

MISCELLANY

The high level of participation in the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Day in June, followed by the even greater participation in completing the Questionnaire, indicates that there is strong local interest in the plan and residents wish to take the opportunity to help ensure that it is a good plan, supported by the majority. Since the last Newsletter, the reports on the Consultation Day and Questionnaire have been published and are available on the parish website.

As I hope you will agree, the appearance of the Village has been maintained well by our new Village Handyperson. Fortunately she is prepared to continue doing the job so her temporary contract has been extended. One change we have instituted is that the handyperson has slightly shorter hours but no longer has to empty rubbish bins. Having obtained a reasonable price for the service, we now have our rubbish bins emptied by Lewes District Council in addition to the ones they own.

The Green is soon to see improvement and protection. The stop for the bus to Lewes will have a path to it, alongside the road, so that people do not have to walk in the road or on wet grass to access it. In the process, the edge of the Green will have a kerb installed, which will halt the steady erosion that has been taking place, caused by the buses and other vehicles pulling in up the bank whenever there is a vehicle approaching from the other direction. We hope to also provide a bench at the bus stop and, at the request of the bus company, have agreed that a bus stop sign can be installed with a timetable on it, but with a shorter post than usual and without the usual "flag", to avoid it being excessively conspicuous.

Finally, the Parish Council has been advised by East Sussex County Council that work to repair the road surface in Allington Road will start on 28th October. Work is scheduled to last 3 days, the road will be closed between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., and there will be a signed diversion route. This work was originally planned for September but was delayed to coincide with the school half term week.

Cllr. John Lucas, Chairman

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Published and printed by

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Your Newick Parish Council Newsletter Autumn 2013



LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CORE STRATEGY

In the Spring Newsletter and April's Annual Parish meeting, the Parish Council advised that it would be objecting to Lewes District Council's (LDC) Core Strategy that proposed to build a further 124 homes in Newick over the 20 years from 2010. In essence, the Council felt that the village should not be forced to have an increase exceeding a further 91 homes over this period of which 24 have already been accounted for in the last 3 years.

We have now been advised that LDC has not yet formally submitted its Strategy as it failed to meet the Government's target housing provision and should allocate even more homes within the District. This leaves the Parish Council in a difficult position relative to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. We have been strongly advised that unless we produce a Plan that caters for a further 100 houses until 2030, the Plan will be rejected and the Inspector of the Core Strategy is very likely to then insist that an even greater number of homes be built in Newick. After a long debate, the Council has reluctantly decided to prepare the Plan for this number.

Cllr. Chris Jago

NEWICK DIRECTORY

Every two years Newick Parish Council produces a directory of useful information such as contact details for local services (schools, medical centres, the neighbourhood policing team, bus services etc.), clubs and societies and local businesses. The directory is delivered free of charge to every home in the parish and stocks are held by the Estate Agents for people who are thinking of moving into the village. Work will shortly begin on compiling the new directory which will be published at the end of the year. Those who are already in the directory will be contacted by the Clerk to check that their details are still correct. However, if you run a local business or club and you are not already listed in the directory please contact the Clerk by email (newickpc@newick.net) to make sure that you are included in the new directory.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Your local community Speed Watch team is looking for volunteers to assist in keeping your village safe from speeding motorists. If you would like to join the team please contact PCSO Steve Knowles on 07787685708 or steven.knowles@sussex.pnn.police.uk Full training will be given at your convenience.

Newick Now to 2030

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire - Results now Available on website

The Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire has now been fully analysed. An interim report was published by the Parish Council on the parish website in early September and the full report has now been published. The main results were:

- i) Over 95% of those who voted on the Sustainability Objectives supported their adoption, so the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has strong support for carrying out a thorough analysis of the sustainability of each of the twelve potential development sites,
- ii) The strongest need for housing is for starter homes and affordable homes, followed closely by downsize homes, with some need for sheltered housing also being indicated, plus a limited need for other open market homes, and
- iii) The majority of households are in favour of developing those sites that lie to the east or north of the Village, plus the very small site between the Rough and Vernons Road, with the six sites off Allington Road all being considered less suitable.

The next task for the Steering Group is to carry out the Sustainability analysis of each of the twelve sites and this work has already started. It will be interesting to see how close the results of this formal analysis are to the results of the site voting of the Questionnaire. A report on this analysis will follow.

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

JAPANESE KNOTWEED—WARNING

The Parish Council has been made aware that Japanese Knotweed is growing in at least two places in Newick.

Japanese Knotweed is a large herbaceous perennial plant that was introduced into the country in the early 1800s. However, it has proved to be highly invasive, it can easily overwhelm other garden plants and its extensive root system can cause damage to buildings and roads. It is an offence (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) to plant or cause Japanese Knotweed to grow in the wild, and there are strict rules about how it should be disposed of.

The owners of the land where Japanese Knotweed has been identified have been informed and asked to take action to eradicate it. It is also possible that the plant may be growing elsewhere in the village but has not yet been spotted, therefore, the Parish Council would like to ask all Parishioners to be vigilant. Please check your gardens and, if you think that you may have Japanese Knotweed growing, take steps to get it identified and removed.

Some useful information on how to identify, control and dispose of Japanese Knotweed can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/130079.aspx>

<http://apps.rhs.org.uk/advicesearch/Profile.aspx?PID=218>

Sue Berry, Clerk to the Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

Over the summer months we have had a few incidents in Newick.

There has been a spate of Land Rover thefts from rural and town areas including Newick. They are mainly aiming for the older Defender model Land Rovers but other 4x4's have been stolen too. They either steal parts or the whole vehicle, possibly stolen to order. One couple had their Discovery vehicle stripped but it wasn't until the thieves tried to remove the bonnet that the alarm went off. By the time they got there the thieves plus the bonnet had made off. The police told the couple the parts get loaded into containers and sent to places like Africa.

I have today, September 10th, received an email from Sally-Ann Reed, the local PCSO, stating that a blue tipper truck was seen in Allington Road. Two young male occupants stopped at a house and asked about a Land Rover that was well tucked out of sight. They then entered the drives of other properties nearby. Part of the registration number was OV 53.

On August 16th a local tree surgeon had parked his vehicle in the driveway of a house where he was working only to find his briefcase and phone had been stolen from the cab. It appears vehicles need to be kept locked at all times.

There have also been a couple more incidents where fuel pipes have been cut, one in Paynters Way and one in Oldaker Road.

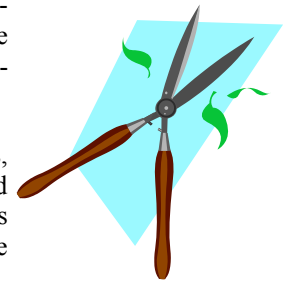
Just recently there have been a few problems with the 101 system which is there to enable people to ring the police to report non urgent matters. This was due to the installation of a new computer system. I am pleased to report that the system now appears to be up and running. In a real emergency always ring 999.

Cllr. Jean Sheppard, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

HEDGE ALERT

The Parish Council has recently received several complaints about hedges, bushes and trees overhanging pavements and twittens. This can make it difficult for pedestrians, including those who walk with small children or who use a buggy, to walk along the footpath. It can be very unpleasant to be confronted by wet foliage or attacked by trailing brambles, particularly after dark when these hazards are less visible.

Householders are responsible for making sure that their hedges, bushes and trees do not overhang or obstruct any footpaths and now is a good time to check this. If you find that your hedges and trees are likely to be a problem for passers by please make arrangements to cut them back as soon as possible.



East Sussex County Council Highways Department is responsible for making sure that the footpaths are not obstructed and may take action against householders who allow hedges, bushes and trees to overhang the footpath. *Sue Berry, Clerk to the Council*