

Lighthorne Parish Council

January 2017 Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to 2017 from the Parish Council! 2016 proved to be a busy one for village life, with all of our Societies continuing to provide entertainment for all and Lighthorne Parish Council continuing to strive for the best planning outcomes for our village.

Help us to Serve you

The role 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 4 elected Parish Councillors following on from the elections in the summer of 2015 and one new co-opted member.

Please keep up to date with the Parish Council Web Site *lighthornepc.uk* and LPC Facebook page *facebook.com/lighthornepc*. 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*.

lighthornepc.uk

The new Lighthorne Parish Council 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 a new Councillor! We are pleased to welcome Andy Smith to the team! 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.

Core Strategy and GLH Overview

2016 saw another Inspection in Public of the Core Strategy. The Government Inspector recommended that the Core Strategy could be adopted subject to some amendments. These were made and the Core Strategy was adopted last summer – including GLH as a New Town.

2016 saw two outline planning permission applications for GLH – first the 2,000 houses put forward by the Bird Group et al and second the 1,000 houses put forward by IM Properties. LPC was represented at both these hearings as were other affected villages and parties. We argued strongly against permission being granted, not least as we believe their transport assessment is flawed – SDC voted to grant both applications in outline – full applications will have to be heard before any houses are built and we will keep a keen eye on them.

December saw a consultation on the treatment of the B4100. The developers presented options to traffic calm the B4100. Numerous residents and LPC representatives suggested that a third route out of the New Town with a second spine road through it acting as a bypass of the B4100 for the residents would help alleviate congestion. This suggestion was dismissed out of hand. We will report back on the results of the consultation and any further suggestions being put forward by the developers.

Junction 12 of the M40

J12 is now classed as being fully operational and is being assessed as to its effectiveness over a 3 month period. Please keep us informed of your experiences of the new junction!

Playground Update

‘Friends of Lighthorne Playground’ (FLIP), set up to improve and update the playground facilities had a great 2016! First of all, securing a grant of £8,000 from Tesco’s Bags of Help initiative and secondly being awarded a grant from the National Lottery for £10,000.

This has meant the addition of a fabulous new timber frame tower, a new round-a-bout, new trim trail and a new bench as well as an 8 seater picnic table.

Many thanks to FLIP for all their hard work over the last year.

Lighthorne Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Lighthorne has an official Neighbourhood Watch scheme and membership is free of charge. To apply to join, please visit ourwatch.org.uk and enter your post code in the search facility. You will be e-mailed details of local crimes and disturbances and you can report local incidents to the co-ordinator, Colin Such. If you require leaflets about house security or Neighbourhood Watch window stickers, please contact Colin on 651411.

Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police support the activity of thousands of members of watch schemes. For more information regarding watch schemes in your area, including Neighbourhood Watch and to sign up visit warwickshire.police.uk/register.

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.

We are aware that the volume of traffic travelling through our villages at peak times is becoming an ever increasing issue. The situation is being constantly monitored.

Lighthorne Speedwatch

Lighthorne has a police-trained Community Speedwatch team and its own laser speed monitoring gun. Speed monitoring sessions are arranged on an irregular basis. If you would like to join the team so that monitoring takes place more often, please contact Colin Such on 651411 or colinsuch@polane.plus.com.

Rural Crime Co-ordinator

Bob Church 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 Bob 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 Bob please either call 01789 260200 or email robert.church@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. Sarah Bailey has been a PCSO since 2006 and has previously worked in Stratford. She has been a member of the

Wellesbourne team since 2016. PCSO Charlotte Pereira is the other member of the team. Charlotte joined the team in 2016 having previously worked as a Safer Schools PCSO in Leamington.

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. They can't promise to attend every event but are happy to be informed of local events and will try and attend where possible.

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. 101 is the number to use for all non emergency calls to police and 999 continues to be the emergency number. If you have any general concerns, questions or suggestions for the team please e-mail wellesbourne.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

The SNT webpage at warwickshire.police.uk/wells provides up to date information on the team's activities and reports of local crime incidents and suspicious circumstances, the team also post their newsletter on the website. If you would like to be notified when a newsletter is circulated, please either contact the team to be added to the email distribution list or sign up to the Community Messaging Service (CMS) and request 'Wellesbourne' and 'community messages'. CMS can be found at warwickshire.police.uk/cms. The team also use Twitter to post crime prevention and road safety advice, as well as photos of their patrols and events attended; you can follow the team on Twitter @wellesbourncops.

Annual Leaf Sweep

Thank you to everyone who helped clear Bishops Hill and surrounding roads and walkways of leaves this year. Our team filled an astonishingly large number of bags and green bins and made this potentially dangerous steep walk way a safer place for the winter months. We will be doing it again next year, so watch out for a Sunday morning towards the end of November!

HRH The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations!

On the 21st April The Queen celebrated her 90th Birthday.

LPC *Cleaned for the Queen!* On Sunday 6th March a group of villagers worked hard to clear any rubbish from our village – many thanks to them all for their hard work.

Street Party Sunday 12th June! Everyone had a great afternoon (and even the weather was reasonably kind to us) at our street party. Thanks to everyone who attended, enjoyed our Pimms, barbeque and competitions – and many thanks for all the kind donations! Who can forget the adult egg and spoon race or indeed the surprisingly competitive tug of war! A suitably regal afternoon was had by all!

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.

Hastings House Medical Centres

From Monday 9th January Hastings House Wellesbourne and Kineton will be opening from 8am to 6:30pm with no closure at lunch time. The only closures will be for training at weekends on notified dates. They hope to provide an uninterrupted service.

Red Telephone Box on Church Lane

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Alwyn Knapton for maintaining his wildlife project within the red telephone box on Church Lane. The village has thoroughly enjoyed this informative and beautifully presented work over the past 9 years. Due to Alwyn's commitments at Compton Verney, he is unable to continue maintaining the red box - we wish Alwyn well in his future endeavours.

If anyone has a project they think would be suitable for the red telephone box, we would welcome an approach to the Parish Council.

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.

There have been a number of unofficial complaints regarding a small number of local dogs and their aggressive behaviour – if you have a dog you know can be aggressive towards other dogs, please ensure that it is fully under your control at all times and muzzled if necessary. We would wish to avoid any complaints being made ‘official’.

Superfast Broadband Update

Over the past 2½ years since the rollout of superfast broadband began, over 56,000 premises have been connected to the fibre network. It could be that you are already able to achieve superfast speeds but don’t realise it yet. To find out, go to dslchecker.bt.com and enter a BT landline number, or your full address. Don’t use a postcode on its own as that is not accurate enough.

The CSW Broadband team are currently rolling out Contract 2, Part 1, which is bringing superfast broadband to over 17,000 further properties across Warwickshire and Solihull. To check if you are covered, visit cswbroadband.org.uk/broadbandchecker and enter your postcode. Please bear in mind that the map is drawn at postcode level, so is indicative only, as telecoms infrastructure doesn’t follow postcodes!

CSW Broadband are awaiting modelling from BT for a further £2m coverage, and hope to be able to map that during the spring of next year.

This is not the end of it. The team are currently working on the procurement for Contract 3, with a value of up to £20m (depending on the outcome of funding bids). Different technologies are likely to come into play, meaning that it will be possible to reach areas that simply could not be covered under the previous contracts. Also, as this is a competitive tender and there are likely to be a number of bidders, it is anticipated that value for money will be high – which will extend the coverage still further.

To receive updates on the rollout and on further coverage as it is planned, please register your details at cswbroadband.org.uk/register.

The Pavilion Café

The old ‘sports club’ in Lighthorne is now open as ‘Lighthorne Pavilion Café’. We extend our gratitude to Ben Thornton and his team for making the Pavilion such a welcoming place and a great asset to the village!

Anonymous Letters

A rising number of anonymous and offensive letters are being put through residents' mail boxes. Whilst we welcome constructive feedback, for any complaint to be taken seriously return details are required. We ask that any legitimate complaints are either made discreetly in person, or at a Parish Council meeting, or addressed to a specific Councillor or the Parish Council itself in writing, with your name and contact details. The authors of these letters might do well to research the *Malicious Communications Act 1988*.

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?

Alan Archer (Chair)
3 Church Cottages
Lighthorne

01926 651950

a.j.archer@btinternet.com

Laura Steele (Vice Chair)
Forest Lodge
Bishops Hill
Lighthorne

01926 651916

LSteele007@aol.com

Paul Daniel
The Old Post Office
Post Office Lane
Lighthorne

01926 651701

theoldp.o@btinternet.com

Martin Ryan
Robin Cottage
Post Office Lane
Lighthorne

01926 651001

martin@martin-ryan.co.uk

Andy Smith
The Beeches
Lighthorne Rough

01926 650546

andy.smith@lighthornepc.uk

Clerk to LPC - Corrine Hill
Gaydon Fields Farm
Pimple Lane
Gaydon
Warwick
CV35 0HF

01926 641220

lighthornepc@gmail.com