

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF**  
**NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH**  
**HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Arrow, Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Pollard, Cllr. Richmond.

**Attending:**

Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Job, Cllr. Waizeneker, Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Cllr Mrs Robinson (County Councillor), Cllr. Adams (District Councillor) and fourteen members of the public.

2. **Welcome and Report from Cllr. Fincher, Parish Council Chairman**

Cllr. Fincher welcomed attendees and reiterated the Chairman's Report included within the Annual Parish Meeting Information Pack (published on the Council's website and attached as Appendix 1).

3. **Parish Information Pack**

Attached as Appendix 1 and includes:

- a. **Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting 5 May 2021**

Accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Mrs Smith, seconded by Cllr Fincher, and agreed by all.

- b. **Parish Reports** - As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1 and published on the Parish Council website: [www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org](http://www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org)

4. **South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR), Norton Active Travel Corridor (ATC), Traffic Management Measures, Parking at School Times**

A SWDPR update was shared with attendees. In addition to the Parish Council (PC) responding to SWDPR consultations, the importance of residents responding as individuals was stressed. Feedback from attendees included the need for the necessary infrastructure to be put in place at the outset (e.g. health/hospital services) and support for the PC approach of positive engagement to seek the best outcome for the Parish. Concerns were expressed that the planners are not engaging effectively. Details relating to the SWDPR, including maps and the consultation timetable, can be viewed at: <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review>

An update was provided regarding the ATC and continuing efforts by the PC to bring this up to the specifications drawn up by Worcestershire County Council (WCC). Work to repair the Barracks curtilage wall along Brockhill Lane is being planned by WCC. Cllr Mrs Robinson is seeking to arrange a meeting between PC members and the new Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to discuss improvements to the ATC and traffic calming measures.

Issues surrounding parking around NJK CE Primary School were highlighted along with actions being taken to seek to alleviate the problems. The PC continues to work with school to support initiatives at a school level and is also working with the local Police, WDC Traffic Wardens and WCC Highways (via the Local Member, Cllr Mrs Robinson) e.g. re-painting of road markings, more regular Police/Traffic Warden visits, along with exploring the potential for a Norton Connector school run service. Mrs Dean, Head Teacher, confirmed that all parties are working hard to ease the parking problems and reassured residents that it isn't an issue that is being ignored.

5. **Community Legacy Grant Projects – Norton Connector and Parish Hall Improvements**

An update was provided regarding the Norton Connector (NC) service. The service ran throughout the pandemic, is evolving in terms of the areas covered (Hatfield is now included) and continues to support a core of regular passengers, for whom the service is a lifeline. Through refinements to the service the existing funding will stretch into 2023. WCC Officers are supportive of the service and are keen to build on this model of transport. The NC is providing a much appreciated social service and residents were encouraged to give it a try. The more passengers that use the NC, the longer the existing funding will support the service.

An update was provided relating to improvements made to the Parish Hall including solar panels, EV charging facilities, a new roof, new meeting rooms and disabled toilet and a revamped entrance area. The new Parish Hall shop is due to open on 5 June, with this planned to include vending machine type access to a variety of food and drink, much of which it is hoped will be locally sourced.

#### **6. Update on Other Projects/Activities within the Parish including Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC) developments, Sentry Statue and Community Apiary**

Background to proposed improvements to the Worcester Norton Sports Club Ltd site was explained along with funding opportunities e.g. s106 funding and Community Legacy Grant funding. The Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC) has been set up to enable access to such funding. Plans for development of the site were outlined along with obstacles currently impeding progress e.g. the lack of agreement of a lease and time limited access to significant amounts of funding, without which the project cannot be achieved.

An update and background to the Sentry Statue project was provided by the Norton Worcestershire Regiment Group (WNRG), with installation of the statue due during summer 2022 and an official unveiling shortly after. Once installed, the area around the statue will be suitably landscaped and planted. Other WNRG initiatives to raise the profile of, and to remember, those that served in the Worcestershire Regiment and passed through Norton Barracks have included installation of information boards and a garden of remembrance within St Peters Garden Centre.

A Community Apiary update was received including training for parishioners to become beekeepers, resident colonies and development of pollinator spaces/walks. The Parish Council is exploring the potential to improve the surface of the bridleway from Littleworth to Stonehall Common and to improve the biodiversity of this area as part of an initiative to create nature trails and spaces of tranquillity. **In response to a question, the Parish Council will be asked to consider reducing the areas of mowing on land that it owns.**

#### **7. Future Uses for Wychavon DC New Homes Bonus Funding/Community Legacy Grants**

A Community Legacy Grant application is planned for submission in support of the tranquillity garden project highlighted under agenda item 6.

#### **8. Neighbourhood Plan – Review of ‘Parish Aspirations’ Document**

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process, feedback was received from residents relating to subjects that fell outside of the scope of the NP. To ensure that this feedback was captured and responded to, a ‘Parish Aspirations’ document was developed. The content of this document helps to inform future Parish Council activities and is reviewed regularly (at least every 6 months). The Parish Aspirations document (including the current status for each aspiration) can be found in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1 and on the Parish Council website: <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/neighbourhood-plan-aspirations-and-actions/>

#### **9. Report from Cllr Mrs Linda Robinson (WCC Local Member)**

Cllr Mrs Robinson provided a report including:

- Activities during the first year as Local Member.
- Congratulations and thanks to the Parish Council team for its positive ‘can do’ attitude.
- Divisional Allowance contributions to fund a new vehicle activated speed sign along the B4084 (in the vicinity of the Woodbury Lane junction) and an additional defibrillator for the Parish.
- Appreciation to all those providing support to others during the Covid pandemic and to those helping support refugees from Ukraine.
- WCC and WDC information and services to support residents.

In response to a question regarding completion of the Southern Link route and frustration about the length of time that the project has been running, Cllr Mrs Robinson will pass comments back to the project team.

Residents expressed concerns regarding the rising cost of living, the need for support for residents, and that providing this support must be a priority. Cllr Mrs Robinson advised that she is working

with various organisations and members of WCC to press for action on this issue. Cllr Adams (WDC Local Member) added that Wychavon District Council (WDC) is also working on a package of support for residents.

#### 10. Report from Cllr Rob Adams (WDC Local Member)

Cllr Adams provided a report including:

- Stepping down as WCC Local Member whilst continuing as WDC Local Member.
- Pride in representing NJK Parish Council as a forward thinking Council and the tremendous hard work of the Chairman, Members and the Clerk.
- Funding from WDC has helped with development of the Parish Hall coffee shop, running of the Norton Connector service and recent developments to the Parish (highlighted under agenda item 5).
- Community support during the pandemic and thanks to all involved.
- The Boundary Commission for England review of Wychavon DC Wards.
- The Armed Forces Covenant and St James, Norton being a Garrison Church.
- A 0% rise in the WDC element of the 2022/23 Council Tax plus £150 for households (Bands A-D).
- Community visits, including visits to foodbanks, have confirmed significant levels of need within communities within the Wychavon District including financial needs and loneliness. Cllr Adams is keen to see more support for residents and asked residents not to be shy in seeking help.
- Information relating to support provided by WDC can be found at <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/>

In response to a question asking how WDC identifies rural poverty, Cllr Adams advised that WDC works with other agencies and local communities to identify those in need and to provide support.

#### 11. Reports

##### a. Norton Parish Hall

Cllr. Fincher, Chairman of the Hall Trustees, provided an update on Hall activities, surpluses generated being ploughed back into running of the Hall and community activities, support by a growing number of Hall Trustees and volunteers which enables more community activities to be held, green energy initiatives, new meeting rooms and a new shop. **In response to discussions, the Hall Trustees will explore the possibility of running a foodbank at the Parish Hall.** Volunteers were thanked for their support and new volunteers were welcomed.

##### b. St. James the Great Church

Whilst Rev'd Mark Badger was unable to attend the meeting, it was highlighted that new initiatives are being explored to support both the community and St James itself.

##### c. Norton-juxta-Kempsey CE First School

Mrs Dean, Head Teacher, provided a report including being part of a proactive community, curriculum development as part of the transition to a Primary School, the school curriculum on a page, a good Ofsted report (2021), preparing pupils for Secondary School, the School Strategic Plan, high levels of pupil wellbeing and work within the community e.g. initiatives to ease parking issues. Further information relating to School can be found at: <https://www.nortonprimary.worcs.sch.uk/>

##### d. Norton Worcestershire Regiment Group (NWRG)

As discussed under agenda item 6.

##### e. Norton Theatre Group

A representative of the Norton Theatre Group provided an update on panto activities and highlighted retirement of some key members of the Group. The 2022 panto was a great success, with thanks extended to all who provided support and helped in any way. The Group will be presenting a performance at the Hall Jubilee event on 5 June. The January 2023 panto will be Snow White, with planning/casting etc starting in September, and with all volunteers welcomed.

#### 12. Residents Questions

A request was made for more focus on local nature and the potential for a Parish 'spring watch' and 'autumn watch'. **It was agreed that this request links well with the tranquillity garden**

**proposals and will be considered as part of the project plans.** Cllr Adams highlighted that deer crossing warning signs can be installed if there is a particular road that is subject to crossings.

Attention was drawn to the Police data within the Parish Information Booklet, in particular that relating to reports of assaults. Residents were asked to dial 101 if they have any concerns (or 999 in the case of an emergency situation).

The Parish Council team received positive feedback and congratulations regarding all the work done for the community.

### **13. Close of Meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all those attending, the Parish Council team and all who support the Parish Council and the local community.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.



**Norton-juxta-Kempsey**

[www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org](http://www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org)

[www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil)

# **Annual Parish Meeting Information Pack**

## **May 2022**

[www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/privacy-statement/](http://www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/privacy-statement/)

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## Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

<b>Parish Councillor</b>	<b>Main Areas of Responsibility</b> (in addition to general Parish Council matters)
Cllr. Kevin Fincher Parish Council Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning matters</li> <li>• SWDP Review and infrastructure matters</li> <li>• Parish Hall Trustees Parish Council representative and Chair of the Parish Hall Trustees</li> <li>• Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC) Parish Council representative and Chair of WNCIC</li> <li>• Chair of Parish Hall Project working group</li> </ul>
Cllr. Peter Richmond Parish Council Vice-Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning matters (lead councillor)</li> <li>• Playing fields/recreation facilities</li> <li>• Allotments</li> </ul>
Cllr. Colin Arrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding and drainage matters</li> <li>• Review of Parish Aspirations (Neighbourhood Plan)</li> </ul>
Cllr. Chris Dawson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing fields/recreation facilities</li> <li>• Parish Hall matters</li> <li>• Member of Parish Hall Project working group</li> </ul>
Cllr. Ally Job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PACT / Police liaison</li> <li>• Worcester Norton Regiment Group liaison (Sentry Statue installation and landscaping)</li> </ul>
Cllr. Doug Lucas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Council land matters</li> <li>• EnviroSort Community Liaison Group</li> <li>• Review of Parish Aspirations (Neighbourhood Plan)</li> </ul>
Cllr. Martin Pollard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning matters</li> <li>• General Data Protection Regulation</li> <li>• Member of Parish Hall Project working group</li> <li>• Social media and website matters</li> <li>• EnviroSort Community Liaison Group</li> <li>• Review of Parish Aspirations (Neighbourhood Plan)</li> </ul>
Cllr. John Waizeneker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus services matters/Norton Connector</li> <li>• Member of Parish Hall Project working group</li> <li>• SWDP Review and infrastructure matters</li> <li>• Review of Parish Aspirations (Neighbourhood Plan)</li> </ul>
Parish Councillor Vacancy	For co-option
Martin Perks (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Apiary and Tranquillity Garden</li> </ul>
Howard Turvey (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWDP Review matters</li> </ul>

<b>Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Mrs Jane Greenway	18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW Email: <a href="mailto:NJKparishclerk@aol.com">NJKparishclerk@aol.com</a> Tel: 01905 763515 / 07955 756528

## **Parish Council Chairman's Report May 2022**

### **Budget**

It's pleasing to open this update by stating that our precept (the proportion of the Council Tax that the Parish Council receives) has not been increased this year. In fact, it has been reduced by 0.1%, which equates to an 8p reduction in the annual bill for a Band D property. No one is going to afford an extra holiday on that, but sound financial management (thanks to our most diligent Parish Clerk) has enabled us to continue to deliver routine services and the projects envisaged, with no increase in the precept.

### **South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR)**

You will hopefully be aware of the South Worcester Development Plan Review (SWDP Review) <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review> which is planned to deliver 10,000 new houses between 2030 and 2041 in two phases on land either side of the B4084 adjacent to Worcestershire Parkway station, bounded by the M5 and Stoulton. On 10 March a briefing was held in the Parish Hall Coffee Shop at which slides were shared of what is proposed, with details of how you could become involved in the public consultation commencing in July this year (though this may yet be postponed), and what the Joint Parishes Group (consisting of Norton-juxta-Kempsey, Stoulton, White Ladies Aston, Churchill, Whittington and Drakes Boughton Parish Councils) are focussing on. The PC continues to track events very closely since the development (effectively a new town the size of Droitwich) will be adjacent to residents in Woodbury Lane and High Park and will doubtless have secondary effects on our parish.

### **Southwest Urban Extension (SWUE)**

The development of the St Modwen site adjacent to the Norton Road, and between Taylors Lane the A4440 and A38, is now in full swing. The Parish Council and Kempsey Parish Council (whose land it occupies) are keeping a close eye on proceedings, though at present there is nothing taking place that has not been expected for some time. The next phase will include blocking off Taylors Lane, and then in the future the Norton Road will also be blocked off and a new road created between the Norton roundabout and the A38 near the Astons Coaches site. This is nothing that has not been expected and widely communicated over the course of several years.

### **Active Travel Corridor**

The Active Travel Corridor (ATC) runs between St Peters and Worcestershire Parkway and exists to encourage walking and cycling between those two destinations. The PC feels that Worcester County Council (WCC), who own the thoroughfare has not acquitted itself well in its establishment of the ATC, the need for way-finder lighting in Brockhill Lane being one small aspect of many items that need to be addressed (off-road footpaths for the entire length, traffic lights at The Retreat railway bridge, repair of the Grade 2 listed (by curtilage) wall in Brockhill Lane, etc.). We recently walked the route with Councillor Amos, the WCC Cabinet Member for transport, who agreed that it was not currently fit for purpose (particularly at The Retreat railway bridge) and undertook to look again at the funding that could be brought to bear. The PC will continue to lobby WCC to complete the ATC to the correct specification, but if you have an opinion, please voice it via your WCC Councillor, Linda Robinson (Email: [lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk), Tel: 07563 399254).

## **Norton Connector**

Funded by the PC from a successful Community Legacy Grant (CLG) bid to Wychavon District Council (WDC) and run in conjunction with Worcester Wheels (a registered charity), it connects the parish to Tesco St Peters, the Hospital, and the City centre, at all of which there are mainstream scheduled bus services to connect with. Having initially suffered from being launched at the onset of a pandemic, it is now getting into its stride and has become invaluable for many local users. WCC continues to track its success as a model for other rural areas, but the recent failure of the WCC bid for Central Government funding for rural transport has not helped in their ambition. The Community Legacy Grant used to initiate it will not last forever and we continue to look for alternative means of funding, but with your support we are hopeful that we can continue to run it into the future.

## **Adoption of land in Brockhill**

Having taken over twenty years and considerable effort to achieve, the remaining pockets of land owned by Persimmon Homes and other developers have now been adopted by the Parish Council. The land in question is on the left as you enter Gazala Drive and Talavera Road respectively from Crookbarrow Road, the two areas of grass on the Pershore bound bus stop side by the large roundabout, and sections of hedge running along Crookbarrow Road. The remedial work was completed by Persimmon Homes prior to them handing over the land to the PC, and the PC also received a commuted sum from Persimmon Homes to fund the maintenance of these areas of green space for several years to come. A small amount of remedial work remains and will be addressed at a meeting with PH and its contractor at the end of April. The PC ambition is to maintain the areas properly and encourage a sense of 'ownership' by those homeowners that abut to them, making them more attractive for the whole community.

## **'The Sentry'**

The adoption of the land at Brockhill now allows The Sentry project to progress, in that the PC now own the land that the statue is to be installed on. Commemorating the parish's links with the Worcestershire Regiment, it will be erected on the green area near the Pershore bound Crookbarrow Road bus stop. The seed funding for the statue came from New Homes Bonus (NHB) via WDC, with the World War One group responsible for its creation having raised a significant amount of additional funding to enable the statue to be completed. It will hopefully be installed in the next few months and then once the area around it is suitably landscaped, a formal unveiling will take place.

## **Parish Hall**

The Parish Hall Project Working Group (PHPWG), a group of Parish Councillors and Trustees, are now close to the end of their work, having successfully delivered a new roof, solar energy, EV charging points, new meeting rooms (The Littleworth Suite), and closing in on completion of the village shop (Shop @ WR5). I'm sure everyone would agree that this is a fantastic achievement, all delivered with the support of CLG and New Homes Bonus funding from WDC. It is hoped that Shop@WR5 will open in time for the Jubilee Family Picnic on the playing fields on Sunday 5 June.

## **Community Apiary and Tranquillity Garden**

There are now ten trained Norton-juxta-Kempsey beekeepers actively managing the Community Apiary. The current hives on site are on loan, but it is envisaged that our own hives with our own indigenous colonies will be introduced in June. Once established, it is hoped that the site can be used for educational and well-being purposes and that it will eventually start producing its own honey, which we hope to sell in Coffee@WR5 and Shop@WR5. There is also the possibility, with the consent of tenants, of expanding the apiary further so that more members of the community can become involved.

The PC owns and maintains several pockets of land throughout the parish and we are currently pursuing additional CLG funding via WDC to create a Tranquillity Garden or Trail, by linking them all up together, and providing better natural habitats while encouraging public access. This may include a community orchard, wildflower areas, rejuvenation of the bridleway to Stonehall Common, and generally making better use of green space for the benefit of nature and the community. Hopefully by the time I write this next year there will be evidence of this initiative taking shape.

## **Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC)**

WNCIC was established in November 2020 to build a new sports hall and renovate the existing Grade II listed (by curtilage) buildings on the Worcester Norton Sports Club Ltd (WNSC Ltd) site. With circa £1.4M funding agreed via WDC, it continues to seek a lease from WNSC Ltd, and is hopeful that it will be achieved soon. The 'fly through' video of what is intended can be found here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U5h2AFRUjc&ab>

If for whatever reason the lease were not achieved in the next few months, the funding would be forfeit and the project could not be delivered. The next few months are crucial.

## **In Summary**

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council is located on the border of three District Councils, has recently had a major new railway station built in it, and is sandwiched between a 2,500 Urban Extension and a proposed Garden Town of 10,000: it's always busy and we try hard to ensure the community is kept informed. We continue to produce the quarterly Parish Magazine, which can be found online at <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/>, with separate arrangements for those that wish to receive it in hard copy format, including hard copies being placed in the Parish Hall, Garden Centre, Norton Connector, etc. We are making increased use of Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishCouncil/> and WhatsApp groups, and we are always willing to stand up and brief personally at Annual Parish Meetings or other briefings as required.

But if you think there is something we have missed or overlooked, please get in touch. Or if you would like to get involved in any aspect of what we do, whether you wish to become a Councillor, co-opted member, or merely wish to express a view, we would be delighted to hear from you, whether it's supportive or otherwise. You can contact us via our website, Facebook or by contacting the Parish Clerk on [NJKparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:NJKparishclerk@aol.com) or Tel: 01905 763515 or 07955756528.

**Kevin Fincher**  
**Chairman, Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

**Summary of Planning Applications Considered by  
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

Since the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting:

- 27 submissions have been considered from Wychavon District Council (26) and Malvern Hills District Council (1).
- Of the 27 applications received for consultation, 19 have been approved, 2 not approved and 6 await decision.
- Of the 19 applications approved, the Parish Council objected to 3 applications.
- The 2 applications not approved were also not supported by the Parish Council.
- Of the 6 applications awaiting decision, the Parish Council has supported 3, objected to 2 and not commented on one (MHDC Reserved Matters application within Kempsey Parish).

**Mrs Jane Greenway**  
**Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Bus Services Report**

We continue to have very limited “Fifties” services (Routes 53 and 54) with one bus each way to Pershore High school which is primarily aimed at getting children to school and consequently only run on school days.

The First Bus X50 service from Worcester to Evesham runs hourly along the B4084 and now calls at Parkway station. A good service, it even runs on Saturdays and Sundays (Sundays only as far as Pershore). However, for much of Norton-juxta-Kempsey it is a long walk from home to the bus stop.

Likewise at the other end of the parish and reasonably accessible to Brockhill residents, the First Bus 32 service runs from St Peters into Worcester City every half hour during the week and hourly on Saturdays. (No Sunday service)

The Norton Connector community minibus runs weekdays on demand up to four times daily between Parkway station and St Peters Tesco via Littleworth, Norton and Brockhill. In addition, the route is optionally extended to Worcester City bus station, the doctor’s surgery in Newtown Road and Worcester Royal Hospital.

The Norton Connector is operated for the Parish Council by Worcester Wheels with financial and vehicle support from Wychavon DC and Worcestershire County Council. We started the service in September 2020 and despite lockdowns have been able to offer this dial up service throughout.

Thanks to the excellent support we receive from Worcester Wheels, the original Community Legacy Grant from Wychavon DC to fund the Norton Connector is sufficient to support the service into 2023. Beyond that we will need further funding. Local bus services very rarely generate the income to cover their operating costs which explains in part the disappearance of commercial services such as the “Fifties”. We had hoped that better Government support for on-demand rural services was coming, but the latest allocation of Government funding appears not to have helped Worcestershire at all. As such, the Norton Connector, providing essential transport to non-drivers as well as an opportunity for the rest of us to be a little more environmentally conscious, may well be under threat beyond some point in 2023.

**Councillor John Waizeneker**  
**Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Parish Hall Playing Field/Recreation Facilities**

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting update, regular safety checks have continued relating to the recreation facilities at the Hall (e.g. play area, multi-use games area (MUGA) and tennis court), with these including the annual independent safety check and report. New swings seats and fixings have been ordered and will be installed shortly.

The Worcester Sorcerers baseball team is now well established and continues to generate considerable interest, with their 2022 playing season due to start shortly. The area in the vicinity of the baseball field has undergone further work in support of the team's activities, funded by the baseball team. We continue to have good links with local football clubs, particularly Junior teams, and are conscious of the need to monitor and maintain field drainage.

Working with the Hall Trustees, we are also planning to take steps to stabilize the five picnic benches by the play area, where the moles seem to have taken great delight in digging holes under the bench legs! Suggestions under consideration and being costed include laying of slabs and installation of concrete bases, amongst other solutions.

We continue to review tree management work that is required, including that identified and scheduled within the Tree Survey undertaken in 2019. This is an ongoing process subject to an annual review.

As always, we are open to useful suggestions regarding the use and improvement of Hall outside amenities, so please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Jane Greenway, if you have any ideas (Email: [njparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:njkparishclerk@aol.com)).

As a final point we would like to remind dog owners/dog walkers of the need to pick up after their dogs, to dispose of dog waste in the bins provided and to keep their dogs on leads whilst walking round the Hall grounds, including on the playing field.

Thank you for your support.

**Councillor Chris Dawson**  
**Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Norton-juxta-Kempsey Community Apiary and Tranquillity Garden**

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish benefits from the community energy derived from families with busy modern lives, the Parish Council would like to enhance this by connecting green spaces across the Parish through an accessible Tranquillity Garden, working with landowners and occupiers. The aim of the project is to provide direct connection to the community's green lungs and enhance opportunities for the community to enhance its physical and mental wellness. The Parish already has areas for sport, play and allotments. The plan is to provide the means for the community to more easily connect back to the tranquillity of nature, by establishing and maintaining natural mindfulness space as an asset for the community.

To improve accessibility and use of these tranquillity spaces, a Tranquillity Garden project is looking at;

- Creating a visual identity to existing community wide green space assets.
- Providing maintainable pathways accessible to all levels of mobility.
- Linking accessible tranquil spaces, as meditation points, with mental health wellness.
- Enhancing naturally peaceful spaces to "find" and "experience" tranquillity.
- Planting native species to create sensory spaces, reintroducing heritage planting.
- Providing seating, wildlife observation points, and nature appreciation areas.
- Creating spaces for families/vulnerable members of the community that are not sport or play.
- Providing guides to natural habitat, biodiversity, heritage planting, and mental wellness.
- Engaging with local businesses; raising awareness of its availability for employee wellbeing and mindfulness.
- Making walks adjacent to the Parish Hall visually available to visiting business and community.

As part of this project, a heritage orchard, using semi-mature fruit trees, is being considered to compliment wildflower meadows, with this interlinked with all-weather routes. To ensure pollination of the orchard, in partnership with a local Bee farmer and beekeeping group, a community apiary has been established. It is aimed for produce from the orchard and apiary to be retailed in the parish vending shop. Within the shop will also be information packs to enhance a number of the access for all routes, showing flora, fauna, and habitat visible throughout each season. Proceeds will be used to support maintenance of the garden. Maintenance costs will be supplemented by planned engagement of local businesses to optimise use of volunteer days under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations through sponsorship and volunteering. The Parish Hall, now capable of attracting business events, could also offer the garden as a link for business users wanting to use the garden as part of mindfulness and wellbeing session for employees.

The scale of the Tranquillity Garden project is dependent on achieving grant funding, with grant applications requiring local consultation to evidence that the community is in support of the proposed project. In addition to the 'face to face' Tranquillity Garden briefing at the Annual Parish Meeting, we are launching a Tranquillity Garden community consultation (which will include both hard copy and online questionnaires) and we would encourage you to share your views by completing this questionnaire by the 20 May closing date. Hard copy questionnaires will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting and in the newsletter dispensers at the Parish Hall and in the Wadborough Road and Crookbarrow Road bus shelters. The online questionnaire will be available via the Parish Council website [www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org](http://www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org) and will be publicised via the Parish Council Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NJKParishCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/NJKParishCouncil)

If you'd like more information on how to help or get involved, please get in contact with Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, Email: [NJKparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:NJKparishclerk@aol.com), Tel: 01905 763515 / 07955 756528.

**Martin Perks, Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Allotments Report**

Welcome to the first update of the year and a warm welcome our new allotment holders.

We have launched a Facebook group dedicated to allotment holders – search Littleworth Allotments. This is a private group for plot holders to share tips, swap excess produce and advertise allotment items, and also for us, the Parish Council, to update you on any allotment business. We do hope you can join!

For those who do not wish to use social media, we are in the process of renewing a notice board for the allotments which will be situated on the garages over the road from the main allotment plots.

Hopefully this year we may be able to re-start our allotment competitions, if you have any suggestions as what we could do, please do get in touch!

Currently there are 4 remaining plots available, with meetings scheduled for those on the waiting list – I anticipate all plots will be let by the summer.

We do, however, still have people eager to have a plot and with that in mind, if you are struggling to maintain your plot, or you wish to give it up or part of it please do contact me.

We wish you all well and every success in your gardening endeavours this year.

**Katy Watkinson**

**Assistant Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

Email: [njkassistantclerk@gmail.com](mailto:njkassistantclerk@gmail.com)

## **Public Rights of Way Report**

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has prime responsibility for maintaining and improving access to the Public Rights of Way for the benefit of the residents and aims to appoint a Parish Paths Warden in each Parish.

WCC is keen for all issues relating to Public Rights of Way (e.g. overgrown hedges, broken/missing stiles/gates, blocked routes) to be reported to them as follows:

Via [www.worcestershire.gov.uk](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk) and selecting 'Report' followed by 'Public Rights of Way'

Or:

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/onlinereporting/FindLocation.aspx?FaultType=8>

Or:

By phone 01905 765765

WCC has recently installed some new Public Rights of Way roadside signs around our Parish but if you notice one that's missing, please report it as detailed above.

If you would like to find out more about Public Rights of Way or to view an interactive map of the Public Rights of Way within our Parish, please visit:

[https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20237/public\\_rights\\_of\\_way](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20237/public_rights_of_way)

**Mrs Jane Greenway**  
**Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Parish Council Social Media/Website Communications Report**

Our website continues to grow in popularity with over 60,000 visits in the last 12 months from more than 19,000 visitors. On our pages you will find a tremendous amount of information including important Parish Council documents, meeting minutes, agendas, financial reports and our Neighbourhood Plan to name just a few . It's the place to go to find all about our Parish and to read the local news and information on what's happening in our area. You can also join our growing number of subscribers and receive our Newsletters directly into your email box, just hit the subscribe button at the bottom of any of our website pages.

Visit our website now at: <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/>

In addition to our website, we have an ever-increasing presence on social media. We have nearly 600 followers on Facebook and have made hundreds of posts with many thousands of views. It has developed into an essential means of quick communication to a large number of people in our Parish. Many topics have been covered, with the most popular being the really local information that's not so readily available from other sources. Where relevant we also directly share our page with the Brockhill Residents and Brockhill Neighbourhood Watch groups.

One recent Facebook post on local road closures had a remarkable 7,940 views with many shares to other local groups. It really demonstrates the positive power that the platform has when used constructively. If you would like us to share with your group too, please let us know.

Follow us now at <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil/>

A reminder that our communications haven't gone completely on-line, you can still receive the quarterly Parish Newsletter as a printed booklet delivered directly to your home. If you, or someone you know, wish to receive a printed version of the newsletter, this is available upon request by contacting Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk by email: [NJKparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:NJKparishclerk@aol.com) or by sending a request by post to: Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, 18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW.

**Councillor Martin Pollard**  
**Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

<b><u>Financial Year to 28 February 2022 (11 months)</u></b>	Actual to Date £	Annual Budget £
<b>INCOME</b>		
Precept	59,878	59,878
Allotment/Ground/Garage/Playing Field Rental	5,420	5,274
Grants & WCC Lengthsman Reimbursement	4,216	3,827
New Homes Bonus funds - Parish Hall developments	65,000	50,000
From Reserves re planned expenditure (items * below)	0	55,646
Norton Connector sponsorship/funding/fares	0	16,388
Other Income incl. bank interest & VAT reclaim	29,108	15
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>163,622</b>	<b>191,028</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE (NET OF VAT)</b>		
<b><u>Capital Items</u></b>		
Provision for Community Assets *	621	8,750
Development plan for Parish Council owned lands *	0	1,000
Expenditure re developments within the Parish *	2,700	2,955
Community Legacy Grant - Parish Hall developments *	23,660	77,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,981</b>	<b>89,705</b>
<b><u>Community Services</u></b>		
Community Legacy Grant Project: Norton Connector*	9,407	32,760
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,407</b>	<b>32,760</b>
<b><u>Parish Maintenance *</u></b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117,876</b>	<b>27,997</b>
<b><u>Administration</u></b>		
Donations/Grants/Events Support	1,517	3,850
Newsletter/printing & website/social media	1,103	1,150
Audit/professional fees/legal fees *	1,480	6,125
Neighbourhood Plan *	602	824
Parish Officers' costs	19,172	21,979
General Administration/subscriptions/insurance	5,555	6,035
Other Miscellaneous	100	600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,530</b>	<b>40,563</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>183,793</b>	<b>191,025</b>
VAT paid on expenses - recoverable	26,035	0
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-20,171</b>	<b>3</b>

## Norton-juxta-Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan - Aspirations and Actions

There are a number of matters identified through community consultation that are of concern and interest to the community but that cannot be addressed through planning policy. It is the intention of the Parish Council to address these during the Plan period either directly or in conjunction with others, including through a community group to address the issue, or through another appropriate body. The aspirations and possible actions are set out below and divided based on their current status and the review date. This is a living document reviewed at least every six months.

**List A** - Describes aspirations where there is current activity on the review date or the aspiration has already been achieved. An “in-progress” status implies a specific action which can be completed within a set time period.

**List B** - Describes aspirations that are kept under continuous long-term review by the Parish Council and which may not have a specific end date. Specific actions contributing to List B aspirations will be identified and added to List A.

**List C** - Describes aspirations where there is no current activity or has been closed due to the actions necessary being no longer realistically achievable.

Aspirations can be described as those actions and activities that have the potential to enhance the quality of life for residents of Norton-juxta-Kempsey and provide environmental improvements. However successful delivery will always depend on the availability of adequate funding and the willingness of partner organisations to work with the Parish Council. The Parish Council is always willing to consider new parish aspirations arising from all sources.

### List A - Completed or Currently In Progress

	Aspiration	Possible Actions to Deliver Aspiration	Status as at 30/04/2022
12	Reduce the need to use cars.	Introduce community minibus services to link parish to transport hubs and local facilities.	Completed - Norton Connector
15	Improve local shopping facilities	Set up local shop at parish hall.	In progress - Completion expected May/June 2022
18	Eliminate dog fouling	Ensure provision of adequate numbers of “poo bins” around the parish. Map locations on Parish-on-Line	In progress
20	Environmental	Install EV charging points at the parish hall.	Completed
21	Environmental	Install solar panels at the parish hall to make the hall largely self-sufficient in electricity supply.	Completed
22	Environmental	Set up village apiary	Completed
23	Environmental	Encourage appropriate tree planting	In progress
27	Safety & security	Improve street lighting/low level lighting e.g. Brockhill Lane. Resident’s poll 98% in favour from 138 replies completed Jan 2022 - Information passed to local WCC and WDC councillors.	Feasibility confirmed, costs and funding under review by WCC.
7	Minimise the volume, type and speed of traffic	Continue to press WCC for full implementation of ATC along Woodbury Lane.	Under review by WCC following further NJKPC representations.
28	Safety & security	Identify owner of Woodbury Lane to Parkway footpath to establish a maintenance programme	In Progress

## LIST B - Under continuous review

	<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Possible Actions to Deliver Aspiration</b>	<b>Status as at 30/04/2022</b>
1	Improve Public Rights of Way	Check and where necessary ask WCC to improve In signage progress	Under continuous review
2	Improve Public Rights of Way	Review condition and where required get WCC to carry out maintenance	Under continuous review
4	Minimise the volume, type and speed of traffic	Work with WCC to explore appropriate ways to reduce the speed of traffic (Traffic calming)	Under continuous review
5	Minimise the volume, type and speed of traffic	Carry out speed surveys to identify hotspots and invest in appropriate mechanisms e.g. Vehicle Activated Road Signs to address the issue; liaise with police.	Under continuous review. Survey completed November 2021 on Church Lane indicate no problem
6	Minimise the volume, type and speed of traffic	Request traffic counts to understand any increases in the volume of traffic.	Under continuous review to action via WCC Highways
7	Minimise the volume, type and speed of traffic	Continue to press WCC for full implementation of ATC along Woodbury Lane.	Review of previous scheme initiated by WCC.
8	Minimise the volume, type and speed of traffic	Monitor HGV traffic in the parish and work with local companies to promote alternative routes and prevent traffic through narrow routes.	Under continuous review
9	Reduce need to use cars	Lobby County Council for bus connections to train station and ensure coverage for the parish and its settlements.	Under continuous review
10	Reduce need to use cars	Lobby for safe cycle and pedestrian access to the train station and Worcester City (aligns with 7 above).	Under continuous review
14	Prevent parking problems	Liaise with the school to minimise parking issues caused by school traffic.	Under continuous review
16	High quality Broadband	Continue to pressure Superfast Worcestershire and BT Openreach to eliminate any remaining pockets of below 24MB download service.	Under continuous review
17	High quality Broadband	Continue to lobby all infrastructure suppliers to ensure the parish is kept up to date as new technology becomes available e.g. FTTP (NB This is a long-term aspiration).	Under continuous review
25	Young people & leisure facilities	Encourage the owners to raise the standard of equipment and maintenance of the privately owned Brockhill play area.	Under continuous review

## LIST C - Not currently active or closed

	<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Possible Actions to Deliver Aspiration</b>	<b>Status as at 30/04/2022</b>
3	Improve Public Rights of Way	Publish footpath maps/routes online and/or in parish newsletter as a feature to improve awareness	Currently not active
28	Safety & security	Work with WCC and WDC to improve existence and condition of footways alongside main routes in the village. (links into 4 and 7 above).	Currently not active
11	Reduce need to use cars	Explore options for additional cycle paths in the parish.	Currently not active
24	Young people & leisure facilities	Create Trim Trail in recreation ground?	Currently not active
26	Young people & leisure facilities	Support the setting up of youth clubs and sports clubs for young people	Currently not active
29	Health	Encourage the provision of a Medical Practice or Health Centre more local to the parish	Currently not active
13	Prevent parking problems	Monitor the roads surrounding the train station for parking issues; and where necessary work with the County Council to install mechanisms to prevent on street parking.	Currently not active. No issues identified since opening. To re-evaluate when station usage increase

**Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group  
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Norton Charities Report**

Charities within the parish of Norton-juxta-Kempsey are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners 28<sup>th</sup> July 1882.

The Charities originally received donations from;

- Thomas Knight in 1652 who left £100 for the poor of the parish.
- Elizabeth Stevens in 1668 who also left £100 for the poor of the parish.
- Parish Lands (1568) income from rent to be made available for the relief of poor, furnishing soldiers, amending the highway and other such works in the parish.
- James Alexander Walker (1880) to provide beef to the poor.
- In 1898 by way of order of the Charity Commission from the total income £6 a year was made available towards church expenses and any income left to provide bread and coal to the needy.

In 1905 an order was made that the interest from £600 being held within the above charities be used for educational purposes. This is now called the Educational Foundation Charity. In 1963, 268 shares were purchased with the balance of the charity and it is the interest from these shares which produces the income today. Main objective to help towards Educational needs for the children of the parish.

In 1922 parish lands were sold and the proceeds to remain in the charity.

In 1972 the Knight, Stevens, Parish lands, and Walker charity were modernized to make a more effective way to use funds and is now called the Norton-Juxta-Kempsey relief –in-need charity. 454 shares were purchased and the interest from these is income. The scheme was approved in 1973 and could benefit anyone who lives in the parish and is in conditions of need, hardship or distress either in gifts in kind or grants of money. A yearly sum is given to the Church.

Both charities are managed by six Trustees:

- One Ex-Officio Trustee - Vicar of parish
- Three nominative Trustees - Appointed by the parish council of Norton-juxta-Kempsey, although they do not need to be a parish councillor
- Two Co-opted Trustees - shall be persons who through residence, occupation or employment, or otherwise have special knowledge of the parish of Norton-juxta-Kempsey.
- If a vacancy occurs any competent person may be appointed as a Trustee.

Yearly accounts are examined and are available for anyone to see.

If you have any ideas or know of anyone who could benefit from funds from either of the charities, please contact me.

**Christine McGovern**

**Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee, Norton Charities**

Tel: 01905 820459 Email: [mcgovern260@btinternet.com](mailto:mcgovern260@btinternet.com)

## Annual Police Report – 2021/22

The number of incidents has remained low and relate mainly ASB, parking and speeding, which are in line with the Parish Council's local policing priorities. A more detailed view of crime levels in the area can be accessed via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) which is the national website for policing in England, Scotland and Wales and allows searches by area or by postcode.

A report for the whole of the Pershore Rural North and South Area is shown below.

The screenshot shows the POLICE.UK website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "How can we help you?". Below the search bar are navigation tabs: "Support services", "Advice and crime prevention", "Policing in the UK", "Performance", and "Your area". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "Your area > West Mercia Police" and the area name "Pershore Rural South and Rural North" next to its crest. There are two buttons: "View area boundary" and "Search another area". Below this is a navigation bar with icons for "Overview", "Crime map", "Stop and search", and "Statistics". The "Overview" section is active and shows "Top reported crimes" for February 2022:

Crime Category	Count
Violence and sexual offences	20
Anti-social behaviour	15
Burglary	9
Criminal damage and arson	8

Below the table is a button "Get crime prevention advice". To the right, the "Crime levels overview" section shows a line graph titled "Crime per Month" for the last year (Mar 2021 to Feb 2022). The graph shows a peak in July 2021 and a low in December 2021. A "View as a list" link is at the bottom of the graph.

The Road Safety Team is looking to return to Church Lane to carry out enforcement and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) has been to Littleworth to carry out speed checks. Regular patrols have been carried out throughout the area and the Team has also visited NJK CE Primary School to address the constant issue of parking and our 'parking people' were on display during the Autumn Term.

The Pershore SNT has undergone some changes in the last 5 months including PCSO Faye Allen-Carter moving on to Malvern and PCSO Ashleigh Smith joining Pershore in a hybrid role, covering both Pershore Town and Rural. Student police officers will also be assisting in the area as part of their training. PC Daren Riley remains as the PC for the area.

We encourage residents to register on our Neighbourhood Matters alert system <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/> which allows everyone to get up to date information as to what is happening in their area including crimes, community engagements, good news stories and crime prevention advice. We are also updating parish Councils via newsletters on a regular basis.

If you need to contact the Police:

**For crimes in progress call 999**

For non-emergencies report online: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>

To contact the Pershore Rural SNT email: [pershorerural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pershorerural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

**Pershore Rural North and South Safer Neighbourhood Team**

Non-Emergency Telephone No: 101

Facebook: PershoreCops

Twitter: @PershoreCops

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF**  
**NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH**  
**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

In view of the Covid-19 pandemic and Government instructions, this meeting was held remotely via video/telephone conference call.

**14. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Lucas, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor).

**Attending:**

Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Arrow, Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Pollard, Cllr. Richmond, , Cllr. Waizeneker, Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and two members of the public.

**15. Welcome and Report from Cllr. Fincher, Parish Council Chairman**

Cllr. Fincher welcomed attendees and reiterated the Chairman's Report included within the Annual Parish Meeting Information Pack (which was published on the Council's website in advance at the meeting, attached as Appendix 1). Questions and feedback are recorded under agenda items 3b and 6.

**16. Parish Information Pack**

Attached as Appendix 1 and includes:

**a. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Cllr Dawson, seconded by Mrs Arrow, and agreed by all.

**b. Parish Reports** - As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1. A report from Cllr Adams (District and County Councillor) is also available on the Parish Council website:

[www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org](http://www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org)

Discussions relating to Parish Reports included the following feedback/actions:

- Parish Council Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil) : consider creating meetings/activities as events.
- Parish Council newsletter: review reach to areas of the Parish known to include an older population who may not access information online. (*Perspex holders/dispensers have been purchased to provide a supply of newsletters within bus shelters, adjacent to Parish Council noticeboards and at the Parish Hall*).
- Parish Council to join local resident WhatsApp groups where appropriate and acceptable to WhatsApp group members.
- Norton Connector service: appreciation expressed relating to continuance of the service during the pandemic and extension of the area served (e.g. to Worcester and the hospital).
- Parish Hall developments: consider publishing videos of completed work (and that in progress) via the Council/Parish Hall Facebook pages.
- The Parish Council was thanked for its hard work and for the detailed information pack in support of the Annual Parish Meeting.

**17. Community Legacy Grant Projects Update – Norton Connector and Parish Hall improvements**

As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1.

**18. Update on other projects/activities within the Parish including Worcester Norton Community Interest Company developments, Sentry Statue and Community Apiary**

As detailed in the Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1.

**19. Residents Questions**

Is a Post Office still proposed within the village shop?

*Due to the significant charge by the Post Office to establish this (c. £37K), a Post Office is no longer feasible within the financial constraints of the shop project. Other options are being explored e.g. Hermes/Amazon or other such self-service lockers/vending type machines. The nature of the shop*

*will also be influenced by the availability of volunteers to run this. Other local village shops have been visited as a source of ideas and operating models to consider.*

## **20. Close of Meeting**

The Chairman thanked all those attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm with the hope that the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting will be able to be held on a face to face basis.