

St. George's Barracks.

There has been little development over the past few months, apart from the 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 indicates 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.

One way of offsetting the cost is for residents to sponsor a tree, perhaps in memory of somebody, or just to play a part in maintaining The Oval as a treasured green space. If interested please email Charles Cade charles.cade51@gmail.com.

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.

Village Day/VE Day.

On the 8th May 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VE day and is designated as an early May bank holiday. The Parish Council has discussed holding a VE themed Village Day and has previously asked for volunteers on the website but unfortunately there was little response. To be successful an event such as this requires a team to coordinate the various activities and it does take time and effort. The Parish Council cannot achieve this on its own and again is asking for volunteers. If none is forthcoming than there will be no event. If interested please contact Tim Smith by email timwestonsmith@gmail.com or contact any of the parish councillors.

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.

Earlier this year Paul Cumming#

` resigned from the Parish Council as he is moving to be nearer his family. In his role as Chairman of the Parish Council he reformed the working practices of the council in order that issues such as transparency, standing orders for the various committees and finance were as robust as they could be. How he also had the time to organise events such as the Village Day and Safari Suppers is difficult to comprehend. The Parish Council is grateful for his input over the years. Paul and Fay are a loss to the village and will be missed. We wish them all the best.