capacity. The budget is summarised on page nine of this report and you will see that the expenditure is generally within budget with a very small overspend. Finance is a standing item on every Parish Council agenda and there is rigorous monitoring of progress against budget. We are externally audited every year by Mazars and our sincere thanks go to Lizzie who keeps us on track. Residents are warmly invited to contribute ideas as to how money could/should be spent.

## **OTHER VILLAGE MATTERS**

The Clerk, Lizzie Barnicoat, regularly updates residents who have opted in to the Renhold circulation list. This is a fast, economical route to keep you abreast of developments, so please let us know if you would like to be added to this list. Lizzie's email address is: lizzie\_barnicoat@hotmail.com. We are grateful to the Magazine Team who devote space every month for Parish Council news.

As mentioned earlier, Ian McIver has written a new Parish Council website and Councillor Rayner has been appointed as a Parent Governor at Renhold Primary.

We have close links with local police as anti-social behaviour, issues with fly tipping, drug misuse at Water End and littering and fly tipping on the bridleway by the Polhill Arms continue. CCTV is currently under investigation.

We held a very successful Parish Electors' Meeting on Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019. We received reports from the Woodcarving and Gardening clubs, the Royal British Legion and the Football Club, Good Neighbours, the Village Magazine Team, All Saints Church, the Baptist Chapel, the Reading Group, the WI, the Village Websites and the Social Media group, the Carpet Bowls club, the Village Hall Management Committee, Speedwatch, the Charity Cottages and the Sports Club. This all goes to show what a richly talented, committed and diverse community we live in.

We welcome the appointment of our new vicar Ian Smith and we were delighted to attend his installation on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Our warm congratulations and heartfelt thanks go to the team of stalwarts who have kept All Saints viable over the last four years, against seemingly impossible odds.

## **THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS**

There are normally ten full Parish Council meetings a year. Meetings are held at the Village Hall, the Baptist Chapel and the Pavilion in Fiona Way. They are held on weekday evenings, begin at 7:00pm and we try to finish at 9:30pm. Residents are encouraged to raise important issues about village life and to contribute to discussion during our Open Forum. Other standing items on the agenda include Planning, Highways, Finance, Village Matters and Borough Councillors' Reports.

As I mentioned before, since the uncontested elections in May 2019, we have a full complement of nine councillors whose biographies you can read on pages 10 to 12 of this Report. We are set to stand for four years, but the roles of Chair and Vice Chair are determined at the start of our Annual General Meeting in May. We are always on the lookout for new blood with new ideas and creative energy so, if you are genuinely interested in ensuring that Renhold's Parish Council achieves the best that it can for its residents, then please do let us know and we will contact you should a vacancy become available.

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## **THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS (continued)**

We are in the process of formulating sub committees for finance and highways, so that we can consider the most contentious of issues in depth. All of these working party meetings will, of course, be open to any member of the public and will be advertised well in advance so that residents are kept fully informed at every stage.

Between meetings, there is a free exchange of information between Parish Councillors, usually by email. A folder of paper correspondence is also circulated and updates are additionally posted on the noticeboards and the PC website.

### **And a personal note**

I would like to thank my Team for their vital contribution and I would like to assure everyone that although we are all part-timers and amateurs, we do try to do our very best for the Village and all its residents as we work even-handedly within the legal constraints imposed upon us.

This is my first Annual Report. I would very much welcome constructive feedback on its content and format.

## **Please talk to us. We are listening.**

<b><u>RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL 2019-20</u></b>		
<b>Clerk to the Council:</b> Mrs Lizzie Barnicoat		
PO Box 1548, Bedford MK44 5AX		
Tel: (01234) 771702 email: <a href="mailto:lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com">lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com</a>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
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**Renhold Parish Council - Draft Summary Financial Statement 2019 / 20 as at 30th April 2020****Revenue**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>
Net Precept after BBC correction	21,292.00	21,292.00
Lloyds Bank Ltd Interest received	-	37.00
BBC re: Community Infrastructure Levy	-	35.30
BBC re: Grass Cutting	1,164.00	1,164.01
Grant received from BBRG	-	3,805.00
VAT reclaimed from 2018/19	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22,456.00</b>	<b>26,333.31</b>

**Income exceeding Forecast = £3,877.31****Outgoings**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Paid / Allocated</b>	<b>VAT Paid</b>
<b>Grants made including:</b>			-
Chapel Replacement Doors	-	3,805.00	-
Chapel	-	250.00	-
Church Graveyard Maintenance	800.00	1,000.00	-
Renhold Sports Field	550.00	500.00	-
Renhold Village Magazine	1,760.00	1,108.00	-
Toddler Group	-	120.00	-
Gardening Club	-	75.00	-
Grants made Total		6,858.00	
Anglian Water Service @ War Memorial	-	57.65	-
Morelock 2x Vehicle Activated Signs	-	6,108.00	1,018.00
BBC Election Recharges	-	119.13	-
Roll & Scroll Memorial Bench	-	1,100.00	-
Remembrance Day Costs	-	165.98	-
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,110.00</b>	<b>14,408.76</b>	<b>1,018.00</b>
<b>Administration:</b>	<b>14,449.00</b>	<b>10,202.08</b>	<b>406.79</b>
(includes Clerk's fees, Hall hire, Audit fees, Insurance, Printing, Registrations, Training, etc.)			
<b>Sub-contracted work:</b>	<b>8,325.00</b>	<b>4,783.20</b>	<b>797.20</b>
(includes Grass cutting, Hedge trimming, General maintenance, Asset repair / refurbishment, etc.)			
<b>Unspecified Contingency</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>		
<b>VAT to be reclaimed</b>			<b>- 2,221.99</b>
<b>Total Expenditure / Allocation</b>	<b>26,884.00</b>	<b>29,394.04</b>	<b>27,172.05</b>

**Net spend exceeding Forecast = £288.05****Net spend exceeding Income = £838.74**

## Renhold Parish Council

### Councillor Profiles

**Councillor Susan Brunsten** has served on the Renhold Parish Council for over ten years now.

Susan lived in Putnoe and Brickhill before moving to Cranbourne Gardens at its inception 20 years ago.

She has worked with young children all her working life including eight years in Hong Kong. Before retiring, she worked for 19 years in a Bedford pre-prep school, Polam.

Susan spent 30 years in Girl Guiding and she is currently a committee member of Renhold WI. She belongs to both village book clubs and she helps to collate and deliver the village magazine. She enjoys walking - especially on the many footpaths around the village.



**Councillor Richard Cook** has lived in Renhold, by the traffic lights, for 9 years and before that in other Bedford villages.

He is currently Vice Chair.

Richard's background is in sales and marketing. His sales experience helps him to understand issues from differing perspectives and to look for solutions for all.

His hobbies are running and cycling. Running gives him an opportunity to see the quality of Renhold footpaths and bridle paths at first hand. Cycling has brought him into contact (literally hard contact) with the state of our roads and traffic issues. He keeps up a regular correspondence with 'Mayor Dave' about these aspects.



**Councillor Margaret Dean** is a long serving member of the Parish Council. She is particularly interested in planning and highways issues and she is a trustee of Renhold's Charity Cottages.

Margaret has lived in Renhold for 60 years, buying land, designing and building a bungalow with her late husband, their two daughters and two grandchildren.

Margaret spent over 30 years working mainly in Civil Engineering and Public Utility Drawing offices. She is a keen gardener and she enjoys church choral singing, helping with fundraising for the Red Cross and keeping fit.

Having been a keen sportswoman, she enjoys watching any sports.



## **Councillor Profiles (continued)**

**Councillor Nicky Gribble** joined Renhold Parish Council in 2016. She has lived in Church End since 1987. She was on the working group that years ago set up Renhold pre-school group, including securing the funding to build the extension to Renhold Lower School which still houses the group.

Both of her sons attended Renhold Lower School, went on to Alban Middle School in Gt. Barford and finally to Mark Rutherford Upper School. Her elder son is a serving member of the Armed Forces and the younger is at University in The Netherlands.

Nicky works for a large global company and specialises in and teaches Food Safety. She is a Health & Safety Officer at work.

Nicky is a country woman who is passionate to preserve our rural way of life and has an active interest in the environment and the challenges faced. Her hobbies include riding, carriage driving, tennis in all weathers and walking her three dogs.

Nicky is also a registered small-holder who has kept pigs, sheep, goats and chickens in her large garden.



**Councillor Ian McIver** joined Renhold Parish Council in May 2019.



In his early professional life, Ian was an engineer. He then branched out as a freelance management consultant and worked in a wide variety of industries in many parts of the world.

Having retired and moved to Renhold, Ian set up and maintains the renholdvillage.net website. He also helps with the Renhold Village magazine.

Since joining the Parish Council, Ian has written the new Parish Council website and has introduced a monthly Asset Inspection rota.

Ian is also a volunteer driver for the Sue Ryder/St John's Hospice at Moggerhanger and seems to have become Renhold's go-to technology guru!

**Councillor Julian Polhill** started life as a financial journalist and spent thirty years managing a financial marketing agency in the City of London. He has farmed in Renhold for twenty-five years and has known the village for over 60 years.

He is a trustee of a number of Bedford charities, chairs the Beds and Cambs Country Landowners and Business Association, is a past chair of the Beds Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and was president of NE Beds Conservative Association for 15 years before giving up politics to become High Sheriff.

Julian likes a good fire and a whisky.



## **Councillor Profiles (continued)**

**Councillor Darren Rayner** joined Renhold Parish Council in May 2019.

He moved to the Aspire Estate on its creation in August 2015 and lives there with his wife and 5-year-old daughter. Darren is an active participant in local issues and is the Aspire Estate Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. His daughter attends Renhold V.C. Primary School, where he also serves as a Parent Governor.

Darren has worked in sales and property for the last 15 years. This invaluable experience has allowed him to gain an understanding of the issues that concern local residents and a strong determination to work with all to find a solution.

His hobbies include spending time with his family and going for long walks. This normally involves periods of sprinting as he tries to keep up with his daughter, as she rides off at speed on her new bike.



**Councillor Amanda Quince** joined Renhold Parish Council in 2015. She has lived in Renhold with her husband since 1977.



Both their daughters attended Renhold Lower School and during that time, Amanda was chair of the PTA and a parent governor.

She is now the School, Chapel and Church link and became Chair of the Parish Council in May 2019.

Amanda attends the village reading group, coordinates the 'Renhold Remembers' event and is currently managing the (postponed) V.E. Day Fayre at Howbury Hall.

Amanda spent 40 years in education, both as a middle school deputy head teacher and as a visiting university lecturer at De Montfort University.

Now retired, Amanda plays table tennis and enjoys singing with the U3A choir.

**Councillor Martin Warwicker** joined Renhold Parish Council in May 2019.

Martin took early retirement in 2015 having formerly been employed in the financial services industry and latterly in warehousing and logistics where he was involved in training and Health and Safety issues.

Martin lives in Water End where he spends his time trying to whip his garden into shape and training his dog Fenrir not to destroy his horticultural achievements.

Martin moved to Renhold eight years ago and, as a Parish Councillor, he would like to help improve our village environment and make it a pleasant and safe place to live.



## **New Renhold Parish Council website**

We would like to draw your attention to the new Parish Council website. You can find it at <http://www.renhold-pc.co.uk>.

Parish Councils are required by law to maintain a website where all its 'official' documents are available for anyone and everyone to read.

For many years, the Borough Council provided a free website facility for Parish Councils. However, in the face of ever-increasing demands on the Borough's money and the need to reduce expenditure, this facility was withdrawn on 31st March 2020.

The new website is more or less a straight copy of the previous one, with a bit of tidying up and streamlining. There is a great deal of information and all the Parish Council's formal records are on there.

News is also carried, as are details of forthcoming events (including dates, times, venues and agendas for Meetings) and minutes of past Meetings.

In due course, the P.C. will apply for a '.gov.uk' site name. We will give you lots of notice and a long period of overlap when this change occurs.

We hope you'll make use of this new opportunity to keep in touch.

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## **Renhold Circulation List**

Whilst on the subject of keeping in touch, may we once again exhort you to write to our Clerk, Lizzie ([lizzie\\_barnicoat@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzie_barnicoat@hotmail.com)) and request that she puts you on our email-based Renhold Circulation List.

This is a highly cost-effective and very time-efficient way of regularly getting information to many residents almost instantaneously.

We are constantly surprised and a bit disappointed that a mere 150 or so out of 1375 households in the Village opt to receive information in this way.

These emails are sent out around once per month (unless something urgent comes up). We always send them as 'blind copies' (so no-one can see your email address) and we do not divulge your details to anyone. So no need to fear a sudden avalanche of adverts!

Do please give this some serious consideration and sign up.

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## **Lizzie Barnicoat - Clerk to the Parish Council.**

Lizzie has been our amazing Clerk and has kept us on the straight and narrow for twelve years.

She is extremely knowledgeable and experienced in Clerking and has built up a wide circle of contacts who can offer support and advice as and when necessary.

Lizzie was highly recommended at the High Sheriff's awards last year - a truly well-deserved recognition of her abilities.

Many thanks Lizzie!



## **IT'S TIME TO CARE!**

**Do you care about the future of Renhold over the next 15 years?**

**Do you want to influence decisions that could affect the future of our village?**

**If your answers are yes, then please read on!**

### **Neighbourhood Plans**

#### **What is a Neighbourhood Plan?**

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document produced for, in and by Renhold which sets out our preferred Planning Policies for our Village.

A group of residents - not just the Parish Council - should lead and prepare the Plan.

Following acceptance by a majority in a Parish Referendum, our Neighbourhood Plan becomes a 'material issue' which the Borough Council must take into account when deciding whether or not to approve planning applications in the Village.

#### **Why bother with a Neighbourhood Plan?**

- This process will help the community come together, to be stronger and more united about its future.
- It will give us a positive rather than reactive voice and will give us more control over what happens in Renhold
- A robust plan with strong community support and a shared vision can help to protect against inappropriate development in the Village.
- It can help to determine which sites are developed.
- It can also identify and help to protect important local green spaces and sensitive areas from development.
- It can influence the size and style of new houses and what they look like.
- It will include policies that will help maintain the character of the village.
- It will reflect the needs and aspirations of residents and will help ensure that the recreational and social needs of local people are considered.
- It will set out improvements needed to infrastructure and services.

Want to find out more?

<https://www.planninghelp.cpre.org.uk/planning-explained/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-development-plans>

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/neighbourhood-planning/>

## **OK, so what needs doing?**

There are a number of different types of tasks to be undertaken, including compiling plans, typing up documents, marking up maps, popping leaflets through letterboxes, analysing returned questionnaires, attending meetings, etc.

As stated above, this is a project to be undertaken by many (emphatically NOT just the Parish Council).

If **YOU** would like to become involved and help make a difference to the life, amenity and environment of **TOMORROW**'s Renhold residents, contact us **TODAY!**

Amanda Quince: [pace.quince@gmail.com](mailto:pace.quince@gmail.com)

or

Ian McIver: [ianmciver38@gmail.com](mailto:ianmciver38@gmail.com).



**RENHOLD NEEDS YOU AND YOU NEED RENHOLD**

# Our Vision for Renhold

**‘A cohesive village where individuals work together for the benefit of all residents, irrespective of race, religion, age, gender, origin or background’**



Photo Courtesy Terry Nokes

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