

Lighthorne Parish Council

February 2016 Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to 2016 from the Parish Council! 2015 proved to be a busy one for village life, with all of our Societies continuing to provide entertainment for all and FORSE working together with Lighthorne Parish Council and the wider community to try and stop the New town of GLH. Our Parish has gone from strength to strength in its resolve to protect Lighthorne for the foreseeable future.

Help us to Serve you

The rôle of a Parish Councillor is to serve the best interests of the people who reside in the Parish of Lighthorne. Most Parish Councillors tend to be co-opted onto the council and don't necessarily have a mandate from the local community. This year we have a fully elected Parish Council following on from the elections in the summer.

In this day of modern communications, 2015 saw the relaunch of the Parish Council Web Site www.lighthornepc.uk and a LPC Facebook page for the first time <https://www.facebook.com/Lighthorne-Parish-Council-829356813794992/?fref=nf>. The web site includes information about activities, services and of course the agenda and minutes from each monthly meeting. You can contact LPC by emailing lighthornepc@gmail.com

www.lighthornepc.uk

The new Lighthorne website will be the place to view the LPC monthly agenda, minutes and planning information. Whereas previously these items have been emailed to a list of residents, for legal reasons this can no longer be done. ***All those wishing to see the agenda, minutes and up to date planning information can go to the website anytime*** (the agenda will still be put on the village notice board as before). Not only can you see this LPC information, but you can also find the monthly events diary for the village and all the contact details for village groups. You can also see when the mobile library attends and other up to date information.

New Councillors

Since the last Parish Council newsletter we have been happy to hold onto all 5 Councillors! Contact details for all the current Parish Councillors and the Clerk are at the end of this newsletter.

If anyone would like to offer themselves as a future Parish Councillor please let the Clerk know so a list can be compiled. The standard notice advising of any vacancy will always be displayed.

Cllr Laura Steele was able to step down as acting Clerk, and we are happy to announce that we now have a full time Clerk to take over the role – welcome to Corrine Hill.

Core Strategy Examination in Public Overview

2016 saw another Examination in Public of Stratford District Council's Core Strategy, in front of Government planning inspector Peter Drew, ending on the 21st January 2016. Cllr Laura Steele attended, representing LPC and FORSE and here is an overview.

Day 1 (Tues 12th January) Matter A - Housing Need - numbers and percentages. Does the

Plan appropriately identify housing needs and does it seek to meet them in accordance with housing policy? Developers argued that SDC had got their figures wrong again. SDC could not even provide the specific detail to allow others, including the Inspector, to check what they claimed were robust figures and conclusions. SDC were also accused of not testing all available scenarios and alternatives. SDC asserted that a significant number of jobs indicated in the plan would be low paid, part time and lower skilled sector. LPC and FORSE emphasised that we needed to dispel the myth that there was any link between JLR and GLH when it came to jobs - that JLR needs to be dealt with in isolation. Dave Nash (SDC) tried to say that there would be jobs created at GLH in the retails units etc. Not enough for 1,000 'affordable' houses at GLH was our response! Dave Nash then said that the affordable housing at GLH was for the district not just GLH - we pointed out that there wasn't even a promised bus route to Stratford where the jobs were - leading to a car dependent isolated town. Other developers agreed with us - and CPRE said that everything LPC and FORSE said was correct! The criticism of SDC continued with developers stating they had no evidence base for assertions, and that they needed to disclose these before anyone could verify them.

Day 2 (Wednesday 13th January) Matter B - Adequacy of Sustainability Appraisal(SA) and significance and timing of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Planning Performance Agreement in relation to the assessment of GLH in the Sustainability Appraisal. Warwickshire Wildlife Trust made the point that SDC had approached biodiversity from a starting point of mitigation rather than following planning policy - avoidance should be the first priority. SDC had used an incorrect methodology and had used a policy incorrectly and as such their Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was incorrect. Mr Drew turned to LPC and FORSE and our submission – we said that to produce a planning performance agreement and a draft masterplan before the Core Strategy had been decided upon did not follow due process, it merely demonstrated SDC's commitment to GLH regardless of whether it was a sound choice and this evidenced why the choice of GLH was not justified. Other developers agreed and said that the SPD should have been in place before the SA was done – the SPD should guide the SA and should then guide any planning application – the foundation for the SA was not there and therefore had been prepared on a false basis. Errors concerning the SA for GLH were pointed out by LPC and FORSE – they were all serious and the cumulative effect of so many errors meant that there was error of judgement which rendered the whole report unsound and it could only be rectified by being done again. SDC said they could simply amend their SA. LPC and FORSE disagreed - it was far more serious than that – and also didn't agree with their simplistic suggestions of amendments. QCs representing other developers supported LPC and FORSE saying that we had raised an important issue of principle and that there comes a time when the cumulative number of points has a consequence. All developers round the table then went on to attack the SA. There was a need to repeat the SA at a high level – primarily as a consequence of huge changes in housing numbers which fundamentally changes the effects of distribution. The choices of 2 major new settlements created a greater risk in achievability. They argued that there should be better use of locations nearer to Stratford on Avon and the main rural centres. The day concluded with concerns about the deliverability of the new settlements.

Day 5 (Wednesday 20th January) Matter D - Housing Supply and Housing Trajectory including an update on GLH and feedback on the AML allocation. LPC and FORSE, with representatives from Chesterton, Gaydon, Lighthorne Heath, and the owners of Chesterton Wood, well supported by District Councillor Chris Kettle, all voiced very real concerns about the GLH development. The site of the proposed development by Aston Martin (AML) was questioned by LPC and FORSE. Concerns about the impact on

wildlife at the quarry and biodiversity were supported by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Little work had been done to assess the site and its effect on Lighthorne – a conservation village - and Lighthorne Heath. LPC and FORSE emphasised there was already a strong precedent against any development, set out in the 1995 Inspector's report, which commented that 'it would be detrimental to the countryside location by closing the gap between the two villages'. LPC and FORSE suggested that if AML needed to expand there was land available adjacent to the current factory – currently used as a car park. The car park could be relocated to land north of the B4100. CEG/Bird said that they were confident that nothing else was outstanding concerning the 2000 houses development and SDC confirmed that they were now in a position to put in a report to council members. IM Properties were questioned about their outline planning application including the 'landmark structure' proposed. Chesterton informed the Inspector of the 2500 signatories to the petition objecting to the GLH development, citing the impact on the vista and its significance as a national landmark. The development was contrary to national and local planning policy. LPC and FORSE questioned the assumptions in the traffic modelling exercise by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). JLR's expansion and the impact of single occupancy cars on the B4100 had not been taken into consideration. The traffic calming measures proposed by WCC go against JLR's expressed concerns about the impact on their employees getting to work. Cllr Kettle confirmed that ward members had requested a meeting with WCC to discuss their concerns but had received no response. No investigation had been made into the impact of traffic through villages. Other developers questioned the accuracy of the GLH housing trajectory. The first phase for construction covers 2016/17 – their view was that the prospect of any houses being built during this time frame is nil. Given the amount of work needed before building can start 'this plan will fail within the first year of adoption'. There was no confidence that SDC could deliver the houses in the plan across the district. Developers cited numerous examples of problems SDC had encountered over the years– SDC had a history of over-optimism - and the ensuing delays in starting construction. SDC has no experience of handling such a large development and to even consider having two major new town developments running concurrently 'beggars belief'. SDC admitted that they had been short of staff, but that two had recently been employed and they had plans for recruiting more!

Day 6 (Thursday 21st January) Matter E - Broad Wrap up session. SDC confirmed that there had been an error in their treatment of developments submitted during the period since the five year supply had been in place, and agreed that they would now take all submissions back to committee at the next available date. The Inspector agreed deadlines for further reports and also asked for further consideration of the effect of cross boundary needs – sites adjacent to other new developments would be competing in the same market. The developers for Long Marston confirmed they had now reached agreement with the developers at Shottery concerning the relief road. The session ended with the very pertinent point from LPC and FORSE concerning the GLH development pressing ahead without the CS in place. The Inspector confirmed that he cannot force SDC to wait for the outcome of his examination. However it was clear that he was not best pleased!

What happens next?

The Inspector said that it would take some 6 weeks for his report to be published and that there would be further consultation on any revisions to the plan following those findings. He did not rule out the possibility that he may have to resume the hearings yet again!

It would seem that SDC are still a long way from having a sound, deliverable plan.

Junction 12 of the M40

In spite of being assured this new junction and associated roads would be open in Spring 2016, we are now being told that it will be June 2016. We will keep you informed of any changes to this.

The Bank

Most of you will now be aware of the landslide at The Bank, above Stepping Stones. WCC are making the road safe on a temporary basis to prevent any further collapse of the road or further collateral damage. It is anticipated that The Bank will be closed as a through road for a number of months as the road cannot be repaired and made safe until the retaining/underpinning work has been completed at Stepping Stones. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Playground Update

Following the results in the Parish Plan where 80% of those who responded felt the playground needed improving, the Parish Council has endorsed the plans put forward by a group of parents, 'Friends of Lighthorne Playground' (FLIP), to improve and update the playground facilities.

We are very excited to announce that Friends of Lighthorne Playground has been selected to receive a grant thanks to Tesco's Bags of Help initiative!! Please visit our local Tesco's and vote for us from Feb 27 - March 6th!! www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp Tesco has teamed up with Groundwork to launch its Bags of Help initiative in hundreds of regions across England and Wales. The scheme will see three community groups and projects in each of these regions awarded grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag charge. Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco's 390 regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the five pence charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public will now vote in store from 27 February until 6 March on who should receive the £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 awards.

Lighthorne Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

A Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been started in Lighthorne and it is registered with the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network and with the police. The scheme is a civilian administered scheme and membership is free of charge. The village co-ordinator is Colin Such. To become a member it is necessary to register and this can only be done online via the website www.ourwatch.org.uk. Simply enter your postcode and follow the instructions. Once you are registered, the co-ordinator will notify you by email of any Lighthorne crime and anti-social behaviour reports, received from the police or from local residents. Members can also opt to receive national and regional news/reports from Ourwatch. You will also be able to report incidents to the co-ordinator, though urgent matters should be reported directly to the police. Since the scheme is an online scheme only, members are asked to pass on details of crime concerns to neighbours who do not have access to a computer. The co-ordinator has a number of brochures about advice on making your home safe and a supply of Neighbourhood Watch stickers for doors/windows and can be contacted on 01926 651411.

Parking

Parking in the village continues to be a problem. Guidelines were produced in conjunction with the police to try and provide residents with a guide to responsible parking. These were previously delivered to every household in the village. Could we politely ask that everyone

tries to adhere to these guidelines? Anyone with a driveway should always try and park their vehicles and, if possible, visitors' vehicles on the driveway. With the increased number of vehicles travelling through the village it is more important than ever to try and avoid a potential accident caused by irresponsible parking. Further copies of the guidelines are available.

Speed of Traffic

With the increased volume of traffic travelling through the village there is more concern over the speed at which it is travelling. The Parish Council is in regular contact with Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) to try and address the issue. If anyone spots a vehicle travelling at excessive speed and is able to get the registration number, please let the Parish Council know. In many cases the vehicles are owned by JLR and they will speak directly with the driver and give them a warning. There are ongoing discussions with JLR and AML to try and find new solutions for dealing with their workforce traffic.

A team of 9 villagers have been trained by the police to use a laser gun in order to check the speeds of motorists in Lighthorne. The Parish Council has purchased a reconditioned laser gun and Community Speedwatch warning signs and high visibility jackets have been donated. If a motorist is caught exceeding the speed limit the car's registration number is sent to the police, who send out a warning letter to the registered owner of the vehicle. Repeat and serial offenders are dealt with on a case by case basis. So far 11 Speedwatch sessions have taken place and 6 speeding motorists have been caught. It is intended to organise further Speedwatch sessions at irregular times in the future. Further volunteers are needed, especially to man the sessions during the early morning rush hour. Please contact Colin Such on 01926 651411 if interested in being trained.

We are aware that the volume of traffic travelling through our villages at peak times is becoming an ever increasing issue. There are ongoing discussions with WCC, JLR and AML to see what can be done to improve the situation.

Rural Crime Co-ordinator

Lucy Lambert is the Rural Crime Co-ordinator for Stratford District Council. Working closely with Warwickshire Police and Neighbourhood Watch, the aim of the role is to raise awareness across Stratford District of crime prevention techniques. As part of this Lucy will highlight information from the Warwickshire Police website on how individuals can protect themselves to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of crime. Should you wish to contact Lucy please either call 01789260200 or email Lucy.Lambert@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

The Wellesbourne SNT covers an area that stretches from Wolverton in the north west to Shotteswell on the Oxfordshire border in the south east. Police Constable Catherine Morgan is the beat manager. Catherine joined Warwickshire police in 1997, working across the area with response teams and therefore has a good working knowledge of the beat area. There are also two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) on the team. Martin Sanford has been a PCSO since 2004 and has worked in Alcester and Stratford. He has been a member of the Wellesbourne team since 2004. PCSO Lisa McGaffin is the other full member of the team, although for the next few months she has been seconded to the Stratford Town SNT to widen her experience. In the interim period, PCSO Sarah Bailey, from the Stratford Town SNT, will work with the Wellesbourne SNT.

The SNT are keen to get to know and work alongside local communities and regularly attend local fetes, community forums and hold property marking events.

The team is also supported by a local volunteer, Barry Saunders, who compiles the regular SNT report of local incidents which is emailed to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and other subscribers, as well as keeping the SNT website up to date.

Reporting Suspicious Incidents or Circumstances

The team would like to express their appreciation for reports of suspicious activities in the neighbourhood. If you wish to report anything, such as rogue traders, please telephone **101** to ensure that the incident is logged. The SNT telephone or email box is not monitored 24/7.

If you have any general concerns, questions or suggestions for the Wellesbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team please contact us:

email: wellesbourne.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Telephone: 101

In an emergency call 999

For non-emergency calls, including reporting non urgent crime, telephone 101

The SNT website provides up to date information on the team's activities and reports of local crime incidents and suspicious circumstances

www.warwickshire.police.uk/wells

HRH The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations!

On the 21st April The Queen celebrates her 90th Birthday, and in celebration beacons are being lit across the country – we can apply to take part in the official beacon lighting across the country or simply organize a beacon of our own to celebrate. Should anyone be able to offer a location and assistance on the night, then please contact us.

LPC have registered to *Clean for the Queen!* On Sunday 6th March, we will be asking as many of you as possible to join us at 11am at The Broadwell ready to make our village even tidier and more beautiful! More information to follow.

Street Party Sunday 12th June! If there is sufficient interest from the Village we would like to arrange a Street Party on the afternoon of Sunday 12th June to celebrate the Queen's Official Birthday! We would be looking for volunteers to join an organising committee to ensure that the event lives up to previous high standards! Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

Oil/LPG Syndicate

Sarah Brooke-Taylor from Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) came along to a Parish Council Meeting back in 2014 and made a presentation on the benefits of the Syndicate and how it works. The system is very straightforward and there is no minimum number of people that can join. Oil and LPG is purchased for many villages at the same time so real benefit can be had for even low users. The cost is only £20 a year to join and this is earned back quickly on the savings you will make. Members paid just 52.95 pence per litre for oil in January. Oil is delivered every month and the minimum order is 500 litres. LPG is available too, both in cylinders and in bulk, and also at a good saving. This scheme is still

available.

For further details please contact Sarah on 01789 472611, email oil@wrccrural.org.uk or visit www.ruralwarwickshire.org.uk/oil.

Free Home Composting Workshops in Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council are running free home composting workshops to encourage residents to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed of in their residual bin. A recent waste survey of bins in Warwickshire showed that 70% of the grey wheeled bin was organic waste that could either be composted at home or disposed of in the green wheeled bin. This organic waste is harmful to the environment when disposed of at landfill and costs the tax payer millions of pounds each year in disposal costs.

To help residents reduce their waste WCC are running free home composting workshops open to those who are new to composting and those we are already composting but might need a bit of help. Anyone attending the workshop will be given a voucher to buy a compost bin for £5 (normally £10) from a local Recycling Centres (except Judkins).

To book a place please go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/composting.

North Warwickshire

Lower House Farm Recycling Centre, Lower House Lane, Baddesley Ensor, Nr Atherstone CV9 2QA

Saturday 16th April - 10.30am - 11.15am

Saturday 21 May - 10.30am - 11.15am

Nuneaton

2nd Chance, Weddington Terrace, Nuneaton, CV10 0AG

Monday 9th May - 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Nuneaton Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton, CV11 5AA

Wednesday 20th April, 11.30am - 2.30pm (drop in session)

Warwick

Warwick Methodist Church, Barrack Street, Warwick, CV34 4TH

Monday 4th April - 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Monday 23rd May - 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Stratford-upon-Avon

Stratford Methodist Church, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG

Wednesday 13th April - 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Wednesday 25th May - 6.00pm - 6.45pm

Flooding and Sandbags! Luckily so far this winter flooding hasn't been an issue – should anyone require any sandbags please contact the Clerk - stock is located at the Cricket Pavilion.

Dogs

Walking a dog is the main opportunity for many people to enjoy being outdoors and to add to their health and well-being. On the other hand, many people, including many farmers and land managers, have concerns about dogs when they are not under proper control as this can cause serious problems, including worrying of and injury to livestock, disturbance of wildlife and alarming other people. Farmers also have concerns about dogs spreading diseases, particularly if dogs have not been regularly wormed.

Dog faeces can carry diseases that affect humans, as well as farm animals and wildlife. The highest risks are in fields of cattle, sheep and other animals, in fields where fruit and vegetables are growing, and in public open places where people can come into direct contact with dog faeces, such as sports pitches, playing fields, play areas, the roadside, along paths

and tracks, and along riverbanks and lake shores.

If your dog defecates in these sorts of places, pick up and remove the faeces and take them away with you. Not doing so in any public open place is an offence, so take a poop-scoop with you every time you walk your dog. Also, do not allow your dog to stray away from your home as it may well then defecate in a public open space when not under your control.

The Parish Council has provided several bins specifically for dog mess but, if there is no bin where you are, take it home and dispose of it with the household rubbish.

Never allow your dog to stray from a public right of way and always keep it on a short lead (less than two metres) or under close control (responsive to your commands and kept close at heel) near animals.

Lisa Parks, the new dog warden for the area will come out and patrol upon request, please also note that there have been fines imposed by the new dog warden for fouling etc.

New Contract Brings Superfast Broadband to Additional Communities

The first cabinets to be upgraded under Contract 2, Part 1 of the CSW Broadband project have been announced. Thousands more Warwickshire homes and businesses are to benefit from the multi- million pound extension of superfast fibre broadband when engineering work starts, giving another 14,600 homes and businesses access to fibre broadband. Engineers from Openreach – BT’s local network business – will begin installing the new network in January. The first premises will be able to access fibre broadband from Summer 2016, reaching 3,600 additional homes and businesses by the end of 2016, and the majority of the remainder by the end of 2018. It’s around 18 months since CSW Broadband started connecting the first premises in Warwickshire, Solihull and Coventry to faster fibre broadband. Since then, Openreach engineers have installed more than 220 new road-side cabinets, making fibre available to more than 43,000 homes and businesses. The team have been working hard to bring more detailed mapping, and the latest version takes things to a different level – literally! New features include:

- Postcode and line-checker searches
- Zooming directly to your property
- Street-level details with road names
- Area-level information showing where you are in the build pipeline
- Property-level connectivity information

PLEASE NOTE: The property-level connectivity is still in its infancy. There are over 500,000 properties in the CSW Broadband database and the team need you to check your property and to report back if there are any inaccuracies. This will help CSW Broadband to improve the data still further for future iterations of the map.

Additional £9.5m being modelled by BT

In preparation for the next stages of the broadband rollout the CSW Broadband project has asked BT to carry out further modelling, based on a spend of £9.5m. This will bring coverage to some of the areas that will not achieve superfast speeds in either Contract 1 or Contract 2, Part 1.

As with previous modelling, it will be some time before the data is received, processed and is ready for publication.

The CSW Broadband project team will continue to keep residents and businesses informed through future newsletters, social media and on the project website. If you have registered for

further updates (as opposed to simply signing up for the newsletter) then the team will have your full contact details in their system and can email you when they know what is happening in your area. If you have not yet registered your full details, you can do so by visiting: www.cswbroadband.org.uk/get-involved/register-for-more-information

A reminder that the team are also still looking for additional local broadband champions to help spread the news once upgrades are due to take place in an area. To find out more or to register as a Champion go to www.cswbroadband.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-community-champion

The Pavilion Café

The old 'sports club' in Lighthorne is currently under renovations, to become 'Lighthorne Pavilion Café'. The building has been disused for many years and is in serious need of some TLC. Other than the grounds being maintained and played on by Khalsa cricket team, it seemed a shame for what could be a lovely building to go to waste. Ben Thornton and Richard Brookes aim to enhance the appearance of the exterior and transform the inside to a comfortable, warm, nice place to be, with lovely home cooked affordable food and obviously coffee. The café will also include a local shop, with basic provisions, arts and crafts, cakes, and an outdoor plant sale. They aim to open their doors in April!

Reminders

Your parish council would like to remind everyone of the following:

Footpaths and Bridleways:

Many of the rights of way within the parish are maintained by parish volunteers with the agreement of the land managers. However, we rely on the public to report any that need attention. If you'd like to volunteer to help, or to report a problem with a right of way, please get in touch.

Tree & Building Control:

Much of the village of Lighthorne is within a designated Conservation Area. Within that boundary planning rules are tighter than elsewhere and all trees are subject to protection. No tree may be pruned or cut down without appropriate notification.

Check with Stratford-upon-Avon District Council as soon as you start to consider any building or tree work. If you are not sure about the conservation area boundary, the Clerk can provide a map.

Sports Ground Gate:

The gate to the car park needs to be kept locked, otherwise we could be powerless to evict any squatters who might choose to take up residence.

There have been several such incidents in the area in the past. However, the lock has a combination and not a key, and the Clerk, or any regular user of the facility, would be happy to give the combination to anyone who lives in the parish or has a genuine need to gain access.

Who are the Parish Council?

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