



Planning and Development News

Government initiatives for Self-build and Custom-build have been introduced– with relief from the normal Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charge associated with new developments and greater flexibility on where development can take place.

Self-build is where the owner / occupant gets directly involved in, or manages, the construction of their new home. Custom-build is where the construction of their new home is commissioned from a developer, builder or package company.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of this initiative should first be registered on Sedgemoor’s self-build register. For smaller settlements like Cossington, the owner / occupant must have strong local connection with the settlement concerned to be eligible.

More information can be obtained at <https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/1300/Self-Build-and-Custom-Build>

Cossington In Bloom

Cossington In Bloom is the annual competition run by the Parish Council to recognise the efforts of those whose work on their front gardens greatly enhances the village outlook and appearance through the spring and summer months.

Following the successful 2019 event, planning for the 2020 competition will commence in February.

Prizegiving for the 2019 took place at a well-attended event at the village hall on 28th September – following judging by an independent judge from outside of the village during July.

In addition to the usual categories of Best Kept Garden, Most Colourful Garden, Best Small Garden and Best Tubs / Hanging Baskets there was also a new Parish Council Award for worthy visible garden features which didn’t conveniently fall into any of these categories.

There were also two new children’s competitions - best Vegetable Monster and best artwork on the theme of “My Favourite Local Spot” (with age categories).

Photographs of all short-listed front gardens were on show, along with an impressive display of all of the entries on brought in on the day for the children’s competitions – with particular mention due to the Cherry Trees Montessori school for their imaginative and high-quality entries.

The full results can be found on the Parish Council website (note: all those short-listed were given the opportunity not to have their details displayed if required).

The Garden category winners have their names engraved on the cups in the village hall foyer and all prize-winners and those short listed receive a commemorative certificate. In addition, there were prizes of garden vouchers for Overall Best in Show and Runner-Up.

The Children’s competition winners and runners up each received a commemorative certificate and rosette – with prizes of Amazon vouchers for Overall Best in Show and Runner-Up.

The special “Unsung Hero” award was again won by Martin Dare for his excellent work on tubs, trees and other plantings – and helping keep the village tidy.

If you have any ideas for the 2020 competition or would like to be involved, then please let us know.

Flooding in Cossington

Our village namesake, Cossington in Leicestershire, recently suffered serious flooding. In our village, flooding is only a risk in extreme conditions in the lower lying areas due to the accumulation of excessive surface water from surrounding areas combined with blocked watercourses and drains.

The last serious flooding here occurred in 2012, causing significant damage to the school and several dwellings. Since then, several improvements and mitigation measures have been introduced via the local Flood Group. It is important that all residents living close to a watercourse, which play a vital role in flood mitigation, are aware of their maintenance responsibilities. More information can be found in the news item on the Parish Council website.

Roads and Traffic News

Although we continue to diligently report and progress road defects through County Highways, the response is not always as rapid or thorough as we would like (as other parishes are experiencing). We are therefore exploring new approaches to engage directly with county Highways to improve matters.

Whilst keeping roads and verges clean at this time of year can be difficult for the farming community, we also have written appealing to local farmers to help keep the village a nicer place for all.

Speeding through the village continues to be an area of concern as does occasional dangerous and inconsiderate parking (e.g. around the Triangle). We have been in touch with our Police Community Officer on such matters and have taken steps to acquire our own hand-held speed monitoring device– although we have been advised this may not be possible until later in the year. Occasional police mobile speed camera monitoring along Middle Road started is continuing.

We are still trying to get together a Roads and Traffic working group to provide appropriate focus on village highways initiatives and issues. If you would like to help or would like to find out more, please contact George Gardner (*Tel: 01278 722863, e-mail: georgegardner195@gmail.com*).

Playing Field News

Woolavington FC have now ceased their use of the playing field but use by the local archery club, Coastal Archers, has gone from strength to strength They usually meet on Saturday afternoons and are planning an open “Have a Go” session in the Spring. Contact Anne Lewin (*tel: 07800 768320*) for more information.

Sustrans Rangers, a group of local volunteers who are doing a great job of maintaining the Sustrans Cycle Path down to Bawdrip, have placed a container for storage of their equipment by the playing field car park, next to the one used by the Archery club. It looks a bit industrial at present, but they will be decorating it in due course to better fit in with the surroundings. Sustrans Rangers are also planning a fun event open to all at the playing field for Saturday 6th June to coincide with National Cycling Week – a date for your diary.

The annual playing field audit indicated that some items of older equipment will need replacing soon and discussions are currently taking place to ascertain what would be most beneficial and affordable. Money doesn’t go far when buying properly certified playground equipment

In Short

- **Dog Fouling** –Whilst most dog owners are conscientious, fouling continues to be an unpleasant and thoughtless issue with a few irresponsible owners. Monitoring has increased following receipt of information from residents regarding likely persistent offenders - with the ultimate intention of prosecution of those who continue.
- **Village Planting** – Martin Dare is continuing to brighten up the village with his work on tubs, new tree planting and personally taking care of the planting in the Triangle
- **Graffiti & Noticeboard Damage**– If you have any information on who was responsible for the sprayed Graffiti around Middle Road or the recent damage to the Noticeboard lock then please let us know.
- **News Subscription** – If you want to keep up-to-date with what is going in the Parish Council and receive full copies of minutes and meeting agendas then subscribe to our regular e-mail bulletin (see the note at the foot of this page)
- **Precept** – Due to careful financial management, the annual precept (the amount paid to the Parish Council by the Local Authority from Council Tax income) will not be increased next year.

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	☎ 07470 158713
George Gardner	☎ 01278 722863	Edward Ingram	☎ 01278 722289
Lynn Woodward	☎ 01458 840404		
Local Councillors		Parish Council Clerk & Main Contact	
Barrie Crow (<i>District</i>)	☎ 07770 895055	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	

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 old school and on the Parish Council’s web-site at www.cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk. You can also subscribe to the Parish Council’s e-mail News Alerts service by e-mailing info@cossingtonparishcouncil.org.uk with a Subject of “Subscribe”. Subscription is free and confidential – and only your e-mail address is required.