

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

March 2017



We will be holding a
VILLAGE SURGERY
On **SATURDAY 25TH MARCH**
at **9.30AM – 12NOON** in the Village Hall



Please come along, everyone is invited – this is your opportunity to ask questions and hear about the projects that your Parish Council are currently working on and talk to the Town Team about their work.
Amongst those attending will be Parish Councillors and District Councillors along with representatives from ECDC's Environmental Health team, the Police, the Police & Crime Commissioner, Sanctuary Housing, The Town Team and others.
No appointment is needed, just drop in.

Village Surgery

We will be running our first Village Surgery on Saturday 25th March 2017 between 9.30am and 12noon. As you can see from the poster above, we have lots of organisations being represented and all residents are invited to drop in to ask any questions. Other attendees will be the Fire Service, Community Speedwatch plus

ALL ARE WELCOME – PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

New Schools Project

The Active Learning Trust have been invited along to talk to the Parish Council about their expectations and methodology in the near future in anticipation of the official opening in September.

Unfortunately the lease has yet to be finalised and is still being negotiated but it is hoped that this will be concluded very soon.

We have also arranged a “meet and greet” event with local businesses and organisations who may wish to be involved with the schools to take place on Monday 3rd April from 4pm to 6pm. This will take place in the North Bar at the Leisure Centre. Any local businesses interested in attending are asked to please contact The Barn to book a space.

Paddocks

Unfortunately this hasn't moved much further – we're still waiting to take over the land! The District Council have assured us that it has been passed to a new member of their staff to progress so we're hopeful that it will be soon. As soon as we have it we will be commencing the public consultation on ideas for the use of the area. Any ideas will need to fulfil the requirements for green spaces and prove a demonstrable need for anything that is taken forward.

Cemetery

We have now had official consent to commence the development of plans for the design and planning process for the new cemetery. As mentioned previously though, this is a very long and detailed process so in the interim we have agreed a continuance plan to provide burials for the next 3 years in the current cemetery and have extended the area for interments.

Police Office

The Police now have an office here at the Barn to enable them to work from the village on a more regular basis. When they are in attendance we will post a note on Social Media and residents are more than welcome to pop into the Barn to see them with any issues.

Local plan

The second round of consultation on ECDC's draft local plan has now concluded and we will post a link on our website (www.littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk) if you want to find out more.

Local Highways Initiative Bid

Two parish councillors attended the Highway Improvement Panel meeting on Monday 6th February to support the 2017/18 bid submitted for Littleport. Our bid this year was for a 50% contribution towards two moveable Vehicle Activated Speed signs (and ancillary equipment). Despite having a very successful active Speedwatch Team, they cannot be everywhere and the village suffers from some drivers breaking the speed limits on a regular basis. The Parish Council has agreed to aid the

Speedwatch Team by purchasing two moveable Vehicle Activated Speed signs (and ancillary equipment) in an attempt to deter those speeding drivers.

Transport plan

The Parish Council, with the assistance of our residents, would like to develop a Transport Plan for Littleport, that can be used for any future bids for funding highways projects. This plan will include pathways, cycle routes and any improvements we would like to propose to our highways. Advice has already been sought from the County Council regarding the development of a plan, and once the East Cambs DC Local Plan has been confirmed, the first meeting of a working group will take place. We do have some volunteers already, but if you are interested in joining this group please contact us via email at clerk@littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Toilets

As you may have read in the local press, the District Council are requesting all parish councils to take over the responsibility of their local public toilets to prevent closure (as a cost cutting exercise). We have agreed that we will be taking over the public toilets from the District Council to stop them being closed. At the time of writing the final details had not been agreed

Main Street Improvements

The Town Team are continuing to work with the Parish Council to formulate a plan of action for the improvement of Main Street and the surrounding area. There are several ideas being worked on and it is hoped that residents will see some changes happening over the next few months.

The Town Team will be at the Village Surgery on 25th March so please come along and let them have your ideas on what you feel they need to concentrate on to improve Main Street and the High Street

Website

The Website (www.littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk) is continuing to grow and new pages have been added to give everyone relevant information about the new schools project, the community speedwatch initiative, Littleport Project Group etc. We are always looking for more community group/event information to add to the site so please send us any relevant information/photos etc and we will make sure that it is included.

Any information should be sent, in the first instance, by email to info@littleportparishcouncil.gov.uk. You can also drop paper copies of things into The Barn and we can digitise them for you and get them uploaded.

Dog Fouling Campaign

The Parish Council receive complaints on a regular basis about dog fouling and the state of our pathways. It is difficult enough for those of us who are able bodied to negotiate the unpleasant mess left behind by a small amount of irresponsible dog owners, but for those in our community who are in wheelchairs, use walkers, are partially sighted and for Mum's with pushchairs, prams and toddlers it is particularly gruelling as they can unwittingly take dog faeces back into their homes, which is a health hazard and additional unnecessary stress.

A small group of Parish Councillors have formed a working group to try and tackle this issue. They are currently looking at ways to encourage **all** of our dog owners to be responsible and clear up behind their dogs, and then dispose of the dog waste bags in an appropriate manner. The first stage of the campaign against dog fouling will involve a leafleting exercise which will take place during March. If you would like to assist us by leafleting your street, your help would be greatly appreciated. In addition, if you would like to get involved in the campaign or have any ideas of how we can effectively deal with this issue, please do contact the Parish Council office.

Parish Office

We're currently reviewing the meeting structure with a view to reducing the number of Committee meetings and move emphasis to working groups to move issues along. All meeting dates are in the website calendar but for ease of reference, Full Council always takes place on the third Monday of the month (apart from August Recess).

At the time of writing we are looking to recruit a fixed term contract, full time member of staff at the Cemetery for a period of 6 months (until 30th September 2017). Please contact Su at the Barn if you'd like more information.



Su Field
Parish Clerk on behalf of
Cllr Clive Webber – Parish Council Chairman