

Lighthorne Parish Council

January 2019 Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to 2019 from the Parish Council! 2018 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 4 Parish Councillors: Alan Archer (Chair), Laura Steele (Vice Chair), Andy Smith and Hermione Archer. We are actively looking to recruit an extra Councillor, so please do contact any of us should you be interested in hearing more about the role or applying to join our team! In May 2019, as part of a governance review regarding GLH we will have the opportunity to elect 6 Parish Councillors (whether existing councillors stand to be elected or the new LPC is made up of entirely new councillors, it will be for you to vote and decide).

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

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 placed 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.

No New Councillors

Since the last Parish Council newsletter we have no new Councillors to report! As stated above we are actively seeking to recruit a new Councillor currently and will be seeking to recruit 2 new Councillors come May 2019. 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.

New Clerk

We are very sorry to announce that 2019 will see LPC losing our Clerk Corrine Hill, who is unable to continue with us due to increased work commitments elsewhere. We thank her for all her hard work and invaluable help and advice – LPC is in far better shape for having had such an excellent clerk. We are looking to recruit a new clerk and Corrine is helping us to achieve a smooth transfer – we will keep you all posted!

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 in outline.

We have now had an application for the first 140 houses from Bellway Homes, 18/03307/REM, which is in the process of being amended and we will then receive their final application. This land is south/west of the B4100 and immediately adjacent to Lighthorne Heath and the Old Quarry. Representatives from both LPC and LHPC have had numerous meetings with Bellway Homes and SDC about the design and layout of the proposed housing. We are pleased to report that amendments have been made based on representations put forward by the Parishes – as always we had hoped for more, and will continue to argue on behalf of our communities until the application is finally decided upon. It is expected that Bellway Homes will commence construction during 2019.

A consultation process has begun regarding the first stage of the Land off (and North) Banbury Road, across the B4100 from Lighthorne Heath. This will run until 15th February 2019 and we would encourage you to comment on the same. The consultation is in relation to an application for 675 houses being prepared by Barratt Homes, Taylor Wimpey and David Wilson Homes. You can email your comment to feedback@consultationonline.co.uk or via their website www.glh.consultationonline.co.uk.

Councillors Laura Steele and Andy Smith attended the public consultation at Lighthorne Heath Village Hall on Monday 28th January 2019 and we were both disappointed with the lack of new or detailed information about the proposed development. LPC will be commenting in those terms. LPC is of the view that the detail provided was simply repetition of that already contained within the SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) and seen some time ago. In addition we were very disappointed with the lack of connectivity and cohesion with Lighthorne Heath. We do not believe that a few road crossings and a ‘community champion’ goes far enough to truly connect the two or to encourage integration of the communities. We do not anticipate that construction of this phase will commence until 2020. The developers claim an aspiration to integrate Lighthorne Heath with the new development, yet the biggest barrier to this remains the retention of the B4100 as the main thoroughfare for all new traffic, as well as JLR and AML traffic. To most, a new route to take through traffic around the new development would seem eminently sensible, and would allow the B4100 to be calmed considerably, enhancing integration between established and new developments. You may care to make this point if you submit feedback.

As always, we will keep a keen eye on all applications as they emerge.

Playground Update

There have been no new items added to the play park this year, but we are delighted to see how well used and loved the play park is – even on rainy days. We are proud of our village asset and the final stage of upgrading the play ground will hopefully take place this year – the plan being to remove the very old slide and replace it with a new timber item. The delay in completing this facility has been due to outstanding payments for the play park that we have been promised (via s.106 funding requested by SDC from developers and specifically allocated to be used for the play park).

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 “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: 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.

Inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking on pavements is becoming more of a problem, again we ask you to be considerate and not to block pavements. We would also ask users of the Village Hall and The Antelope Inn, who travel to these venues by car, to show consideration to the residents of Mountford Rise (odds and even) and not block their drives etc and avoid parking on these roads where possible.

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 has been placed on the Village Green underneath the garden wall of The Antelope Inn, opposite Post Office Lane. Existing Grit Bins have also been refilled.

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:
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reporthishighwayproblem

Planning matters can be found at:

www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-regeneration/e-planning.cfm

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

www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/report-a-problem/

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 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 fêtes, 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

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

Horse Chestnut Tree

Following the loss of the large horse chestnut tree on the village green adjacent to Pratts Farm, due to serious safety concerns, an Oak tree was planted in February 2018 – following the kind donation of the cost of the tree by Peter and Yvonne Reading. We thank them again for their kind contribution, and hope that the Oak tree blooms in 2019!

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 April 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 Councillors – stock is located at the Cricket Pavilion and village hall.

Red Telephone Box on Church Lane

We had planned to place out new Defibrillator in the old telephone box, but professional advice indicated that this would not be the best position for the item. We are therefore still looking for ideas as to how we can best use the Old BT Box – all sensible suggestions will be considered and we hope 2019 sees our village feature back to being utilized!

Defibrillator

We are pleased to confirm that the village defibrillator has been installed on the outside wall of the Village Hall. Full instructions are contained on the unit. We hope to organize a training event through the ambulance service as soon as practicable.

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.

Phil Rafferty (01789 260835), 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

2017 saw the arrival of superfast broadband in Lighthorne Village, and hopefully 2019 will see all households who wish to sign up, being connected..

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

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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