

Annual Parish Meeting Newsletter

The Annual Parish Meeting, that was due this April, cannot now take place in public. This is unfortunate as it is usually an opportunity for residents to give their views on developments they would like to see and concerns they may have. It is also an opportunity for the North Luffenham Parish Council (NLPC) to review the past year and ideas it has for the future.

However your comments are welcome and please email them to clerk@northluffenham.org.uk.

Covid - 19.

NLPC was asked to have a Resilience Plan in place to respond to 'an emergency' and its plan was recently accepted. Little did the NLPC realise it would be put into operation so soon.

The NLPC and North Luffenham Good Neighbour Scheme (NLGNS) have formed a working group to coordinate the response of North Luffenham.

Help that could be offered to those isolated was posted on the website and a leaflet delivered to each household.

If you need help; collection and delivery of provisions, prescriptions or dog walking please contact the parish clerk: 01780 408288 or clerk@northluffenham.org.uk or coordinator on 07825 697841 or nlgns2020@gmail.com.

A big thank you to all who have volunteered and Edith Weston shop with their help in food deliveries.

Local Plan.

Rutland County Council (RCC) has published the Local Plan (LP) 2018 - 2036. It is a plan for the whole of Rutland but the main thrust of the LP are the proposals for the redevelopment of St. George's Barracks (SGB). The main issues are:

- The Ministry of Defence (M.o.D.) are due to vacate the site in 2022.
- The LP requirement until 2036 is for 160 new homes per year in Rutland.
- Of these 160 the proposal is that 100 per year will be built on SGB.
- By 2036 there will be at least 1000 but the eventual plan is for 2215 houses.
- The new houses will largely be in areas already built on.
- It is proposed, there will be a mix of houses, areas for employment, a primary school, retail and medical facilities, and a community centre.
- To the east of the new town will be a large quarry.
- RCC have been awarded a Housing Infrastructure Grant (HIF) of £29.4 million for infrastructure to support the new development.

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The LP focuses on the proposed housing and there is little detail on the quarry and both have profound long term implications, particularly for the parishes of North Luffenham and Edith Weston, but also the wider area.

North Luffenham Parish Councillors have been involved with a group of local parishes, the Parish Council Liaison Group (PCLG), in trying to drastically reduce the scale of this proposed development. This has involved meetings with RCC, lobbying RCC councillors, asking search questions and making deputations at key RCC council meetings. In the end it came down to a crucial vote by RCC councillors and a majority were in favour of adoption of the LP.

In normal times North Luffenham Parish Council (NLPC) would have had a public meeting to find out the views of the residents of the Parish and how it would want NLPC to respond to the proposals for SGB.

The questions will be: Which would be your preferred option for the development of the site:

- Full Development via the RCC Masterplan (2215 Houses + Commercial development).
- Limited housing and commercial development (500 houses approximately + appropriate commercial development).
- No development at all.

These questions will be posted on the Village Website..

Please respond to the questionnaire: your views are needed.

Neighbourhood Plan.

NLPC has resolved that the Parish have a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and a steering group has been formed. As the name suggests it is a plan for the whole parish and if adopted has legal status and means that any development within the parish must take account of its policies. A major factor in the decision to have a NP is the proposed development of SGB and the influence that a NP could have such as design and development of housing and reduction of the impact of a quarry.

The Village Survey of 2017 indicated aspects of NL that were of importance. When restrictions allow there will be a questionnaire delivered to each household to verify and expand on those findings. Public meetings to inform and gather comments will be held and there will be a NP site on the website for information and comments.

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Community Centre.

NLPC initiated a working group on the future of the Community Centre (CC) as the school no longer needed to use it. The recommendations were that NLPC take over the management of the CC and this has been agreed. RCC have agreed to refurbishment and it is planned to hire out the CC to offset the running costs but an increase in the precept may be necessary.

The Oval and Field Gardens.

The Oval is at the centre of the village and much loved by the community and sadly, due to disease, a number of trees have had to be felled but there is a replacement program and this has begun. Tree management is costly and as a result there will be an increase in the precept.

NLPC has funds for further development of play equipment and this will be installed in the near future.

The trees in Field Gardens Walk are growing well and it is gratifying to see that the area is maturing into a great asset for the village.