# Future of the Knebworth GP Surgery

Herts County Council have now confirmed their intention of Herts County Council that its intention is to enter into an agreement with General Practice Investments, a developer, to re-develop the current library site into a new Library, a GP surgery and an associated pharmacy. This is subject to HCC and GPI finding acceptable terms for the agreement. Stephen McPartland, Richard Thake and I, together with Graham Fothergill, representing both the Patient Participation Group, and the Parish Council, had a meeting last year, with the practice manager where we learned of this general intention. It is only this month (Jan) that HCC have confirmed their general intention.

I am sure that residents of the village will all welcome this development, which should ensure that Knebworth has a modern, fit-for-purpose, GP surgery for many years to come. As many of you will know, the library site has been the one that has been preferred by Knebworth and Marymead General Practice for some years. I am very glad that the process has moved on a stage so that we can look forward to a new surgery opening, if everything goes well, in the next few years.

# Norton Green Common

I am pleased to report that Knebworth Parish Council has entered into a Stewardship Agreement with Natural England for the management of Norton Green Common. This agreement comes with over seven hundred pounds of grants from Natural England to restore the Common to a good condition. However the work needs to be done and the subcommittee are looking for volunteers to do it! It is hoped that two days of will be organised in the New Year when volunteers will be invited to work on clearance of the Common. In addition to the grant from Natural England, now the Common is registered it is eligible for payments from the Rural Payments Agency. To find out more please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

I should mention that the Stewardship Agreement represents major progress in the log hard slog that is the restoration of Norton Green Common. It would not have been possible without tireless effort on the part of Rosemary Pateman, Karen Robinson and the Parish Clerk.

# Local Plan

By the time you read this the Extraordinary Parish Meeting scheduled for the 20th January will have been held. There is time to send your response to the consultation to NHDC. Just email your comments to localplans@north-herts.gov.uk or send via the post to Planning Policy, NHDC, PO Box 480, Sale, M33 0DE. If you use email, please think about copying in me and the Parish Council (clerk@knebworthpc.org.uk). The deadline for submissions is the sixth of February, so don't delay!