

# About Ashfield



## Parish council contacts

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## Next Council Meeting

- Parish Council Meeting–  
Wednesday 9 May 2012
- Annual Meeting of Ashfield  
Parish AGM - Wednesday  
9 May 2012

All residents are welcome to attend. The Agenda is available on the Village Hall Noticeboard a week before the meeting.

## PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Parish Council receives its money from MSDC via the Council Tax paid by each household in the village. Last year (2011/12) the Precept (the money we receive) was £1700. This money is used to pay our Clerk, Insurance, Audit Fees, Hire of the village hall and our subscription to the Suffolk Association of Local Councils which gives free legal advice and other helpful advice if needed.

We shall again be requesting a Precept of £1700 for the financial year 2012/13.

## COMMUNITY OIL BUYING

Suffolk ACRE have set up Community Buying Ltd, a social enterprise reducing the cost of domestic heating oil for people of Suffolk. By joining the scheme you can have your oil delivered at the same time as other members nearby and benefit from the reduced cost of bulk purchasing.

To take advantage of the scheme, domestic members pay a £20 annual fee; then each month let your local co-ordinator know whether you wish to place an order. (Local co-ordinators save even more). Suffolk ACRE negotiate the best price and advise you of the delivery date and price.

For more information: [www.communitybuying.org.uk](http://www.communitybuying.org.uk) or 01473 345300

## THEFTS

Residents are advised to take extra care after a recent spate of thefts in the area. There has been a burglary in the village, two in Earl Soham and one in Framsdan.

Please be aware of any suspicious activity and report it to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (Mid Suffolk North). The new non-emergency telephone number is 101. Alternatively you can ring 01473 613500.

## Ashfield-Cum-Thorpe Community Council

### WEBSITE

There is now a new website for Ashfield; it's run by the Community Council, but the aim is to include all kinds of news and information to Ashfield residents. If there's anything which you would like to see on the site, or have any information you would like posted, please contact [simon.garrett@iee.org](mailto:simon.garrett@iee.org).

Do have a look at <http://ashfield.onesuffolk.net/>

### DECEMBER SOCIAL

**The social held on 2nd December proved a lively affair, even though competing Christmas evening events were being held on the same evening in both Framlingham and Debenham! All the Victoria bitter was consumed (there's a surprise!) and the new Mega-Jenga game was tried out, accompanied by much noise and laughter.**

### YOGA

The popular Yoga classes, which were started with the help of Suffolk Sport, are continuing in 2012, held on Thursdays in the village hall starting at 7:00pm. If you are interested but a little unsure, just come along for a 'sampler' session. There is no long-term commitment

### CYCLISTS STOP OFF

Ashfield has become a favourite stopping-off point for local cycling clubs, breaking their journey to enjoy coffee and cake. It's quite hard work serving 40 or more cyclists who arrive at more or less the same time, but it's a social thing to do. We do rely on a supply of cakes from villagers (expenses can be refunded), and volunteer helpers on the day. The next event will be on Sunday 4th March - offers of help are always gratefully received, call 685452 or 685933.

### FINANCE

**Thanks to grants received and to the various fund-raising events, the Community Council reserves currently stand at £5,288.42. A substantial proportion of this sum of this has to be kept in reserve in case of unexpected repairs, such as a leaking roof, but maintaining and improving the hall also makes financial demands. The committee is considering the purchase of thermal curtains to allow the hall to be kept warmer more economically, and replacing the worn-out flooring in the entrance areas.**

### VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The rotten windows and window frames have been repaired and renewed, assisted by a very welcome grant from the Suffolk

Foundation which paid for most, though not all, of the costs. The drains have been cleared of blockages which had caused the gutters to overflow, and various other maintenance jobs have been carried out.

We are trying to keep the car parking area (which you may recall was recently renovated at considerable expense) in good condition, in the face of many car, van and lorry drivers who use it as a convenient turning-round facility. Sadly, some of these drivers seem to enjoy doing 'wheelies', damaging the surface and throwing stones around. Hence the logs, which are placed so as to discourage this practice; this is a temporary arrangement and the committee is investigating a more permanent solution.

### FUTURE EVENTS

The Committee is now planning events for 2012, including a wine-tasting evening, the summer barbeque and a celebratory event marking the Jubilee. Suggestions and ideas for other events are always welcome!