

MISCELLANY

If we ignore the Neighbourhood Plan, we seem to have less to report on this quarter than usual. However, none of us can afford to ignore the Neighbourhood Plan. Fortunately, the increased turnout at our second Consultation Day indicates that more of you are now taking the Neighbourhood Plan seriously and joining in with helping to shape Newick's future. I trust that you will now all complete and return our Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire.

Last year, we published a Vision Statement, a Consultation Strategy and a Communications Strategy. Since then we have published no less than seven reports on various aspects of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and more reports will follow. These documents are all available on the parish website www.newick.net.

I'm pleased to be able to report that we were one of the first Parishes to be successful in obtaining a grant from central government towards our Neighbourhood Plan costs. It should cover about half of our Neighbourhood Plan costs. These were already going to be low compared with what many other councils are spending, because we have avoided use of paid consultants. Now our costs will be even lower.

Turning to another subject entirely, Councillor Nick Berryman has been researching Parish websites. As a result, we should have a clearer and easier to negotiate website before long. What's more, it will cost us less to run than the existing website. Thank you Nick.

Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman



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Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Summer 2013



ALLOTMENTS AT LAST!!



It has taken a good few years, but the first allotments for members of the Newick Allotment Society have been secured on land to the south of Cricketfield. The Parish Council has taken on the management of the site for Lewes District Council and decided to offer the plots as small micro plots of about 25 square metres. After preparations to the ground have been made, the eight plot holders will shortly be planting their first crops. It is a wonderful, sheltered site and we wish everyone success with their endeavours. We are still actively researching more land for Allotments as there remains a need for at least another 10-14 larger plots. *Cllr. Jenny Smerdon*

KEEPING THE VILLAGE CLEAN

You may have noticed that there has been an increased amount of litter around the village in recent weeks, particularly on The Green, in the bus shelter, on the Playing Field and along the twittens. Unfortunately, we lost our village handy person at the end of April and it has taken some time to find a replacement. In the meantime, some of the Councillors have been picking up litter and emptying the Parish Council's litter bins in an effort to prevent the situation from becoming unmanageable (probably not what they expected to be doing when they stood for election!). The Council is also aware that some residents regularly pick up litter which they find near to their homes, this is a big help and thanks are extended to these people.

The good news is that a replacement handy person has been found and, hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter the situation will be back under control. However, it is sad that it continues to be necessary to appeal to residents to ensure that they and their offspring do not drop litter in the village. You would be surprised at how much litter is dropped within feet of a litter bin, surely this is just sheer laziness. We are fortunate to live in a pretty village in a lovely part of the country. There are at least 15 litter bins and 7 dog bins around the village, provided by Newick Parish and Lewes District Councils, please use them and make sure that the rest of your family does too.
Sue Berry, Clerk to the Council

Newick Now to 2030

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Almost 300 people visited Newick Village Hall on the 8th June for our second Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Day, a big increase on the 200 (approx.) that attended the November event. An increasing number of residents understand that if they wish to influence how Newick develops over the next 17 years, they need to consider the options carefully and then give their opinions on which they prefer. The questionnaires completed on the day will be analysed and the results will be made public.

The views collected at the Consultation Days of November 2012 and June 2013 will help shape our draft Neighbourhood Plan, but by far the biggest influence on it will be your responses to the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire delivered to you with this newsletter. Please, please, do take the trouble to complete and return it. Only by getting as many responses as possible can we hope to be able to judge what the majority opinion of residents is on each of the issues to be considered. Through the questionnaire, we also hope to gauge the demand for the various possible types of future housing.

We hear that some residents are still concerned that the school and the health centre will not be able to cope if more homes are built in Newick. It is of course Lewes District Council's Core Strategy that will dictate how many homes have to be built, not the Neighbourhood Plan. Nevertheless, we have checked on these matters, provisionally on the basis of the 100 new homes currently proposed by Lewes DC, though that number could be reduced. The head teacher has confirmed that the school could accommodate the extra Newick children: it is only full at present because it takes children from surrounding areas. The practice manager of the health centre has confirmed that catering for the extra Newick patients would present no problem.

Cllr. John Lucas on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

SPEED WATCH

After what seems an eternity a small group of Newick volunteers is expecting to be trained, at last, in the use of a Police speed gun. The object is to record the speed and registration numbers of the drivers who routinely ignore the 30mph speed limit on the A272. It is not intended to harass the visitors to, or travellers through Newick, but to convey a message to the offending minority. A recent survey of speeds on the A272 covering a period of a week indicated that between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. 25% of drivers in each direction travelled in excess of 35mph. While not an accident Black Spot, there is always a first time and I have personally been nearly felled at the light controlled crossing by drivers unable to stop even when the light has turned red. White van man is the major culprit. Let's hope that we do at last get into action and give the message that excessive and potentially "speed dangerous" drivers are not welcomed through Newick.

Cllr. Ross Houghton

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

I had a phone call recently from a lady in Allington Road to say that she had just watched a group of teenage boys and a girl hop over the school wall and start playing football in the car park. She said that it wasn't the first time and asked what could be done.

I rang 101 and asked for a patrol car to drive past if they were in the area and suggest to the teenagers that they use the large playing fields up the road. I also informed our PCSO Sally Ann Reid. I spoke to the school secretary who said it happens all the time. She said they also go round to the back of the school and leave their empty beer cans by the huts. Perhaps if you know who they are you could have a quiet word with them.

We are still getting various cold callers knocking on doors around the village.

Unfortunately, as it's not illegal there's not a lot that can be done to prevent this.

The police have told me that cold callers are supposed to inform them when they are going to be in the village so they are aware and can check that they are legitimate. If you do get 'cold called' you are within your rights to just say no and shut the door.

If you are concerned, ring 101 and ask the police for advice.

The latest crime figures I have received for April are:- anti social behaviour 4, burglary 1, criminal damage and arson 3 and violent crime 1. More recently, two cars, one in Allington Road and one in Church Road, had their fuel pipes cut and petrol stolen sometime over the weekend of June 21st – 23rd.

I have also heard from the NHW co-ordinator responsible for 2-38 Western Road to say she has moved, so if anyone in that area is interested in taking over please let me know.

Don't forget, if you have any concerns about crime or antisocial behaviour in our neighbourhood please phone the non-emergency police number 101 or me on 01825 724478.

Cllr. Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

SKATE RAMP

The skate ramp has the subject of much discussion over the last year or so. I am pleased to report that Lewes District Council has not considered the ramp to be a statutory nuisance. However we cannot afford to be complacent and must ensure our duty of care to those living in the vicinity of the ramp. As part of our efforts to comply we have packed the ramp with mineral fibre insulation, which was kindly donated by Downs Energy. This will reduce the noise caused when scooters hit the ramp. Newick Parish Council is extremely grateful to Downs Energy for this very generous gesture.

May I take this opportunity to remind all those who use the ramp, or congregate there, that families live close by and should be able to enjoy their surroundings without hearing loud shouting, screaming and offensive language. The ramp is still being monitored and any adverse behaviour could result in it being considered as a nuisance.

Cllr. Chris Armitage, Chair, Playing Fields Committee