

MISCELLANY

The referendum result was very pleasing. It is just a shame that it had to be tarnished by the excesses on the Vote NO camp. For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to use this column to confirm that, whilst I have always stated that I am in favour of some development over the next 15 years, I consider the 100 homes called for by Lewes District Council, and written into the Neighbourhood Plan, to be the maximum reasonable. Far from being a Trojan Horse for having the several hundred homes constructed over that period that I have been accused of aiming for, the Neighbourhood Plan was the best means available for preventing just that. Without the Plan, the field would have been wide open to speculative planning applications and, with Lewes District Council (LDC) under extreme government pressure to produce more homes, there may well have been many more around Newick. Fortunately, the inspector of LDC's proposed Core Strategy, despite insisting that LDC must further increase the minimum number of new homes across the District from the 5,790 it proposed to 6,900, was impressed by Newick's Neighbourhood Plan and has not proposed an increase in Newick's allocation of new homes.

The Parish Council election will soon be upon us. As I said in this column three months ago, the present Council has worked hard on the Neighbourhood Plan and a few other matters, but has not had the resources to tackle every issue with the same perseverance. Thus, in addition to its regular duties of keeping our Parish clean and tidy, there remains much to do for the next Council. This includes easing parking problems, providing more allotments, providing better facilities for the youth of the Parish, and perhaps helping to provide a new Sports Pavilion. We cannot expect the Parish Clerk to do everything so, unless there are Councillors who are prepared to play an active part in such matters, nothing will happen. The funding for such projects will be available from various sources, but agreeing and defining precisely what needs to be done, applying for grants, and getting the work implemented all takes effort.

If you value our Village and its surroundings in the Parish, and would be prepared to participate in guiding the successful future development of Newick, please stand for election as a Councillor in May. Equally, if you think you know somebody else who would be an asset to the Council, please persuade them to stand. Remember that it takes all types to run a successful Council. A mix of people with widely differing skills, experience and ages can contribute far more than a group with similar backgrounds. What matters is that all Councillors wish to preserve and even improve our lovely Parish.

I hope to see you at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15th April, which will be my last as a Councillor.

Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman of the Parish Council

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Mr. John M. Lucas (Chairman)
Mr. Chris Armitage
Mr. Cris Allen
Mr. Nick Berryman (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Ross Houghton
Mr. Chris Jago
Mr. Gary Parker
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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Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2015



Newick Now to 2030

RESULTS OF NEWICK'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM

May we thank all of those residents who turned out despite the poor weather and voted in the referendum on adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. The turnout was just over 49%, which is a further demonstration of the enthusiasm and support for the Neighbourhood Plan shown by Newick's residents over the last 2½ years. There had been strong opposition to the Plan from a few, who mounted a vociferous Vote NO campaign which included spreading false allegations and smears. Despite this, the vote was an overwhelming YES, with:

Votes cast in favour of YES: 846

Votes cast in favour of NO: 102

Percentage YES Votes: 89%

Unfortunately there is one more hurdle, but that is mainly for Lewes District Council to jump. Lawyers acting for the developer with an interest in the site for which a planning application for 63 homes was turned down recently, mainly on the grounds that it was not proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, have applied for a Judicial Review of Lewes District Council's decision to proceed to Referendum. The Parish Council has agreed that it will not be engaging legal advice or fighting the case itself, but has offered to assist the District Council in any way it can.

The ban on development within 7km of Ashdown Forest is still in place, which currently prevents development of the sites proposed in the Plan. However, it is expected that agreement will be reached within the next few months by the many parties involved, on suitable measures to mitigate the effect of development on the Forest's habitat. Those measures will be funded by developers.

Cllr. John Lucas, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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MEMORIAL

As reported before, the Newick Branch of the Royal British Legion hopes to erect a memorial on The Green. Though proposed in the year of the centenary of the First World War, the memorial would be in remembrance of all who have died in all conflicts. Last year, the Parish Council agreed to the proposal in principle, subject to agreement on a satisfactory design and location. After three meetings on The Green and the construction of a plywood replica of the proposed memorial, those aspects have now been agreed. The Parish Council has given permission for it to be erected in the spot the British Legion prefer, which is in the middle of the small triangle of grass in front of the Community Centre, near the pedestrian crossing. The British Legion now has to obtain the necessary planning permission and raise the required funding.
Cllr. John Lucas

DOG FOULING

The Parish Council has received a number of complaints about dog fouling around the village, particularly on The Green in front of the shops and on the verges in Allington Road. This is most unpleasant for other residents and users of our public areas, particularly if they have the misfortune to tread in it! Would dog walkers please ensure that they pick up after their pets and use the dog litter bins that are provided throughout the village.

CHURCH ROAD PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

A Church Road resident has recently made the Parish Council aware of the poor visibility for motorists emerging on to Church Road from the lane leading to St Mary's Church. The resident was involved in a nasty accident at this junction last autumn and both Newick Parish Council (NPC) and East Sussex County Council have been looking at options for improving road safety in this area. In the meantime, NPC would like to remind motorists heading out of the village along Church Road to please slow down and respect the 30 mph speed limit. Give yourself a chance of being able to stop if you need to.

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 (look under Parish Council/Other Documents/Polices and Practices). Grant applications for 2015/16 will be considered by the Parish Council at its meeting on 19th May. For further information please contact the Clerk.
Sue Berry, Clerk to the Council

PLAY EQUIPMENT UPGRADE PROJECT

As a result of the consultation a revised design has been agreed by the Council. The changes have taken the project over budget, so we are actively seeking funding to make up the shortfall. It is hoped that work will commence in June or July.
Cllr. Jenny Smerdon

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE



We had a little more crime in Newick over the last 3 months of 2014, mostly vehicle crime and criminal damage. Details can be seen on the notice board near the bakery.

At the end of January I was sent a warning from the police about a company called Terrasure Drives & Patios. They were cold calling to persuade people to have their drives repaved, I then had a phone call from a gentleman who had employed them. He said they had done a good job but used dubious tactics when it came to payment. He was given a price for the paving but despite asking three times he was not given a price for installing the edging. He signed nothing and paid no deposit. He arranged a date for a "test drilling" but the men proceeded to remove the surface and install the edging. They resurfaced the drive the following day.

However, they then asked for nearly twice what he was expecting to pay. Luckily the gentleman stood his ground and insisted on paying what he felt was a fair price. It would appear they do the job and then try to intimidate people into paying more than the job is worth. As there is no official paperwork this can cause problems.

Should you be concerned in any way please contact me or ring the police on 101.

With regard to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator vacancies, I still need someone for 2 – 38 Western Road and Acerlands, (12 properties).

I also need someone for North Lodge and the High Street up to the Community Centre, (24 properties), as it would appear the person who said they could do it is unable to do so. All it involves is asking the residents if they would like to receive NHW updates. I would email them to you and you would forward them on, 'simples'!

Cllr. Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
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COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The Community Speed Watch team are pleased to announce the recent addition of our own Speed Camera. We were previously sharing one with Chailey but are now armed and ready to be visible in Newick on a much more regular basis.

Currently our only approved position to use the camera is the junction of the High Street and Newick Hill. However, working closely with Sussex Police we are close to securing a new site where The Green meets Goldbridge Road.

This will give us the visibility to check cars entering our village from the A272 westbound. We're always looking for new volunteers so if you can spare the odd 30 minutes, as and when you can, we'd welcome you into our team. Please call Gary on 01825 722077 for more information.

Cllr. Gary Parker, Chairman of Speed Watch Team