

NEWSLETTER

Swinford Parish Council

December 2020

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Our two new parish councillors, Mrs. Carol Parker and Mr. Steve Withers, have both kindly written a short piece to introduce themselves:

Councillor Parker

I moved to Swinford with my husband Kev nearly 12 years ago. My two children attend the primary school and as a family we are all actively involved in village life. I work in fraud prevention for a high street bank however have worked from home for many years so get to spend the majority of my time in this wonderful village where I have gained a real sense of belonging. Being part of the Parish Council seemed to be a natural step for me to ensure the feel of the village that we all love is maintained for the future.

Councillor Withers

A Swinford resident since 2006. Originally from Birmingham, although you would never know! I live with my partner Jo and two children, Oliver (12) and Sebastian (8). I have spent most of my career in the Waste & Recycling Industry and now run my own Waste Consultancy business, helping people to reduce, reuse or recycle their waste materials. I have been a School Governor at Swinford C of E School for the past 8 years and hope to bring some of that experience into my role on the Parish Council. I have a keen interest in raising local awareness of issues affecting the village, assisting in maintaining and improving the quality of life for residents and acting in the best interests of residents at all times.

PLANNING LEGISLATION

In October the Parish Council responded to the Government's consultation on the Planning White Paper. There are several controversial proposals.

Drawing on what we learned from developing the Neighbourhood Plan we put forward what we felt would represent the views of the community. The response can be found on the Parish Council website.

GLENVIEW DEVELOPMENT

As you will be aware the Parish Council has been concerned about this development from the outset and objected to a recent application from the developers. The application sought to demolish Glenview and put two houses in its place but nearer to the roadside. The Parish Council objected on the basis of the alteration to the street view and the impact on neighbouring listed buildings. Despite our objection and provisions in the Neighbourhood Plan, Harborough District Council approved the application. The Parish Council has objected in the strongest terms about how this application was dealt with by Harborough District Council, a copy of the letter has been sent to our MP. A copy can be found on Parish Council website.

BONFIRES

As it is the bonfire season again, and in the spirit of good community relations we felt it would be worth reminding people about the 'rules' around bonfires in the garden. There is section about it on the Gov.UK website but to summarise:

- You cannot burn any waste that will cause pollution or harm people's health.
- You could be fined if you light a fire and allow the smoke to drift across the road and become a danger to traffic.
- You mustn't cause a nuisance to your neighbours who can apply for an abatement order,

If you plan to light a bonfire it's probably best to talk to your neighbours first and ensure it is only garden waste.

CYCLING EVENT

We were very sorry to have had to cancel the cycling event that we had planned in November and can only apologise to all the children who were keen to take part. If you recall the weather that weekend was very unpleasant and with Covid cases rising and this second lock-down looming we felt it was in everyone's interest to postpone. We are now planning to hold the event early in the New Year.

SPEED SIGNS

Please continue to drive through our village with care, observing the speed limits. The Parish Council is going to ask Leicestershire County Council whether it is possible to have a reduced limit through the centre of the village. We are asking about access to the community speed camera facility and are considering some new speed signs on Stanford Road. If you have any other comments or suggestions please get in touch.

DOG FOULING

When the darker nights come there are some dog owners who think that they no longer need to clean up after their pet because no one can see who is responsible for the offensive mess. These irresponsible dog owners need to be aware that increasing numbers of households have security cameras. Please be vigilant and if you are aware of anybody not clearing up please let the Parish Council know.

BENCH RELOCATION

Following feedback received from the last newsletter the Parish Council are no longer looking to relocate the bench sited on the bend of Kilworth Road.

SWINFORD LITTLE LIBRARY

Parishioner Content: I am looking into setting up a Little Library in Swinford, for all to use. Villagers could

drop off books they no longer want and take books from the library in exchange. Many communities have used their BT phone box for this purpose. I have been advised that the phone box in Swinford is still in use, and I know that some people do feel we need to keep it as a phone box. So, I wonder if anyone has any suggestions for an alternative location. It needs to be accessible to all, and free from damp (nobody likes wet books!). If you are able to help please get in touch with me directly: hilary_colpus@msn.com or WhatstApp/Text on 07968 829532.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Users of the Swinford Community WhatsApp group will have read about David Harris's suggestion about 'Advent Calendar' window decorations around the village. David has now drawn up a plan of which windows will be dressed ready for which date and Hilary Colpus has kindly drawn up a trail map which is attached to this newsletter. Each day in December from 1st to 24th, a different home will light up a window decorated in a festive design. We are really happy to support this community venture, it is a great idea to help us all to celebrate the season. We hope that as many of you as possible will take to the trail and enjoy the decorations and the Christmas spirit.

We would like to end on a festive note by wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and all the very best for 2021. Let's all hope that next year will be much better for all of us.

MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 1st December at 7.30pm via Zoom. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting details of how to join will be on the published agenda or you can contact the Parish Clerk using the contact details at the bottom of the newsletter.

If you wish to make any comments or ask any questions about any of the items in the newsletter, please contact the Parish Clerk using the details below or speak to any of the Councillors.