St. George’s Barracks

There has been little development over the past few months, apart from news that the application for the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) of nearly £30 million has been granted. As the name suggests HIF is money for, roads and utilities, before further development can take place. There is an opinion that this is not nearly enough to support the development as envisaged.

The other development that is awaited is the publication of the Local Plan; this is said to be produced in early 2020 having been deferred previously.

The parish council has two councillors who attend the Liaison Group, (R.C.C., M.O.D., Ward Councillors and Parish Councillors), and the Parish Council Liaison Group (P.C.L.G.), this comprises the local councils of North Luffenham, Edith Weston, Empingham and Manton).

The P.C.L.G. is attempting to influence the scale of the development directly and by its views at the Liaison Group.

The Oval and Field Gardens.

The Parish Council is the trustee of The Oval and is responsible for its maintenance, including the play equipment. The main issue at present is the condition of some of the trees and a tree has already had to be removed.

The trees are regularly inspected by a tree expert from R.C.C. and a recent report that a further three trees, on the Butt Lane side of The Oval are removed and replaced with a small group of trees. There is obviously a cost to this and as far as possible this will be budgeted for but an increase in the precept may be necessary.

On a more positive note the trees on The Field Gardens are growing well and the site is looking quite mature and an asset to the village. Many thanks to our local scout group who have helped with pruning work.

Community Centre.

For a number of years the the community centre has not had a functioning management committee and with the school no longer requiring use of the room, as it has built a new classroom, the Parish Council set up a Working Group to look at the options for future management of the community centre.

It has made recommendations to the council and these have been accepted in principal; that the Parish Council take over the management of the community centre. R.C.C would still be responsible for the fabric of the building and have agreed to refurbish the centre.

Many thanks to Syd Overington and members of the working group for their work.

Bonfire Night

Despite unpromising weather bonfire night went ahead, as always in our village on the 5th November. Although numbers were down on previous years was successful and costs were covered

Many thanks to Councillor Cade and all those who helped in setting up the event and the clear up.

Defibrillator

Due to water ingress into the cabinet of the defibrillator it has been out of action on two occasions but thanks to Councillor Mason, who devised and constructed a cover for the cabinet, the problem has been resolved.

Thanks also to the Village Trust, who fund purchase of the pads and to Jason Allen, landlord of The Fox, who funds the electricity for the heater of the cabinet.

Neighbourhood Plan

In view of the proposed development of St. George’s Barracks it may be advantageous to the village to implement a Neighbourhood Plan. This will involve a great deal of effort and if it is to be enacted will require the support of the village. Please refer to the accompanying flyer which goes into further detail.

There will be a presentation regarding this in the Community Centre on Monday 9th December at 7.00 pm.