

THE WALCOTE WORD

NO. 1 SPRING 2017

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Is it for us?

Have you thought about where we should put new housing in Walcote? Do we give priority to housing for those with a local connection? Should it be affordable rented or ownership, shared ownership or open market? Are there spaces in or around the village that should be preserved for amenity or recreation purposes? Last year the Parish Council secured the transfer to it of the field at the bottom of South Kilworth Road. Should we let it for grazing or use it for some other purpose? Are there other facilities that the Parish needs?

At 3:00 pm on Saturday 8 April the Parish Council will host a meeting at the Memorial Hall in Walcote to see if there is support for preparing a neighbourhood plan. Gary Kirk, a member of the RICS Neighbourhood Planning Examiner Panel, will explain what is involved and answer questions about the process.

But what is a neighbourhood plan? It is described as "a community-led planning framework for guiding the development, regeneration and

conservation of an area". Once in place it will be part of the statutory development plan for the area. It cannot promote less development than identified in the development plan but it may allow more. It can say how development should be designed and where it should be located. North Kilworth Parish has one in place and Swinford Parish is at the consultation stage. If you're interested, have a look at their websites.

The process is rigorous and involves significant consultation but residents will have the chance to say where they will accept development and where they won't. If we're to go ahead the Parish Council needs the support of the local community and its help. The five Councillors all have other jobs and cannot undertake this on their own, so we need others to get involved. Could you help? No specialist skills are required. If we decide to go ahead, we intend to obtain expert support. If you think you can help or just want to know more, please come along to our meeting.

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of The Walcote Word, a newsletter sent out via email by Misterton with Walcote Parish Council. We aim to publish a quarterly letter but may supplement this if news requires. If you have any item or photo you think would be of interest to others, want to help or just unsubscribe please contact: clerk@mistertonwithwalcote.org.uk

THE FOOTPATH PROJECT

The Story So Far

Hopefully you've seen the improvements we've carried out to the footpaths over the past two years but to fill you in on the background, some of you will recall that after rain various areas were almost impassible, so in 2015 we applied for and obtained a grant from the Vatenfall Wind Farm's Eight Parishes Community Fund to tackle the worst areas and last year we were awarded £8000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme to replace 12 stiles with kissing gates. Details of the walks can be found on the parish website:



<http://www.mistertonwithwalcote.org.uk/parks-and-recreation.html>.

We should also acknowledge the support and cooperation of the local farmers and landowners in doing these works. Please respect them by keeping to the paths and cleaning up after your dog. Not only is dog mess unpleasant for other walkers, it can contain parasites harmful to other animals and may result in a significant fine for the dog owner. But on a happier note, Spring is nearly here so get out and get walking!

THE BLACK HORSE BEER FESTIVAL

In March 2016 The Black Horse Community Benefit Society was finally able to acquire ownership of the pub and it was opened by the landlord Nathan Miles in December, since when he's been serving excellent food and ale. As a parish we owe a significant vote of thanks to the Society's Committee for all its hard work in bringing back a much need facility to the village that has been missing for over 3 years. This year from Friday 28th April through to Monday 1st May Nathan is hosting a beer festival. We hope it will be the first of many.

LUTTERWORTH EAST

Harborough District Council is drafting a new local plan. Options currently being considered include a Strategic Development Area east of Lutterworth incorporating about 2750 new homes to the east of the M1. In addition, approximately 23 hectares of employment plus a local centre, primary schools and a relief road are proposed. Our understanding

is that a previous proposal for a service area at J20 has now been dropped. The timetable states that a draft plan will go out for public consultation during August to September 2017. For more details and to register for updates please visit: <http://www.harborough.gov.uk/local-plan>.

NEXT TIME: Who was successful with this year's Wind Farm grants?