

NEWSLETTER

Swinford Parish Council

May 2018

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

As you will be aware at their meeting in September 2017 the Parish Council agreed the final draft of the Plan and it was submitted to Harborough District Council.

Since then Harborough District Council has undertaken a Section 16 (district wide) Consultation on the plan and appointed an Independent Examiner.

The Examiner is in the process of going through the Plan in fine detail to ensure that it complies with the Basic Conditions as laid down in the 2011 local Government Legislation.

The Parish Council has received an early draft of the Examiner's report for proof reading and hope to receive the final report over the next couple of weeks.

There will then be some work to carry out making the amendments that are required by the Examiner, these relate mainly to language, format and structure. It is important that the Plan can withstand legal challenge. The content and detail remain broadly the same as the submission version. The Parish Council plans to get the amendments completed so that Harborough District Council can make a decision about putting the plan forward for a village referendum as soon as possible.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The village has experienced a number of break-ins and burglaries over the past year. As a result, the Parish Council decided to try and re-instate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Work is underway on this thanks to Aaron Doyle who has volunteered to be the Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator. Look out for a leaflet that will be coming through your door soon with all the details about how you can support the scheme.

DOG FOULING

Dog fouling around the village, on public footpaths, across the fields and on the fields themselves, continues to be a problem. Complaints continue to be received from Parishioners together with reports of children arriving at school with dog faeces on their shoes.

The Parish Council was pleased to learn that Harborough District Council are piloting a scheme where an Officer can be asked to make an unannounced visit to any 'hot spots' to try and catch perpetrators. Anyone caught not clearing up after their dog can be issued with a 'spot fine'.

We have also been looking at other measures including 'turd spraying' and a 'poo map' which might identify particular patterns in the village. Please inform the Parish Clerk if you witness anyone not clearing up after their dog. A photograph would be helpful (of the owner as well as the dog).

WHEELIE BIN SPEED LIMIT STICKERS

On your behalf the Parish Clerk purchased and distributed stickers for sticking on waste bins on Rugby Road and Kilworth Road. The stickers say, 'Thirty for a Reason' in large letters and when the bins are placed on the pavements for the weekly collection drivers are reminded to slow down in the 30mph limit zone. Initial feedback is very positive

with a row of clear messages apparent on bin days. Participation rates are very high and people are very positive about this strategy so the Parish Council may consider extending it to other parts of the village. Please let us know what you think.

CEMETERY UPDATE

The work to complete the new ramp was completed and the cemetery is once again accessible by vehicles. Work will be carried out shortly to maintain and tidy the trees and shrubs and replace the young trees damaged by strimming. The next phase of the project will see work begin on planning a layout for the newer section on the northern side of the cemetery.

VILLAGE GREEN

The walnut tree on the green was removed because unfortunately the tree had died. Mike and Felicity Mourant have kindly agreed to store the tree for two years whilst it 'seasons'. The Parish Council will then take advice on what can be made from the tree. Suggestions so far from Parishioners have included a village notice board installed on the green, benches or seating. If you have any further ideas or potential designs please get in touch. The tree will be replaced with a mature native specimen in due course.

WINDFARM GRANTS 2018 UPDATE

The committee have received ten applications for the allocation available in the 2017-18 financial year.

Details of the applications are shown below:

Swinford C of E Primary School Laptop and Network Upgrade £15,000.00
Swinford Parish Council Bulb Planting £500.00
Swinford Parish Council Cemetery Planning £1,500.00

Swinford W.I. Camera Equipment and Speakers Costs £495.00
Swinford 2000 Playground Repairs £2,384.88
Swinford 2000 Event Marquees £818.30
Swinford 2000 Minibus Running Costs £1,181.43
Swinford Village Hall Heating System Repair / Maintenance £4,277.50
Swinford Village Hall Website with Online Booking £600.00 - £2,500.00 (option dependent)
Swinford Chequers Football Club & Rowland United Cricket Club Mowing and Marking Costs £2,883.56

If anyone wishes to comment on the applications please contact the Parish Clerk using the details at the bottom of this leaflet as soon as possible.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Please note that the meeting dates for June and July have changed:

June Tuesday 19th June 2018
July Tuesday 10th July 2018

Both meetings will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Following the July meeting the meetings will revert to the first Tuesday of the month.

The next meeting of Swinford Parish Council will be on Tuesday 19th June 2018 at 7.30pm in Swinford Village Hall.