

NEWSLETTER

Swinford Parish Council

October 2017

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Submission Version of the Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to Harborough District Council (HDC) who have completed their validation checks and sought approval from the Portfolio Holder for Planning to commence the statutory Regulation 16 Consultation period. NPAC will be issuing a leaflet to all households explaining what happens next in the process and what parishioners can do.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A number of burglaries have been reported in the village over recent months, and one parishioner has suggested a Neighbourhood Watch (NW) scheme is put in place. A NW Scheme is supported by the Police but not run by them - it is a community initiative and the success of it depends on the input of the whole community. It usually involves having several co-ordinators who liaise with the Police. Vigilance is encouraged in the community and suspicious incidents are reported. Members keep a check on the more vulnerable members of the community. Members are also encouraged to adopt crime prevention measures such as security devices.

We ask that parishioners **contact** the Parish clerk (contact details at the bottom of the newsletter) to:

- A) indicate whether you support such a scheme, and**
- B) indicate whether you are prepared to help and become a co-ordinator or member**

If there is enough support we will set up a meeting and invite the Leicestershire Neighbourhood Watch

association to come and tell us how to set it up and run it.

LOCK UP YOUR OIL TANK

Please be aware the village has been targeted for oil tank thefts over recent weeks. If possible, please take steps to secure your oil tank and be vigilant of any suspicious behavior. Any concerns should be reported immediately using the Police **101** number.

EIGHT PARISHES CIC GRANTS (WINDFARM)

At their meeting on Tuesday October 3rd 2017 the Parish Council agreed new Terms of Reference for the CIC (Windfarm) Committee (see PC website).

This is the group that assesses applications and then recommends to the full Parish Council which of the applications should be awarded a grant. It was agreed that the new committee should comprise of three Parish Councillors and three Parishioners.

Two Parishioners have already expressed an interest in joining the committee. If you are also interested in becoming a committee member please **contact** the Parish Clerk (contact details at the bottom of the newsletter).

The application round for this year will **open** on **November 1st 2017** and a schedule of key dates relating to the application process can be found on the Parish Council website. Application forms will be available from the Parish Clerk or from <http://eightparishescic.org> and applicants are encouraged to submit applications by email to the Parish Clerk.

DOG FOULING

In previous years it has been noticeable that as the evenings become darker some dog walkers are less inclined to clear up after their animals. Recently, there have been several reports of dog waste being left on pavements including one incident on High Street where it was stepped in by a child walking to school. **Please, for everyone's benefit clear up after your dog!** If anyone becomes aware of a dog owner not doing so please contact the Parish Clerk who will report the matter to HDC. The Parish Council have purchased two new bins which will shortly be installed and maintained by HDC (one on Chapel Fields Green and one at the entrance to the bridleway on Stanford Road).

SPEEDING CONCERNS

You will be aware that the installation of the new speed sign has been a very long and drawn out process. Anyone who has attended Parish Council meetings will be aware of the frustration that the Parish Council has experienced in trying to get this work completed. However, we are pleased to say that there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully the new signs will be in place and operational imminently.

Concerns have been expressed by residents on Rugby Road about the speeds at which cars are entering the village from the new road. The Parish Council is planning to explore the Community Speedwatch initiative, more details to follow in due course. In the meantime, **please be aware of the speed limit when entering the village.**

CEMETERY

The Parish Council is currently reviewing quotes received for the corrective work required to the cemetery entrance.

The paddock at the rear of the cemetery which will form the cemetery extension needs to be planned

out. If any parishioners have any skills or experience of this type of project and are willing to help, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details at the bottom of the newsletter).

VILLAGE GREEN

Leicestershire County Council (LCC) have confirmed that the Walnut Tree on the Village Green is dead. LCC will be taking down the dead tree and planting a replacement over the winter. The Tree Warden is reviewing replacement options. The wood from the dead tree will be available and if anybody has any suggestions for use please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details at the bottom of the newsletter).

HDC LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

<https://www.harborough.gov.uk/strategic-planning-consultations>

Note from District Councillor Jonathan Bateman: The Harborough District Draft Local Plan, detailing development within the District up to 2031 has now been published, and is available on the HDC website (link above). It is open for public consultation up to **5.00pm on 3rd November 2017**. As your District Councillor, I am well aware of the potential impact to this Ward, with particular regards to the proposed development of the Lutterworth Strategic Development Area ('Lutterworth East'), and whilst not in this Ward, the proposed increase in facilities at Magna Park. I would urge all residents and other concerned persons to make their voices heard by registering their particular views concerning the Draft Plan. This Plan, if adopted, will have a major impact on this Ward and the surrounding area, and I hope that you will register your thoughts, whether they are positive or negative. If you wish to raise any points directly with myself, please see my contact details on the Harborough District Council website.

The next meeting of Swinford Parish Council will be on Tuesday 7th November 2017 at 7.30pm in Swinford Village Hall.