

North and South Wheatley Parish Council



Newsletter April 2021

Greetings from the North and South Wheatley Parish Council

Welcome to the second edition of the Parish Council's (PC) Newsletter which we are planning to publish on a reasonably frequent basis to keep you informed of the PC's business and any forthcoming issues.

During the current Covid 19 crisis our monthly meetings have been taking place via Zoom but we are expecting to be able to meet 'in person' from May onwards. In the meantime any resident is welcome to join via Zoom and a 'hard copy' of the minutes are displayed in the Village Hall Drive notice board as well as being available on the PC website. Please visit us at:

www.northandsouthwheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

However, to improve communication we have decided to produce a periodic 'Newsletter' to inform all residents of any particular noteworthy points and, from time to time, to seek feedback.

Village Projects and Spending Plans

In the first edition of the Newsletter we asked residents for their views on which capital projects they should like us to fund. We received fewer replies than we would have liked but one project that was given universal backing was the renovation of the community garden.

We are still very aware that we will have to take action to reinforce the bank of the beck behind the sports pavilion, which is starting to show signs of quite serious erosion. In addition an underground water leak will oblige us to install a new water pipe to the pavilion. Whilst the water leak is relatively cheap to fix the beck bank is likely to cost around £20 000. It may be that Bassetlaw District Council will provide some of this money but it is not guaranteed and so we cannot really firm up our spending plan just yet.

However, given that spring is now upon us and it would be great to have a rejuvenated Community Garden for us all to enjoy as we hopefully come out of Lock-down and so we have decided to start the first phase of this project. This will comprise the removal of one flower bed and the renewal of the other, a refurbishment of the shelter, the installation of a table tennis table and the construction of a low fence beside the path to provide a safe play space for younger children. We are delighted that Judith Goacher has offered to sponsor a bench as a memorial to her husband and that Roy Bennett has kindly offered to donate bird boxes and bird feeders. Kimberley Jones together with her husband Simon and his business partner Neil Booth, of Skyline Construction of Nottingham Ltd, have offered to construct a small book exchange in the Community Garden and Kimberley will take on the job of running it for us.

If any other residents of local business would like to sponsor anything in the community garden such as a bench, a tree or indeed anything you think might be

appropriate then please let us know. We have managed to obtain a small grant for some trees but there is quite a lot of space to fill. Anyway, all in all, it looks as if we should be able to create a very pleasant spot for the village's use in time for the summer. Perhaps it won't quite rival the Chelsea Flower Show but it's certainly a lot closer!

Sponsor a 'Tile'

One initiative that we are considering is the idea of 'Family Tiles'. These would be similar to the little 'Strawberry tractor' tile on the village sign by the Community Garden. Each village family or household would be offered the opportunity to sponsor their own tile or plaque which we would be made to their own design and then mounted on the inside of the shelter in the garden. The minimum sponsorship fee for a tile would be £20 and this will cover the cost of the tile, the design being printed on it and then the tile being attached to the shelter. However, all of the monies raised will be used wholly for funding improvements to the Community Garden and so if any residents wanted to donate more than this we would be most grateful.

We would reserve the right to 'vet' any designs but the choice would be very wide ranging and could commemorate particular people or events or just be a personal celebration. We think it could certainly add interest and give the community some sense of ownership of the Garden. Obviously they would be made to be vandal proof and we hope the effect would be similar to those in 'Postman's Park' in London, an example is shown below.



That said we would clearly hope not to have to have any commemorating such a tragic event but it just gives you an idea of what we have in mind!

Other Projects

The other major projects are on hold pending a decision on what we do about the beck bank but the leading contenders for any surplus funds would be a re-surfacing of the children's play park and, in collaboration with the Village Hall, the installation of electric charging points in the Village Hall Car Park. This would not only add to the village's green credentials but should also generate a useful additional annual income for the Village Hall.

The final point about finance concerns the village's many clubs and organisations. As we start to return to some sort of normality, the PC believes that we should be encouraging everyone to join in with the many and varied activities available within the village. With that in mind we would like to put aside some limited funds to support and encourage any of the village-based groups or clubs to re-launch themselves after Lock-down. The PC therefore invites applications for small sums of money (probably less than £200 per application) to support 're-launch activities'.

Road Safety

A resident recently highlighted an incident that occurred in a neighbouring village when a child was struck by a car whilst crossing the road having just disembarked from a school bus. Fortunately the car was travelling at a sensible speed and the injury was very minor but it serves to remind us of the potential hazards. Road safety is not a PC responsibility but we have taken measures to make the village safer through the installation of a new interactive speed sign on Low Street. This sign is moveable and the plan would be to re-locate it to Sturton Road periodically. In addition, following a slight delay, we are pleased to see that Notts County Council has painted double yellow lines on the stretch of road between the bottom of Church Hill and Naish's Corner. This is welcome news and should curb any irresponsible car parking outside the school.

A call for volunteers

The PC is aware that there are a number of very public spirited volunteers who have taken it upon themselves to pick up litter around the village. This is great news and we would encourage all residents to 'do their bit'. With that in mind if you would like the PC to purchase any litter picking equipment, gloves, plastic bags etc then please get in touch.

Fibre Broadband

Hopefully you will have seen an earlier communication about the potential roll out of Fibre Broadband to individual houses. Since that letter was distributed we have learned that some residents already have a fibre link direct to their houses but this is not the case for the majority of us so if you would like to have fibre direct to your house – at little or no cost and with no requirement to change internet provider - then please follow the guidance in that letter and let the PC clerk know of your wishes.

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately there appears to have been a significant increase in the amount of dog poo being left around the village with areas of particular concern being Church Hill and around the entrances to the School. We know that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible people who clean up after their pooch but there are a few who seem not to care about the community in which they live. To address this we informed the Bassetlaw Council Enforcement Team of the matter and they will be visiting the village from time to time to enforce littering and dog fouling legislation. Remember you will be fined £100 if you drop litter or do not clean up after your dog. Indeed you could even be fined if you are in control of a dog and do not have in your possession at least 2 dog poo bags.

By way of guidance a dog owner is obliged to clean up after his or her dog if it fouls anywhere to which the public has access or on private land unless the owner has given permission otherwise. We know that the National Trust suggests that you 'take a stick and flick' and if you are walking on a country path then this seems eminently sensible and is certainly 100% better than the mindless 'wrap it nicely in a plastic bag and leave it' policy. So dog owners, thank-you to those that do 'scoop the poop' and to those who don't please think of others and take on your responsibilities!

Finally, on the subject of dogs, all dogs should be kept on a lead when exercising on the village field. This is not a case of the PC being 'anti-dog', indeed many of the current councillors are dog owners themselves, but rather trying to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents. In the past there have been problems with poorly supervised dogs interfering with organised sports and menacing or intimidating both young children and older residents, many of whom may not be as comfortable around dogs as dog owners obviously are. There is also the issue of road safety, it is the law that dogs should be on a lead if walking on a public

highway. So in the interests of community spirit please respect the rules and ensure that your dog is kept on a lead on the village field and when walking along our roads.

Would you like to be on the Parish Council?

Since the retirement of Councillor Margaret Burton earlier in the year we have had a vacancy on the Parish Council and now that we are coming out of Lock-down we are looking for a suitable replacement. The role is open to anyone who is 18 or older and who has either:

- Lived in the village for a year.
- Operated a business in the village for a year.
- Is on the village electoral role.

The duties are not too onerous, we have a meeting once a month and each councillor has individual responsibilities but you won't be asked to take on anymore that you think you can cope with and it is a chance to make a difference to the community of which you are an integral part.

So if you think that this is something you would like to do then please e-mail our clerk at:

clerk@northandsouthwheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

with your details and a brief resume of your background and the reasons why you would like to serve.