

NEWSLETTER

Swinford Parish Council

March 2023

WELCOME TO OUR LATEST UPDATE!

Your Parish Council

Cllr. Carol Parker (Chair)
Cllr. Steve Withers (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Graham Mold
Cllr. Glenn Cameron

There is currently a casual vacancy.

The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month (excluding January and August) at 7.30pm in the small room at the front of the Village Hall. All agendas and minutes are on the Parish Council website:

www.swinfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Local Elections take place on Thursday 4th May 2023. Do you want to give something back to your community and benefit our area? If so, please consider standing as a Parish Councillor for Swinford.

There are five positions available, if more than five people stand an election will take place. The Parish Council have had a casual vacancy for quite some time and it would be really beneficial for the village for some new candidates to engage, candidates can be resident within 3 miles of any village boundary. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

To find out more about the role of a Parish Councillor, visit: www.nalc.gov.uk/elections

If you wish to stand, nomination papers must be submitted to Harborough District Council by 4.00pm on 4th April 2023.

If you would like to find out more about being a Parish Councillor in Swinford, please contact the Parish Clerk or the current Chair, who will be happy to discuss what the role involves. Contact details are at the bottom of the newsletter.

EIGHT PARISHES GRANT FUNDING

The Eight Parishes CIC has just received the 11th annual grant from Vattenfall UK. Local groups and organisations can apply to Swinford Parish Council for funds from the Swinford allocation.

At the end of the 10th financial year (30th November 2022) over £126,000 had been allocated to community projects in Swinford.

There is significant grant income available for Swinford during the remaining 14 years of the fund. The Parish Council would like to review how the Swinford monies are allocated and are keen to hear exciting ideas from residents for potential larger-scale community projects that could provide a long-term legacy for the Swinford community.

If you have any exciting ideas, the Parish Council would love to hear about them, please contact the Parish Council via the Parish Clerk, contact details at the bottom of the newsletter.

PHOTO ID REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING

The UK government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station for some elections, this will apply for the first time in England, at the local elections on Thursday 4th May 2023. If an elector does not have an accepted form of photo ID they can apply for a free voter document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Valid forms of ID include:

- Passport
- Driving Licence (including provisional licence)
- Blue Badge
- Certain Concessionary Travel Cards
- Identity Card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)

- Biometric Immigration Document
- Defence Identity Card
- Certain National Identity Cards

For more information, visit:

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID>

SWINFORD POCKET PARK

Over the next couple of months, the weather should start to get warmer and the Parish Council is looking to arrange some volunteer working parties to assist with some grounds maintenance jobs at the Pocket Park. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Clerk using the contact details at the bottom of the newsletter.

As more people start to use the Pocket Park again, a quick reminder that we ask:

- The area is used with care and respect and that children are made aware of the risks of getting too close to the pond.
- Gates are closed.
- Dogs are not taken into the park.
- After use the seats to the picnic table are returned to an upright position so that they don't get wet and covered with bird droppings.

HIGHWAYS ISSUES

Did you know, you can report most types of problems with county roads or pavement directly to Leicestershire County Council, either online or by telephone, including:

- Potholes
- Grit bin damage
- Overgrown trees or hedges
- Damaged drain or manhole covers
- Damage to road signs
- Problems with traffic lights

www.leicestershire.gov.uk

t. 0116 305 0001

STRATEGIC HOUSING AND ECONOMIC LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT (SHELAA)

Harborough District Council have published their SHELAA, 2021. The SHELAA provides evidence on the potential supply of development land across Harborough District. It replaces the previous Strategic Housing Land

Availability Assessment (2015) and Strategic Employment Land Availability Update (2017).

Eight sites have been included in the SHELAA for Swinford with a potential housing allocation of 222.

The SHELAA is a technical evidence study which, along with other economic needs, infrastructure, constraints, and community aspirations, will be used to inform the preparation of a new local plan enabling it to identify a supply of sites to meet the district's development needs. **It is important to note that the SHELAA is not a decision-making document. It does not allocate sites or identify broad locations for development or pre-empt future plan-making or related decisions by Harborough District Council. Neither does it mean that planning permission will be granted on sites that are found to have development potential.**

The SHELAA and supporting documentation can be viewed on Harborough District Council's website:

www.harborough.gov.uk

DOG FOULING

There have been several posts on the village WhatsApp recently regarding dog fouling. It is clear that there are some dog owners who think that they don't need to clean up after their pet and leave the offensive mess for other people to deal with. Please be considerate and keep Swinford a pleasant place for everyone to enjoy.

STANFORD ROAD VERGE

The Parish Council would like to thank Grace Homes who have kindly agreed, with the permission of Leicestershire County Council, to plant 3 x alder trees on the verge opposite The Orchard development. The trees should assist with drainage issues on the verge.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the small room at the front of the village hall.

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.