

MISCELLANY

Vibrant, sustainable and healthy communities are usually those that embrace sensible changes, after having being involved in shaping them.

The residents of Newick both shaped and overwhelmingly supported the Newick Neighbourhood Plan, which has since been adopted by Lewes DC. However, as you will have read elsewhere in this newsletter, a developer now seeks to entirely undermine and disregard the democratically expressed wishes of our Community

You may rest assured that the Parish Council will do all it can to contest the planning appeal, as it will also actively seek to safeguard the long-term future of our Post Office. However, our efforts will be considerably enhanced if you are able to add your support by writing to your M.P, Maria Caulfield, to express your concerns.

Cllr. Nick Berryman, Chairman

NEWICK FESTIVAL 2016

Plans are well underway for next year's Newick Festival which will be held over the bank holiday weekend 27th to 29th May 2016.

Local organisations will be coming together to give you a fun-packed weekend of activities including a food fair, beer festival, junior sports, maypole dancing, folk music, heritage walks, art trail, scarecrow competition and much more.

Visitors from Newick's twin town, Itteville in France will also be with us to join in the fun.

The next meeting of the organising committee will be held on Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre. Please join us if you would like to be involved.

Cllr. Jenny Smerdon

GRANTS

Each year the Parish Council includes in its budget a small amount to be awarded in grants to local organisations that can demonstrate a need for financial support either towards day to day running costs or for a specific project. Further details of the Parish Council's grant awarding policy and an application form can be found on the parish website: www.newick.net or from the Clerk (contact details below).

Any local organisation wishing to make an application for a grant of £250 or more to be paid in the 2016/17 financial year should do so before 31st October 2015. Applications for smaller amounts can be made at any time. For further information please contact the Clerk.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Mr. Chris Armitage (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Cris Allen
Mr. Nick Berryman (Chairman)
Mr. Mario Halsey
Dr Ben Horsfall
Mr. Ross Houghton
Mr. Chris Jago
Mrs. Jean Sheppard
Mrs. Jenny Smerdon
Mrs. Melanie Thew
Mrs. Cathy Wickens

NB All correspondence for Newick Parish Council should be sent to the Clerk (see contact details below)

DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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Newick Parish Council

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Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2015



Mitchelswood Farm Planning Appeal

Unfortunately, Newick has a threat to future housing development and you should already have received a flyer and maybe signed a petition about it. This article outlines the detail behind this challenge.

In September 2014 David Lock Associates (DLA) submitted a planning application to build 63 houses at Mitchelswood Farm, Allington Road. The planning application came before Newick Parish Council on 30/09/14. It was not supported on the grounds that;

- 1) The site was outside the planning boundary for Newick
- 2) The site had not been selected to form part of Newick's emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The site had been ranked 11th out of 12 by the 41% of residents who completed the parish Questionnaire.
- 3) If the proposed development were to have been allowed to proceed it would have greatly increased the number of dwellings in Newick as they would have been in addition to the 100 already planned for in the Neighbourhood Plan.

In February 2015 the planning application was refused permission by Lewes District Council. The main reason given was the significant weight attached to the Neighbourhood Plan which did not allocate this site for housing. Development of this site would clearly conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan, contrary to government policy which seeks to give local people power to shape and direct sustainable development in their area. Furthermore, building outside of the retained planning boundary would cause harm to the local landscape character in conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan.

On 20th August Newick Parish Council was advised that DLA had lodged an appeal to the Department of Communities and Local Government in respect of the Mitchelswood Farm site following the refusal of planning permission by Lewes District Council.

The Parish Council has been advised that the appeal is to be decided on the basis of a Public Inquiry and is likely to take place locally in early 2016.

Cllr. Chris Armitage, Chair Planning Committee

Dog walking etiquette – good manners for dogs and their owners

Everyone in Newick should be able to enjoy walking in the village and in the surrounding countryside, lanes, footpaths, twittens and on the recreation grounds without being run into, jumped on, pushed over, or attacked by dogs – and without becoming mired in the mess left by our canine residents, or more accurately their very inconsiderate owners.

All dog owners have a responsibility for their own behaviour and that of their dog. Even the friendliest dog should not be allowed to rush up to another dog, or person, especially if the other dog is on a lead. It may cause difficulty for the other owner as their dog may feel frightened or trapped and respond aggressively. It is an unequal meeting and unfair to the on-lead dog. There is usually a reason a dog is on a lead, please respect this, so give space and move on.

You may think your dog is being friendly and just saying ‘hello’ but please remember not all dogs are as friendly as your dog. They may have had a bad experience in the past, may have an injury or could just have a tendency to be aggressive to other dogs.

Thank you to the considerate dog walkers who do keep their dogs on leads in the KGV and DMR playing fields, as instructed by the numerous signs, rightly, imploring them to do so. This is for the health and safety of both the people and the dogs that use the playing fields.

Also, thank you to those responsible dog walkers – wherever they may walk within the Parish - that do thoroughly clear up their dog’s mess and dispose of it properly. As most of us are aware, this helps prevent the spread of illness and disease to both other dogs and people – and of course prevents the distress and inconvenience caused when one’s feet fall foul of Fido’s faeces.

If we all showed a little courtesy, consideration and adherence to common sense dog walking etiquette everyone's walk would be far more enjoyable, for dogs, their owners and other members of the public.

Cllr. Cris Allen

Responsible dog owners always abide by the 4 ‘Cs’

- 1. CONTROL.** Always ensure your dog is in sight and comes back when called. If you are not totally confident of your dog’s recall, use a lead – and keep your dog on a lead where instructed to do so.
- 2. CARE.** For farm animals and wildlife. Never let your dog approach or chase livestock or wildlife.
- 3. CONSIDER OTHERS.** Never let your dog approach other people, other dogs or horses uninvited.
- 4. CLEAN UP.** Always clean up your dog’s faeces and dispose of them properly.

(Adapted from the Ashdown Forest Code of Conduct for dog walkers)

<http://www.ashdownforest.org/home/docs/DogWalk.pdf>

Neighbourhood Watch Update

Warning!

During the school summer holidays a pile of silver canisters and some balloons were found on the public footpath to the rear of Newick Primary School and on the Recreation Ground. The canisters had contained nitrous oxide which is used legitimately by dentists as an anaesthetic and in catering to whip cream. The gas is also known as ‘hippy crack’ or ‘laughing gas’ and, when inhaled, can create a feeling of euphoria. However, there are dangers to the inhaling of this gas; it can cause nerve damage, a drop in blood pressure, and can lead to fainting or heart attacks. There have been a number of fatalities linked to its use. Our local PCSO Sally-Ann Reed has been made aware of this and she is warning young people of the dangers.
Cllr Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator



FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Council's financial results for 2014/15 have now been audited and they can be viewed on our website. The headline is that on an income of £62k during the year, we had a surplus of £3.7k, allowing for a budgeted Reserves top-up to pay for future maintenance and other liabilities. In April, the Council kept its precept increase to 1% or less for the 5th consecutive year as it was felt prudent to build up savings for the eventual Pavilion replacement even though that is some way into the future.

Cllr Chris Jago, Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Newick Now to 2030

NEWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE ON JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Judicial Review Hearing was held at the High Court of Justice in London on 13th and 14th July 2015. This challenge to the Neighbourhood Plan was brought by a local developer (DLA Delivery Ltd).

At the end of July the ruling was made and the challenge was found to be unsuccessful on all grounds raised. The full text of the ruling can be accessed using the following link :- <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2015/2311.html>

The Parish Council has since been informed that DLA Delivery has applied to Court for permission to appeal against this decision.

“Newick Now to 2030”, is the first Neighbourhood Plan to be formally adopted by Lewes District Council.

Cllr. Melanie Thew