

Annual Parish Meeting Newsletter 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) will be held on the 11th April at 7.30 pm and I am pleased to say that unlike last year, when it was a virtual meeting, this will be held in the Community Centre.

The APM is an opportunity for parishioners to have their say on the activities of the parish council and make suggestions of future projects that could be undertaken. There will be a presentation of our activities following which parishioners will be invited to give their comments, so please do come along. However if you are unable to attend your comments and suggestions are most welcome. Please email them to clerk@northluffenham.org.uk.

Local and Neighbourhood Plans

The past year has again been a busy one with the main issues being the Local Plan (LP) and Neighbourhood Plan (NP); both of these have required, and still will require a lot of work, so many thanks to the parish councillors and residents involved.

There is now a new Local Plan being developed (by Rutland County Council RCC) and this will take some four years to complete. The previously submitted Local Plan was withdrawn in September 2021 on the grounds of non viability. This was largely due to the opposition of locating all the housing needs of Rutland, for many years to come, in a town bigger than Uppingham at St. George's Barracks (SGB).

The downside of the withdrawal is that Rutland does not have a five year land supply and this leaves it open to speculative development. It now has to rely on the existing Local Plan, which expires in 2026, and this is where the Neighbourhood Plans of North Luffenham and Edith Weston have an important part to play.

The NP of North Luffenham was initiated to have as much influence as possible on any development at SGB and in the past year and, with professional help, a masterplan and design code document has been drafted to influence any development. The NP is well on in its development and because it is ahead of the LP, North Luffenham Parish Council (NLPC) is already being involved in early discussions on the future of any development of SGB by the MoD and RCC.

However the NP is not just about SGB but sets out the vision, objectives and planning policies to ensure the parish maintains its uniqueness over the next five years and again with professional help, policies along with a design code, have been drafted.

The policies of the NP have now been accepted by NLPC and have been submitted to RCC to undergo a number of statutory processes, including independent examination, and finally a referendum in our parish. If approved at the referendum the NP has legal status and must be referred to in any planning application. An important part of this process is called Regulation 14, this will be well publicised. Representations concerning the plan can be made and these may result in RCC and the examiner recommending modifications.

The NP is concerned with planning matters but in the survey carried out in 2020 non planning issues were raised. Among these were widening the narrow pavement and providing a cycleway to Edith Weston from North Luffenham and promoting appropriate tree planting, rewilding and wildlife habitat along with a number of other suggestions. When the NP is ready for submission following

Regulation 14 to RCC, these Parish Initiatives will be submitted as a separate document that the Parish Council aims to fulfil.

When building takes place in the parish monies are received from the developer, via RCC, called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and in the recent past this has helped fund play equipment on The Oval. At present the NLPC has some £8000.00 of CIL monies and suggestions of projects to benefit the parish would be welcome

Community Centre (CC)

Following the refurbishment of the CC, the Community Centre Committee (CCC) is looking to expand the use of the CC as an attractive venue for meetings, societies and social events. Full Fibre to the Premises is now in place and it is proposed to have an interactive display screen as an aid to meetings, sharing of documents and virtual meetings.

The Oval and Field Gardens

Hopefully this spring will see the result of planting wildflowers in the triangular area adjacent to Church St. and the display of daffodils at the western edge of the Oval.

A picnic bench, made by Men and Women in Sheds, that will accommodate a wheelchair has been purchased by the Parish Council (PC) and is situated near the play area.

The November 5th bonfire was held after two years' absence and with ideal weather there was a very good turnout and the event much appreciated. Many thanks to the organisers and volunteers who were responsible for making the event such a success

The Woodland Walk continues to be well used and it is still the intention to continue the path along the inside of the hedge bordering Edith Weston Rd and bring it out at the top of Pinfold Lane. The hold up has been due to getting a contractor to put up a fence and create the opening but hopefully this will be soon resolved

The PC has bought a bench that has been sited on the walk with views over towards Lyndon.

The allotments are well used and as there is a demand for additional plots. The PC is looking to create more plots on land that it owns near the present allotments.

The Bench Project

North and South Luffenham Councils launched an appeal to fund four benches to be sited around the circular walk (North Luffenham to the Settings and back). This was suggested so that those less able could have a rest or simply to enjoy the views. The benches are now in place and many thanks to all who generously donated.

Platinum Jubilee

A meeting was held to see if there was interest in North Luffenham celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. There was a good response and an enthusiastic team is organising various events that will include a street party in Church Street on Sunday 5th June. Let us hope for good weather.

Tim Smith. Chair NLPC

