



NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Representing Northill, Upper and Lower Caldecote,
Ickwell, Thorncote, Hatch, Budna and Bells Brook

Issue 41

Spring 2018

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THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) is proposing a reduction in Northill councillor numbers from 12 to 7, and a change to our parish boundary, with the new boundary to be the A1 and not the River Ivel. This could mean that Sainsbury's, and housing at Bellsbrook and part of Lower Caldecote would no longer be in our parish. Northill Parish Council responded to CBC's initial consultation last November, stating that we did not favour any changes. However Biggleswade Town Council responded to request the boundary change, which would, amongst other factors, increase their council tax revenue (but reduce ours!) With regard to any reduction in councillor numbers, it is noticeable that CBC is proposing similar reductions in other parts of Northill Ward (Southill, Moggerhanger).

If you have any views on these proposals, please let the Parish Clerk and CBC Cllr Frank Firth know or respond to the online consultation.

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations
commencing on the 14th May.

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Our "AGM" is being held on Thursday May 24th, 7.30pm, at Caldecote Methodist Church Hall. The Chairman and Vice Chair are elected, and committee structures determined, prior to the normal formal business of a Council Meeting. All are welcome. The Annual Parish Meeting presentation on recycling was poorly attended, but enabled a very informative (and lengthy) Q&A session between confused attendees and a very patient Charlie Anderson from CBC.

RECENT PLANNING MATTERS

Upper Caldecote After a long delay, the Woodlands Nursery outline application (CB/17/04476/OUT) encompassing two commercial warehouses, a new container bed facility, a new access road and up to 35 residential dwellings was approved, with conditions, at CBC's Development Management Committee (DMC) on April 25th. The important conditions for us relate to the timing of housing development relative to the container beds and the new road access.

NPC has requested that the s106 money this sizeable development proposal will generate is used for the enhancement of the two community Church Halls in Upper Caldecote, and also, if needed at the time that this money is likely to be available (~2 years) Northill Village Hall. Section 106 money is made available by the developer to the local community for specified projects, relating to community facilities, our schools, health and the environment. Sadly, traffic infrastructure does not seem to feature. It is envisaged that the bulk of the funds would go to Caldecote Church Rooms, which are accepted as being in poor condition.

As with last year's outline application for 40 dwellings at Land opposite the Pastures (CB/16/03283/OUT), approval merely confirms that the principle of development and proposed access arrangements at the site are supported. We will have to wait for both sites to supply full applications, with precise details of housing density and mix, landscaping, parking and other infrastructure matters. Schematic representations of what both sites could look like are contained in their respective applications on CBC's website, from the Parish Clerk or Cllr Helen Papworth.

The landowner of land east of Oaklands, between 15 and 35, Ickwell Rd. (CB/17/04819) is appealing CBC's continued refusals to allow a change of use from stable block to a residential dwelling. The site is outside the settlement envelope and in relatively open countryside.

Ickwell A second outline application for 10 dwellings, including 4 bungalows, on land adjoining 36, Caldecote Rd.(CB/18/00506/OUT) is still to be determined. After a second public meeting, NPC resolved to continue to object.

Northill Both proposals for 4 bungalows at The Meadows, 25, Sand Lane (CB/17/03223/FULL) and for 6 chalet houses, confusingly reduced to 4 houses, behind 43 –63, Ickwell Rd. (CB/17/05097/FULL) remain to be determined. The former has been delegated to the Planning Officer, but the latter has been “called in” to the DMC by Cllr Firth. CBC has been made aware of public concern that related piecemeal development by one developer avoids a section 106 developer’s contribution (as described opposite). NPC has an up to date Leisure Strategy that would be useful in aiding CBC determine where such funds could be allocated, if they were, after all, to become available. The draft Neighbourhood Plan is another source of suggestions.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the recent 6 week consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Project Writing Team spent two days recently analysing the responses, considering further actions and whether any re-drafting is required, before formal submission to CBC. Any changes will first go to the full Steering Group and then to NPC for approval.

Royal British Legion (RBL) Members & Volunteers Wanted

The Northill and Old Warden branch of the Royal British Legion now only has 7 members, and needs support to keep going. What might be involved? Obviously RBL membership (£17 pa). Possibly the occasional meeting, also help at Remembrance Time. The increasing numbers of parishioners that attend our War Memorial annually on Remembrance Sunday & on Nov 11th itself, demonstrate the importance of these events to us all. Supporting Poppy Day collections and collectors are other worthwhile activities, but can involve as much or as little time as you feel able to give. Contact Cllr Helen Papworth (details on back page)

RBL is currently recruiting for volunteer caseworkers across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. This involves visiting Service personnel, reservists, veterans and their families at home, & completing an RBL application for assistance. Case Workers write a narrative report, completing outcomes covering finance, well-being, health, housing, activities & social life. Full training is provided with expenses covered, including travel, up to 45p per mile. If you are interested, please contact 0333 011 4480 or VolCoordSEM@britishlegion.org.uk

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL GRANT ALLOCATIONS

The annual allocation of grant money to local organisations and voluntary groups will be taking place at the Finance and General Purposes meeting scheduled for July 12th. Apply to the Parish Clerk for an application form and terms/conditions.

Applications will close on 30th June 2018.

NORTHILL PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

ELIZABETH HUTCHINSON CHARITY 2018

In November 2018, the Trustees will consider applications for assistance for the purchase of books, tools, clothing etc from students who have completed their statutory education and are under the age of 25. Applicants must reside in the Parish of Northill, and study at University, Training College or College of Further Education, either full time or part time. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk to the Charity Trustees at the address below or requested by email from charitiesclerk@northillparish.co.uk.

Completed forms must be returned by post not later than noon on 22nd October 2018.

SHUTTLEWORTH AIRSHOW DISPLAY DATES 2018

Sunday 6th May, Sunday 3rd June, Saturday 16th June, Sunday 1st July, Saturday 14th July, Sunday 5th August (Flying Proms), Saturday 18th August, Sunday 2nd September, Sunday 7th October

As per previous years for each of the above events, Hill Lane will be closed from the G&M grower roundabout to the Ickwell turn, also Ickwell Rd., Footpath 5 and the Sheepwalk bridleway from 18.00-22.00 (Sat shows), 14.00 –19.00 (Sun shows) and from 19.00 –21.00 for the Flying Proms. Please note that the road may open earlier depending on the time that the flying element ends.

WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

Affinity Water (an amalgamation of Anglian Water Domestic and Business) have reported that due to recent heavy rainfall, the reservoirs that were very low earlier this year have recovered, but are still below average. They state that there should be no need for any restrictions this spring. However, they are urging residents to think about their use of water, and to continue to economise. More details: www.affinity.co.uk

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE TO GO SHOPPING IN BEDFORD TOWN CENTRE?

Bedford Shopmobility is a registered charity hiring mobility scooters and wheelchairs for visitors to Bedford town centre. Anybody with limited mobility can use the Shopmobility service. This could be through physical impairment, illness, accident or age and could be permanent or temporary.

Wheelchairs and powered scooters can be booked in advance (see contact details below). Some equipment may be available at short notice. Equipment can currently be borrowed between 10:30am and 2:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Regular users can join the scheme and benefit from a reduced hire rate. Visitors hire is also available for occasional or one off users. Annual membership costs £24 for a full year and expires on 31st December each year. (Membership is pro-rata so for example members joining in April pay £18). Members pay £2 to hire a scooter or £1 for a wheelchair. For visitors, there is a charge of £5 for a scooter and £2 for a wheelchair. All hirers pay a deposit of £10 for scooter and £5 for a wheelchair. The deposit is returned once the loaned item is received back.

More information on the scheme can be obtained by either phoning Shopmobility on 01234 348000 or by calling in to the Mobility Hub.

BLUNHAM COMMUNITY CINEMA shows films on the last Friday of each month in the village hall. Doors open 6.45, with a prompt start at 7.30 pm. The choice of films is decided by polling attendees, with selections then advertised during a cinema evening. Ticket charges are £4 per adult, £2 per child or £10 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Tickets can be purchased on the night or ordered in advance (Tel: Sue Holden 01767 640572 or Margaret Watts 01767 640053. Confectionery & non-alcoholic drinks are available, also ice creams, tea or coffee in the interval.

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CONTACT DETAILS FOR CBC LIBRARIES

For younger readers/silver surfers - <https://www.facebook.com/CBClibraries>

A report from Northill P3 Group:
GREAT BRITISH SPRINGCLEAN FEEDBACK
NORTHILL PARISH 2018

(Main event delayed to 9-11 March after snow the previous week)

Thank you to all who helped and provided equipment - especially, this year: Northill and Ickwell W.I., Cllr Frank Firth, Nigel and John at Biggleswade HWRC. The number of participants doubled from last year's 7 parishioners to 14 this year.

Litter was removed from the following areas:

Thorncote Road from Bedford Road to Twin Trees
 Bedford Road to House on Stilts



Northill Road, Ickwell
 Ickwell Road, Northill
 Ickwell Green
 Warden Road

Hill Lane from the Sheepwalk entrance to Wood Farm
 Budna Lane from junction with Thorncote Road to farmland past Little Oak Farm.

In addition, fly-tipping sites were reported to Central Bedfordshire, for example: the Sheepwalk, Budna Road, and the road leading from Deadman's Oak to Moggerhanger.

The volumes of litter, in descending order, mostly thrown from cars, were:



Plastics-mainly soft drink and water bottles followed by plastic bags, carriers and wrappings, cans, glass bottles (mainly alcohol)
 one use cups and straws, take-away trays, snack wrappers
 general litter eg. Crisp packs, sweet and snack wrappers, cigarette packets
 Vehicle parts

There was less debris on roads cleared in 2017 and the Springclean was quicker in these areas so more ground could be covered. Through routes like Hill Lane, Bedford Road and Budna Road had the greatest volume of litter.

2018's participants: please consider enrolling one hero to join the Great British Springclean. **Target: for March 2019 - 28 Heroes**

(Editors Note: special thanks must be given to Wyn and Margaret Morgan, and to Graham Hopton, for organizing this event for the second year running)



W.I. Heroes!!!



Litter and Fly Tipping

Our beautiful countryside is all too often spoilt by the unthoughtful dropping of litter from *passing vehicles* that accumulates in the verges and hedgerows. Your Parish Council has provided and strategically placed rubbish bins across the Parish - **please use them.**

The blight is compounded by the fact that inconsiderate people/ traders regularly think that they can drive into countryside and deposit their spoils at will. Failure to properly dispose of any type of waste is simply not acceptable, and as was recently demonstrated when offenders in Dunstable were fined over £4,000.00 for fly tipping. Central Bedfordshire Council will take action against anyone caught, regardless of the type or quantity of discarded waste.

There is no excuse for fly tipping. The dumping of waste illegally puts local people, wildlife and the environment at risk and costs a great deal to clear up.

