

News from the Parish Council, January 2023

First, on behalf of my fellow councillors can I wish all parishioners a happy and healthy New Year.

The Parish Council last met at the end of November but I thought I would let the dust settle on the festive period before providing an update, and now our January meeting is almost upon us.

Neighbourhood Plan

The formulation of our Wing Neighbourhood Plan has reached the important stage of pre-submission consultation with parishioners and local stakeholders. You should recently have received notice of this, with information about how to view the draft plan and submit comments if you wish. I will not duplicate what has already been sent out but strongly encourage you take advantage of this important opportunity to help shape our precious community for the years ahead. Special thanks go to Nicky Lyttelton (chair of the NP Steering Group), Gary Kirk (external consultant) and David Seviour, John Dejardin and Joanne Beaver (leaders of the various theme panels) for getting us to this stage. Next will come another round of revision in the light of comments received, before formal submission of our Plan to Rutland County Council for independent examination, and finally a Parish referendum on acceptance of the Plan.

Wing websites

You may have read in the Benefice Magazine that John Oakley has hung up his keyboard after many years of managing the Wing Community website. Our thanks go to John for the dedication and expertise which he brought to this task. The website has been temporarily mothballed while volunteers are sought to continue John's work and to keep a Community website going.

In the meantime, the Parish Council website <https://www.wingrutland-pc.gov.uk/> continues to display all formal Council business (including information about the Neighbourhood Plan). The Council will be considering whether and how that site might be adapted to present information relating to the Village Hall, Parish Church and other local activities, alongside a Community site.

Parish Precept

Mindful of the financial pressures we are all currently facing, the Parish Council voted at the November meeting to keep the Parish Precept for 2023 at the same level as last year. This decision was made possible by some prudent housekeeping over the last 12 months.

Street Verges

The Parish Council has been endeavouring for some time to get Rutland County Council to take action on the disintegrating verge alongside the footway in Middle Street. Another site meeting took place in November, but quotations for the work the Parish Council has proposed are still awaited from RCC.

Staveley Solar Park

Many of you will be aware that plans are afoot from a consortium involving Bluestone Energy and Anglian Water to develop a substantial solar farm on fields to the south of Pilton, either side of the road from Pilton to Morcott. <https://www.staveleysolarfarm.co.uk/about-the-project/>

The renewable energy generated would largely benefit Wing Water Treatment Works and the wider estate of Anglian Water, with some excess capacity exported to the National Grid.

The Developers have scheduled an 'in person consultation event' for Tuesday 24th January from 2:00 – 7:00 pm at Wing Village Hall. The Parish Council has not yet received notice of a formal planning application relating to this proposed development, but will be keen to explore whether Wing might benefit directly from the renewable energy supply.

Elections to the Parish Council

Last but most certainly not least, I have just posted on the Parish noticeboard yet another call for nominations to fill the vacancies on Wing Parish Council. We have been below strength for over a year now and I really do want to encourage someone to swell our numbers. In fact this would only be a trial for a couple of meetings, as the entire Parish Council will be up for re-election in May, along with other Councils across Rutland. Please, **please, PLEASE** do consider putting yourself forward, if not immediately then in May. The time commitment is very modest, just one evening meeting every couple of months, but it is a great way to keep up with village affairs and serve your community. Any of the present Councillors – myself, Jon Roberts, Susannah Fish, Judith Oakley and Mike Adams – would be only too happy to discuss what is involved. So please, **please, PLEASE** don't be shy!!

Ken Siddle

Chair, Wing Parish Council