

# Lighthorne Parish Council

## January 2018 Newsletter

### **Introduction**

Welcome to 2018 from the Parish Council! 2017 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. We currently have 5 Parish Councillors: Alan Archer (Chair), Laura Steele (Vice Chair), Andy Smith, Peter Reynolds and Hermione Archer.

Please keep up to date with the Parish Council Web Site [www.lighthornepc.uk](http://www.lighthornepc.uk) and LPC Facebook page [www.facebook.com/lighthornepc](https://www.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](mailto:lighthornepc@gmail.com)

### **www.lighthornepc.uk**

The Lighthorne website is the place to view the LPC monthly agenda, minutes and planning information. *All those wishing to see the agenda, minutes and up to date planning information can go to the website anytime* (a hard copy of the agenda is paced on the village notice board in advance of the meeting). 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 two new Councillors! We are pleased to welcome Peter Reynolds and Hermione Archer 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**

Most of you are aware that 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 have already been granted – full applications will have to be heard before any houses are built and we will keep a keen eye on them.

Cllrs Steele and Smith have attended meetings with the other affected Parishes and SDC/WCC regarding the governance of the new site – it has been agreed that Lighthorne Parish Boundaries will remain unaffected. There will be a consultation regarding the issue of Parish Boundaries in due course, LPC will distribute a letter with further detail and an comprehensive update before this take place.

SDC/WCC have agreed ‘S.106’ funds to be paid by Bird/CEG regarding their 2,000 houses, a brief overview is as follows:

Bus service	£1,613,333.00
CCTV	£1,350,011.87
Community hub	£834,090.00
Cycle link	£400,000.00
Defibrillator	£1,500.00
Environmental	£2,000,000.00
Healthcare	£1,721,948.00
Kineton School Pool	£1,160,000.00
Library	£43,000.00
LH Community Facilities	£300,000.00
Off site highway works	£1,933,333.00
Primary healthcare	£1,157,700.00
Primary school	£4,682,591.20
PROW contribution	£218,880.00
School bus link	£400,000.00
School bus service	£533,000.00
Secondary school 6th form	£5,000,000.00
Special needs	£352,022.00
Sustainable welcome pack	£150,000.00
TRO contribution	£6,000.00
Warwickshire Police	£103,406.00
Warwickshire Police premises	£580,185.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£24,541,000.07</b>

We believe this to be woefully inadequate and have made this point several times to SDC. We are awaiting the figures attributable to the remaining 1,000 houses and IMP.

### **Playground Update**

Due to the inclement weather users of the playground may not have noticed the new additions... in December two new trim trail items were installed which completes the trim trail loop – we hope that these items will be enjoyed for many years to come. The final stage of upgrading the play ground will hopefully take place this year – the plan being to remove the old slide with a new timber item.

## **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](http://ourwatch.org.uk) and enter “Lighthorne” 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:

<https://www.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.

## **Grit Bins**

A new grit bin is being purchased by LPC and will be placed at the entrance to Post Office Lane. Existing Grit Bins should have been refilled – LPC have been chasing this matter with WCC.

## **Reporting Matters to WCC and SDC**

County Highways are responsible for damage to verges and mud on the road. Please report these matters directly to WCC and make the Parish Council aware. If you believe any

planning application is not following the conditions applied to the approval (SDC website should list all of the conditions) please bring this to the attention of the enforcement officer at SDC and also the Parish Council.

Pot holes/road damage and other public highway problems can be reported directly to WCC at: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwayproblem>.

Planning matters can be found at:

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-regeneration/e-planning.cfm>

Water leaks (not highways) can be reported direct to Seven Trent at:

[https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/report-a-problem/?cmpid=homepage\\_icon\\_rap%20](https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/report-a-problem/?cmpid=homepage_icon_rap%20)

### **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](mailto: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 Craig Purcell is the beat manager. There are also two Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) on the team PCSO Sarah Bailey, and PCSO Lewis Barber who is on secondment from Alcester 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.

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/wells)

### **Horse Chestnut Tree**

There have been increasing concerns about the safety of the large horse chestnut tree on the village green adjacent to Pratts Farm, since half of its canopy was lost in storms last year. The tree was made safe at the time, but as the months have gone by it was felt that it should be reassessed. We have sought professional advice from accredited tree surgeons and have been advised that the tree is dangerous and should be taken down at the earliest opportunity. Whilst many of you will be very upset to see this magnificent tree taken down, we have a responsibility to ensure the village is safe. The greatest fear being that when it falls down it will cause injury or damage to property. The relevant applications have been sent to SDC and the tree will be removed as soon as possible. We will be planting an Oak Tree in its place as soon as the horse chestnut has been removed. This will be a 15 foot (approx.) tree which we hope will be standing in hundreds of years to come. A replacement horse chestnut cannot be planted as it cannot be guaranteed as disease free. Whilst we wished to save the tree if we could, this is not possible. We hope that everyone understands why this difficult decision had to be made.

### **Annual Village Clean**

We will be organising a village clean up once the weather improves – any volunteers who can help pick up litter etc would be very welcome. Chris Mills has arranged for us to borrow litter picking sticks from SDC, so hopefully no one will suffer any back trouble as a result! We are aiming for the first Sunday in March (to be part of a national litter clear up weekend) and will confirm this date.

### **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 and village hall.

### **Red Telephone Box on Church Lane**

We are in the process of purchasing and installing a defibrillator to be located in the red telephone box on Church Lane. We hope to have this up and running as soon as possible. The defibrillator is designed to be easily used – however, should there be any training required we will be inviting anyone who wishes to attend to any such training sessions.

### **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**

We are pleased to say that 2017 saw the arrival of superfast broadband in Lighthorne Village.

To receive updates on the rollout and on further coverage as it is planned, please register your details at [www.cswbroadband.org.uk/register](http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/register)

### **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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