

COSSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER No 20

Nov 2017

The Parish Council (<i>website: www.cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk</i>)			
George Terry (<i>Chairman</i>)	☎ 01278 723646	Joe Stradling (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	☎ 01278 722932
John Clasby	☎ 01278 722411	Martin Dare	☎ 07811 867433
Nigel Downing	☎ 01278 723552	Edward Ingram	☎ 01278 722289
Lynn Woodward	☎ 01458 840404		
Local Councillors		Parish Council Clerk & Main Contact	
Alison Hamlin (<i>District</i>)	☎ 01278 783798	Richard Young ,5 Channel Court, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 1NE	
Mark Healey (<i>County / District</i>)	☎ 01278 723552	e-mail: woolavingtonpc@aol.com	☎ 01278 789859

Welcome to our 20th newsletter – The Parish Council forms an important part of Local Government comprising elected residents who carry out their responsibilities on a voluntary basis for the good of the community. We meet in the Village Hall - usually at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month apart from January and August. The public are welcome to attend meetings where there is an opportunity to ask questions or raise issues at the designated open session. We pride ourselves on keeping the meetings open and inclusive for all attendees whilst maintaining our formal regulatory responsibilities.

More information including full details of meeting times, agendas and minutes can be found on the Parish notice board in Middle Road, opposite the Bridge School (*see the “In Short” section below*), and on the Parish Council’s web-site.

Housing Needs Assessment for Cossington Please return the Accompanying Form by Tues 28th November 2017

We mentioned in the last newsletter, that we would be carrying out an official Housing Needs assessment for the village, in conjunction with our Local Authority, Sedgemoor District Council. All arrangements have now been finalized and we would welcome your views on both general and affordable housing over the coming years – and we would appreciate you completing the form accompanying this newsletter and returning it to us.

The purpose of the of the assessment is to:

- Determine the likely local need for affordable housing over the next few years – an important consideration in planning policy
- Obtain your views on future development to help determine if the Parish Council should investigate getting more local control on what happens and where

More information and instructions are on the accompanying form – but you can also find out more by visiting our stand at **the St. Mary’s Church Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall on Saturday 18th November** where there will be representatives from both the Parish Council and the Local Authority on hand to answer any questions.

New Planning Policies and Targets - The Sedgemoor Local Plan

The Sedgemoor Planning Policies and Targets have been subject to a five-year review and, following public consultation, the final proposals have been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval – with full adoption expected around Spring / Summer 2018.

In the proposals, Cossington has been categorised as a Tier 4 settlement – very similar to its current status of an “Other Sustainable Settlement” where the emphasis is on small scale growth to meet local needs. Cossington is one of ten Tier 4 settlements, which are collectively targeted to deliver 280 new homes by 2032 – under 2 a year per settlement on average.

There have been some relatively minor extensions to the village development boundary, some tightening up of the district-wide policies for exceptional development outside the development boundary and some new proposals to support small scale self-build initiatives for those with a local connection and need.

For more information see www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/LocalPlan

Cossington in Bloom – 2017 Results

Prizegiving for the popular Cossington in Bloom contest took place on Saturday 12th August at the well-attended Village Flower Show All front gardens visible to the public were automatically entered with prizes being decided by an experienced independent judge in July. Prize winners are shown below – with the first prize winners having their names engraved on the relevant cups and all receiving a commemoration certificate. New for this year, prizes of garden vouchers were also awarded to the Overall Best in Show (*) and overall Runner-Up (**). Prize-winners were:

Best Small Garden: 1st - Mr & Mrs Bloodworth, 2 Trivetts Way; 2nd - Mrs. Teakle, 16, Bell Lane; 3rd - Mrs Skinner, 9 Trivetts Way

Most Colourful Garden: 1st - Polden Hills Veterinary Centre *, Brent Road; 2nd – Ms. Butts, 2, Orchard Close; 3rd - Mr & Mrs Bell, Brookhayes Farm

Best Kept Garden: 1st - Mr. & Mrs Stafford, Leylands, Middle Road; 2nd - Mr & Mrs Trunks, The Borie, Middle Road; 3rd – Mrs. Offer, The Old Post Office, Manor Road

Best Tub / Basket Display: 1st - Mr. J. Clasby **, Summerhayes, Walnut Lane; 2nd - Mr. & Mrs Baker, Chantemarle, Bell Lane; 3rd - Mr & Mrs Rigby, The Cedars, Middle Road

The Bridge School pupils also displayed an impressive range of artwork from pupils in three age ranges. Certificates for the winners were presented to Headteacher Nigel Shipton

Special certificates were also presented to Martin Dare (“Unsung Hero Award”) for his selfless but much appreciated work on the various village flower tubs and litter picking – and to Emma and Joe Stradling (“Best Newlywed Floral Display that Just Missed the Judging Deadline”) for their splendid post-wedding displays outside Millhayes, Bell Lane and around Walnut Lane.

Sue Hayes and Sue Nicholson announced stepping down from the Flower Show organising committee after many years of sterling service to help make the event such a success. We offer our thanks to them for their invaluable contribution to Cossington In Bloom and the Flower Show in general. They are going to be a hard act to follow.

Playing Field Update

There have been several changes at the Playing Field over the last few months. The installation of the new path, from the car park to the Sustrans cycle path is now fully operational with many appreciative comments having been received from users.

It is good to see Sunday football back after an absence of several years, with Woolavington FC now playing their home matches here They have also helped us with some minor repairs to fences and clearing up around the hut area. During the rigorous annual safety inspection, most of equipment etc. passed with flying colours. However, a few small maintenance issues have arisen and will be dealt with over the coming weeks.

There have been some isolated incidents of minor vandalism and other antisocial behaviour reported. This will be monitored over the coming months

Roads and Traffic News

Speeding through the village continues to be the main area of concern.

Over a year ago the police agreed to mobile speed camera presence in Middle Road. However, it has been held up by an administrative issue with County Highways. Trying to get resolution has reached a farcical stalemate – so we’ve enlisted the help of our County Councillor, Mark Healey to break the deadlock

Following a request from a resident, we are the process of installing new Cossington nameplates on entering in Middle Road, Manor Road and Brent Road – replacing those which are already there. The signs will carry a graphical representation of The Big Tree (inspired by a 1950’s photo) and will hopefully smarten up the village approaches in addition to reminding approaching traffic to slow down.

We have also just commenced investigating the possibility of extending the 30-mph speed limit east along Middle Road. However, bearing in mind that it took eighteen months to extend the 30-mph limit along Manor Road, don’t expect anything to happen overnight.

In Short

- We understand that plans are underway to prevent the flow of sewage into the ditch at the end of Brent Road by means of a mains sewer connection to the source. This is scheduled to be completed by 1st December, with Planning Conditions in place to help ensure this. Some interim measures have also recently been enforced but have had limited effect. The situation is under close monitoring by the Local Authority and the Environment Agency
- Instances of Dog Fouling appear to have reduced in number since the last newsletter plea, but it is still an unwelcome common occurrence in certain areas and will continue to be monitored
- You can get a regular (at least monthly) update on Parish Council news by subscribing to our e-mail news bulletin. All you need do is to send an e-mail with a subject of “Subscribe” to info@cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk to join the 66 residents who already subscribe. Subscription is free and confidential - and can be cancelled at any time.
- The main noticeboard in Middle Road has been removed for reasons of damage and decay and an urgent replacement is being sought. In the meantime, Parish Council documents such as agendas and minutes can be viewed on the temporary noticeboard in the Middle Road bus shelter.