

News from Wolston Parish Council – September 2017

When residents bring issues to the attention of the Parish Council either by contacting the Clerk, or individual councillors, or in person at the monthly Parish Council meetings it is because they are hoping that some solution or improvement may be found.

Often the people responsible for the solution are constrained by budgets or time and despite our best efforts we have to disappoint residents with the news that, regrettably, nothing can be done. We know that parking throughout the village creates problems and, whilst some may hanker after the quiet streets of the 1930s or 1940s, we are not likely to be able to do anything to reproduce the empty street scenes from that era. Several years ago the Parish Council looked at providing parking within the recreation ground to make the experience of getting to the shops more straightforward. Unfortunately, the proposal was turned down because access and egress from the site was deemed insufficient because of the visibility splay. In addition, parking on the recreation ground can only be for uses associated with the sports field, not to address the shortfall in parking spaces created by the dramatic increase in motor vehicle ownership. At the August meeting, concerns were raised about the ridiculous speed of some traffic within the village. Councillors were anxious as they fear it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality. It was reported that vehicles coming into the village over the river bridge often seem to be driving at speed, endangering the lives of other road users and pedestrians. Meadow Road is often used as a “rat-run” for vehicles to avoid the centre of the village and this impacts Priory Road, particularly when people ignore the road markings where this joins School Street. Others seem unaware of the requirements of the Road Traffic Acts and park facing in the wrong direction, obstructing pavements and verges, too close to road junctions or bends, or within the zig-zag markings near the pedestrian crossing.

If people park vehicles off the road on the grass verges, apart from damaging the verges they increase the risk of other vehicles exceeding the speed limits on the roads. If they park vehicles so they obstruct the pavements, they increase the risks faced by pedestrians and other road users who may not be able to see other traffic past the parked vehicles. If you see reckless or dangerous driving, please report the incident to the Police. You might just save someone’s life.

It was a pleasure to welcome representatives from Wolston Surgery to the August meeting. Dr K L Atkins, Dr H L Williams and Mrs R Sheasby confirmed that the surgery will continue to be a teaching practice. The purpose of the changes being planned to the current building are designed to ensure that the Surgery runs as efficiently and effectively as possible for the benefit of the patients. Residents were invited to join the Patient Reference Group so that they can have a say in matters affecting them. Councillors were quick to thank the team for the excellent service they provide and endorse how fortunate the village is to have the Surgery and such a dedicated team locally.

Councillors were given the opportunity to review the NDP Terms of Reference and the project timetable which had been agreed by the NDP Working Group. During discussion about the timescales it was established that the completion date was likely to be brought forward once the Consultant had been appointed. Councillors recognised the work being done by many residents, who were thanked for the time and effort they were putting into the project. The appointment of a consultant had been discussed at the June Parish Council meeting and following post award clarification it was confirmed that Neil Pearce, from APS, was the consultant of choice and the NDP Working Group was given authority to proceed with the preferred Consultant. Subsequently it has been encouraging to hear the progress in all aspects of the NDP processes being reported.

Following the disappointing reports of further vandalism of the new play and multi-gym equipment, in the Recreation Ground in Dyers Lane, twelve companies had been contacted and asked if they could quote to supply and install additional CCTV cameras to help deter anti-social behaviour and detect the culprits causing damage. Two of the twelve companies had agreed to visit the site to review what was required, but had been unable to supply quotations in time for the August meeting, so it was agreed that the item should be deferred to the September meeting.

Concerns have been raised about the state of the vegetation in the brook. The upper reaches near the Old Slaughterhouse and the new Vicarage are particularly bad and enquiries to Warwickshire County Council Flood Risk Management Team have been met with the response that the section of the channel is between a private

road and a private garden and therefore WCC are not responsible for its maintenance. As the water course is actually classed as Main River the Environment Agency have been approached and they have agreed to spray the weed in the brook in early September. The Parish Council is investigating whether there are any local volunteers who might be willing to help remove weed from this area of the brook.

Don't forget that the Parish Council is available to offer help or advice if you have a problem, and is always happy to hear from you.

Tim Harvey-Smith
Chairman Wolston Parish Council