

Claydon & Whitton Local Historian's Report August 2018

As many residents are aware that Claydon & Barham have been considered as one community since the Church authorities linked the two together on 1st May 1931. However because of the sheer size of the combined parishes it has not thought to be manageable to combine the two Councils. The possibility has been formally debated on five occasions since 1931 and a vote made at both Councils AGM' on each occasion; Claydon has said no twice and Barham three times. However the local organisations, clubs etc., as expected, are able to be run successfully with two Parish Councils covering the area they seek to provide for. The anomaly does however sometimes confuse residents especially as the law only allows publically owned Land and Buildings to belong to the Parish in which the facility is situated. Fortunately Claydon & Barham Parish Councils have a long standing agreement about their share of any public costs (based on what used to be called the penny rate); this should be reviewed each fiscal year with figures obtained from the District Council.

Over the past year Claydon like other communities in the area have been plagued with planned essential road works to install updated services. Local observations have been made that this is necessary because initially our roads foundations were suitable for "the traffic of the day", both in volume and weight, but Lorries are now considerably heavier and the volume of traffic generally in our village is returning to pre A14 days.

During the last 12 months our area has also been targeted with sizable housing applications which would, if successful, overload the village roads. There is some public opinion that before these applications are even allowed let alone considered Suffolk County Council and the District Councils need to do some urgent forward planning and yet again endeavour to actually build the long promised Northern Bypass. A northern bypass will give an up to date indication where housing may be needed or wanted.

Together with neighbouring parishes Claydon is about to embark on a new Parish Plan.

Trevor Messenger.

7.8.2018