



NEWSLETTER

Your Community Connection

Winter 2016 Issue 34

SEASON'S GREETINGS from Your Parish Council

PLANS PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS

The Parish Council is on schedule to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Wolvey which is of great importance to the village. Unlike previous Parish Plans, which had no legal status and were advisory, a Neighbourhood Plan will become a formal part of the planning system and must be taken into account when Rugby Borough Council decides upon planning applications. Neighbourhood Plans cannot prevent development but they can **help prevent unwanted** development. The Neighbourhood Plan must have public support which will be voted upon in a referendum when the plan has been prepared.

An example of the impact a Neighbourhood Plan can have is demonstrated by a recent decision affecting Kineton in Warwickshire. A developer had appealed against Stratford-upon-Avon District Council's decision to refuse an application for 90 homes. A planning inspector recommended that the appeal be dismissed, and a letter issued on behalf of Communities Secretary Sajid Javid

stated that the Minister agreed with the inspector's conclusion.

The Minister noted that the Kineton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (KPNP) had been approved by referendum on 1st September 2016 and, as such, he attached, "significant weight to its policies". The Minister also noted that the KPNP, "includes housing allocation sites in policies ... but that the appeal site is not included". The Secretary of State acknowledged that the housing sites in the plan represented the choice expressed by local people to ensure that they get what they perceive as the right types of development in the places that they consider right for their community. The Minister also agreed with the inspector that the appeal proposal is out of kilter with the distribution of development at Kineton envisaged in that plan.

This decision exemplifies the value of a Neighbourhood Plan, which must reflect the wishes of residents and be confirmed by a referendum.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ruth Buswell 01455 221324

Dee Kenrick 01455 221782

Adrian Warwick 01455 220082

John Hawkins 01455 220482

Richard Hawcutt 07817 789698

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Rachel Atkinson: 01455 843183
parishclerk@wolvey.org

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Chris Pacey-Day 01788 565439

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Phillip Morris-Jones 01788 8832965

For the minutes of Parish Council meetings and more information, please visit our website:

www.wolvey.org

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 19th December 2016

Monday 16th January 2017

Monday 20th February 2017

Monday 20th March 2017

Monday 17th April 2017

Wed 26th April 2017: Annual Parish Meeting

Mon 15th May 2017: Annual Meeting

Meetings start at 7:30pm.

Please note: December 2016 to March 2017 meetings will be held at Wolvey Bowling Club.

Meetings in April and May will be held at Wolvey Baptist Chapel.

KICK OFF CHRISTMAS AT THE 'BIG SWITCH ON'

The crisp and frosty mornings of Winter are now upon us and it will soon be time for the 'Big Switch On' for Christmas. So, get your woolly jumpers out and come join in the festive fun in The Square on Sunday 4th December at 6pm.

The Parish Council is planning to decorate a twenty five feet tall fir tree in The Square, which has been kindly donated by a local business; with its glittering lights and shiny baubles, its sure to brighten up even the darkest of chilly nights.

The winner of the Christmas colouring competition organised by the Parish

Council will have the honour of throwing the switch.

So, don't miss this popular event that is always thoroughly enjoyed by all who attend regardless of age.

There are many attractions to suit everyone's taste: Silver Band, carols, merry go round, children's lucky dip and craft stalls. There will also be plenty of mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies to help the celebrations afterwards.

This is a free event, but any donations will be kindly received and donated to The British Legion.



YCers ENJOY BATS, BALLS, BINGO, BAKING AND BARS — OF CHOCCY!

The Youth Club ended its summer term with games and rounders at Wolvey House Farm on a fabulous, sunny summer evening in July. Many thanks to Sam Boyd and family who let us roam free over their land and to our volunteer Kate Jones for all her efforts in organising the chocolate hunt, where groups had to decipher clues and follow a map to find hidden chocolate bar symbols. Everyone did get rewarded with real chocolate at the end!

Members had the unique opportunity to ring the bells at Wolvey Church in an interesting and informative session in September kindly led by Gerald Trevor and his daughter Abigail.

The October session of sports, baking and BINGO

(all suggestions by members) incorporated our AGM and we are grateful to our young reps and parents who volunteer to join the Management Committee and keep us going with their support and ideas for activities and events. Also, thanks to our

excellent young reps and amazing adult volunteers who respond to members' ideas and make it possible to run sessions - Steve Hobley, Matt Myers, Kate Jones, Stuart Bates and Phoebe Carnall-Ruppell who has recently started University.



Members in full swing at the summer event held at Wolvey House Farm in Wolds Lane

Plenty to Ponder at Planning Open Day

The Village Hall was the venue for the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Open Day on the 15th October 2016, where one hundred and twenty villagers attended to discuss their views with the Consultants and Councillors who were present.

There was also the opportunity to place coloured stickers on maps to highlight preferred 'kept-views' and 'open-spaces'.

In addition, there were plenty of sticky notes to enable visitors' comments to be attached to the display boards on show, these included:

The Community Questionnaire
Highways and Employment
Heritage and Environment
Planning Issues and Open Spaces
New Housing and
New Facilities.

Wolvey Environmental Committee (WEC) displayed

their work on Wetland species (thanks to Peter Hopkins) and The History Group exhibited historical maps of Wolvey and projected an overhead view photographed from the air (thanks to Mary).

Thank you to all those who came along – it was a very interesting afternoon for everyone!



ANOTHER BUSY YEAR OVER - WHERE DID 2016 GO?

For the Wolvey Environmental Committee (WEC), 2016 has passed in a flurry of numerous tasks, some routine and others more ambitious. These have included, building the long awaited bridge in the Wetland Reserve, clearing a path to allow access to the bridge and to provide a circular walk, tidying The Square, putting up and taking down hanging baskets (after watering them all Summer), filling and maintaining planters, and dozens of other jobs!

The wetland has looked green and luscious this year and we are delighted that the water voles are still present. There has been some concern over the lack of butterflies and moths, dragonflies, and even frogs and toads - maybe the weather hasn't suited them? We will though continue to monitor all animal activity within this precious space.

We have been very successful again this year in the Rugby in Bloom Competition, attaining a Gold Award for the wetland reserve and a Silver Award for

The Square. A very big thank you to everyone that helped in any way!

Members of the Committee continue to work together as a very strong team but we are always looking for new members! No special skills are needed, just a willingness to give it a go. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in the Baptist Chapel at 7.30pm.

If you would like any more information about Wolvey Environmental Committee, please contact Ruth on 01455 221324.



Flower baskets provided splendid summer colour in The Square

Council in Twittersphere

Wolvey Parish Council continually looks at how it can improve communication with local residents and recently turned its attention to making better use of social media. As part of this, the Parish Council now has a Twitter account.



Therefore, anyone who uses Twitter can now follow @WolveyPC for the Parish Council's latest news and information.

A WOLVEY WELCOME

Do you have new neighbours or know of someone who is moving into the village? The Parish Council has compiled a warm Welcome Pack for new residents. It has a host of useful information to help new arrivals settle in.

There are details of refuse collection arrangements, doctor's surgery times, church services and a very user friendly village map.

If you would like a copy or know someone who would, contact the Parish Clerk or a Councillor and a pack will soon be winging its way to your new neighbour.



Don't Make A Gift of Your Presents

As the Christmas season nears and presents are set around the tree, it's not only Santa who'll be rubbing his hands with glee in anticipation, but opportunist thieves and burglars.

With this in mind, the police are reminding villagers that there are steps they can take to deter thieves and keep themselves and their belongings safe throughout Christmas and the dark winter months.

Keep doors and windows locked at ALL times

Use timers to switch on lights when the house is not occupied

Keep valuables, Christmas presents, bags, cash and keys out of sight

Whilst illuminated indoor Christmas trees might add to the festive feel, keep blinds and curtains closed especially when the house is not occupied

Try to prevent easy access to the back and sides of your home

Ask a neighbour to collect your post and parcels

Do not put messages on social media that indicate you are away and the house might be empty

Ideally, install security lighting and a visible alarm system.

These tips could help ensure your belongings are safe and secure. So, lock up, light up and make sure that your Christmas and winter remain crime free.



Hello, this is the first opportunity there's been to introduce myself to the whole

community through the Parish Newsletter. So, here goes.

I'm Rachel Atkinson and I've been Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (which means that I also administer the Council's finances) to Wolvey Parish Council for almost six months now ... how time flies!

To be deemed a 'qualified' Clerk you need to hold a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) and I gained this in 2011. Prior to becoming Clerk to the Parish Council, I was Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Earl Shilton Town Council, where I worked for the past seven years.

It often surprises me that the community aren't aware of the duties and responsibilities of their Parish Council and I've often been asked ... 'So what is it you actually do?'

Basically, Parish Councils are the tier of local government closest to the people and therefore play a vital part in representing the interests of the community and improving the quality of life and the local environment.

The Council is responsible for the services it provides. It consults, listens and identifies what is missing and then agrees priorities for action and decides how the money will be raised and spent on behalf of the community.

If you'd like to be more involved, why not consider becoming a Councillor? There are Councillor vacancies at present and I will

COUNCIL THANKS TALENTED TRIO

On behalf of the Council and the whole community, I would like to thank Andrew Dixon, Clare Nixon and Ellie Tomlin for their service as Parish Councillors.

Their energy, expertise and commitment to serving the community was greatly valued and we wish them well for the future.

Ruth Buswell *Chairman*

happily speak with anyone who requires more details regarding this role.

In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy the festive season and I look forward to seeing you at Wolvey's 'Big Switch On'.



WOLVEY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON WOLVEY SQUARE

Sunday 4th December from 5:30pm
Lights switch on at 6.00pm

followed by
Mince Pies, Mulled Wine and Carols
Wolvey Church and WI choirs
The Bulkington Silver Band
A children's Merry Go Round
Festive Craft Stalls and a
Bran Tub in the Village Hall

ALL WELCOME



organised by



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