

Parish Council Notes, February 2021.

As Rabbie Burns said, in his poem 'To a Mouse', "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley". And so it was with our intention to deliver a Parish Council newsletter to every household along with the parish magazine - we had no sooner put out a first circular before Christmas than another lockdown ended door-to-door deliveries for the time being. So here we are online instead, hoping we still reach the majority of parishioners.

Looking back on 2020, the Parish Council was preoccupied during the latter part of the year with public consultations on the Government's proposed reforms to the planning system and, especially, on RCC's draft Local Plan for Rutland. Our main concerns with the Local Plan, as strongly expressed in formal representations to RCC, related to the proposed development of the St George's Barracks site at Edith Weston (involving the construction of a new town of more than 2000 houses) and the impact this would have on future allocation of housing development in Wing and on traffic flows in our locality. The Parish Council was very pleased to be able to call on the expertise of John DeJardin and David Seviour, as well as professional consultants, in framing its responses to the consultation. RCC has now submitted the draft Local Plan for examination by the Government Inspector, while pressing ahead with its bid for Infrastructure Funds to support the SGB development. You can keep abreast of events via the RCC website:

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/local-plan-examination/>

Looking ahead in 2021, we have a longish list local 'housekeeping' matters in our sights. We have received an expert report on the play equipment for which the PC is responsible and will ensure that remains in a safe condition. We have obtained quotes for repairing the roof of the bus shelter and that work should be done soon. We are in communication with RCC about maintenance of Wing Maze and have been promised a schedule of work. We have reported potholes in village streets and local lanes, and RCC has already undertaken some remedial work with more promised. For those on foot, we have similarly reported stiles that are in need of attention on some of the footpaths out of the village, and again repairs have been promised. Note that any member of the public can report problems of all sorts at any time, including potholes, street lighting, trees, fly-tipping, graffiti and more, via <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-community/fixmystreet/> A significant project for the Parish Council in the coming year will be tackling the degradation and erosion of grass verges, which have been suffering badly during a wet winter. Unfortunately our village streets were laid out in a gentler age when parked cars, large delivery vehicles and Council refuse collections were not competing for space. Finding solutions that are effective, aesthetically pleasing and, importantly, affordable will not be easy - the Council would be pleased to hear the views of residents.

At our January meeting, we also talked about local elections in May, when there will be at least one vacancy on the Parish Council to be filled. This is a great opportunity for parishioners to step forward and serve the community in a constructive way, and it would be good to see lots of interest when formal notice of the election appears (probably in March). The Parish Council is also responsible, as Charity Trustee, for ensuring that there is an effective and properly constituted Village Hall management committee, and some new blood would also be welcome on that front. Please talk to any Councillor (Ken Siddle, Jon Roberts, Helen Cullen, Susannah Fish, Judith Oakley, Richard Tulloch) or member of the VH Committee (Richard Tulloch, Helen Cullen, Sarah O'Boyle, Jon Roberts, Sally Cox, Lynne Bywater) if you are interested and do consider joining in!

Finally, a reminder that if you want to read the Minutes of Parish Council meetings you will find them all on our website <https://www.wingrutland-pc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes.html> with a hard copy of the most recent Minutes always on the Parish Noticeboard beside the bus-stop.