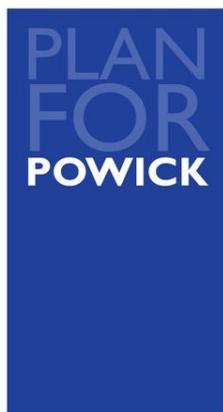


Autumn 2021 Newsletter



Powick Parish Council

Serving the villages of Powick & Callow End



MANY SETTLEMENTS, ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Thursday 25th November at 7.30 pm

at Powick Parish Hall

Make sure you keep this date free in your diary as it is our first opportunity to meet together to talk about a proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Powick Parish.

More information inside!

Powick Parish Council priorities:

Economic well being; a safe and secure environment; genuine sustainability, and the promotion of health and recreation.

Comments from the Chair



A TESTING TIME FOR THE PARISH

I feel that it is important to share with you some challenging issues currently facing both Parish Council and our community. Events throughout the summer appear to have contrived to make the delivery of local objectives very difficult for the Parish Council and, coming on top of the pandemic, it has often been difficult to remain upbeat about progress. One positive is that we are now able to meet in public, face to face, following the series of Zoom meetings which we have endured during the last 18 months

There are three pressing issues facing us as we emerge from the restraints of the pandemic, namely the Hospital Lane Pavilion Project, Planning & Development across the Parish and continuing concerns over Speeding.



HOSPITAL LANE PAVILION PROJECT

You will recall that the last edition led on the construction of the new, much awaited, pavilion on the Hospital Lane Field as work progressed throughout the Spring. We began to get anxious when there appeared to be a lack of personnel on site for a couple of weeks coupled with some issues about the quality of workmanship on some obvious external works. Initially, the Parish Council withheld some staged payments from the contractor whilst we tried to address our concerns, but after some heated discussions with their management, we were informed that the contractor, CAFOS, had gone into Voluntary Liquidation. This inevitably meant that work on the project ceased forthwith and that we could not get access to the site until given permission by the Liquidators.

Continued...

Parishioners need to be assured that, in appointing CAFOS as the Contractor, the Parish Council, in conjunction with the District Council, religiously followed the prescribed Local Government Association protocols relating to the assessment of tenders and subsequent awarding of contracts. These included full Due Diligence checks incorporating robust investigation into previous track record, financial stability, quality of work and customer satisfaction feedback. On all counts, CAFOS met the required standards and therefore both MHDC and Powick Parish Council were confident in accepting their tender and awarding the contract.

The current position means that we have a claim in with the Liquidators, but it must be stated that the Contractor was also involved in a number of other major construction projects at the same time which effectively puts us down the pecking order in terms of not being near the front of the queue for pay-outs.

Having spent around 20 years working to get the funding together for this project we are clearly mortified by the way things have turned out. Now that the Liquidators have enabled our re-possession of the site, we have a new construction team assessing what needs to be rectified and what needs to be done to complete the work. Whilst further examples of shoddy workmanship and incomplete drainage works have been found, the major concern is the car park area whose base stone appears to have been contaminated and not laid to the prescribed depth which means significant remedial work will need to be undertaken.

Given that all this sounds very depressing, there is some good news in that we will have sufficient funds to complete the substantive structure in order to provide the community with a functioning pavilion.

Continued...

There will however be an inevitable delay as we seek to ensure that we can get everything back on track, so I apologise most sincerely to parishioners, specifically those affected by continuing disruption and those organisations who were hoping to be able to make use of the new facility by now.

At the time of going to press, it is unlikely that available funds will cover the completion of all the internal work on the pavilion so we may need to look at a subsequent community project to achieve that. It may also mean that we might need to reassess the specifications for some of the remaining work in line with the resources available to us.

Failure to deliver this project on time has caused myself and fellow Councillors great personal discomfort not to mention considerable anger at having been deceived by those we trusted to carry out the work.

I should also like to place on record my appreciation of the tireless work done by my Vice Chairman Colin Phillips, and our Clerk, Michelle Alexander, in steering us through this difficult period.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Another increasingly concerning feature of the last few years has been the apparent continuing disregard of local opinion in the decision making processes, notably in respect of planning issues. Up until about six years ago, around 80% of the recommendations of the Parish Council regarding planning permissions were replicated by the District Council, the Local Planning Authority, so we felt we were being instrumental in shaping the local environment in which we live. However, since then the Planning Authority has come under increasing pressure to sanction additional developments, some of which are outside current Settlement Boundaries as defined by the SWDP.

Continued...

As you will be aware, the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) is the document designed to set out future development in response to housing needs in Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester City. Central conditions in this document indicate development only within the Settlement Boundary, a preference for growth on brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites, and an emphasis on sustainable development. Additionally, local councils have to show that there is a clearly established five-year stock of housing available. Within those parameters, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) suggests a default position in favour of granting permission, but if applications breach those conditions, then the natural presumption is actually against development.

It is the conditions that apply through the SWDP that have successfully managed any unfettered spread of housing and commercial development across our parish of Powick and Callow End. There has been significant new housing in Powick in recent years, but this has generally been in response to identified need and within the designated Settlement Boundary.

However, new proposals represent a challenge to the limiting factors which have applied thus far. Developers have a commercial right to develop; equally, local representatives have a duty to ensure planning legislation is conformed to. It is therefore important to realise what tools are available to us locally to maximise our powers of influence.

The most significant assistance we can bring to bear will come from our own Neighbourhood Development Plan, a document which will be a legal entity setting out what we value in the Parish, how it should look

Continued...

and thereby committing our community to a vibrant, healthy future.

Nobody in our Parish likes development near to their own property, but we should not be accused of opposing all planning initiatives as demonstrated by the building of over 200 new dwellings during the last two years, albeit without a great deal of supporting amenities.

What can we do within the Parish to more effectively influence future planning decision and how can you play an active role in this process?

Elsewhere in this publication you will see that we are pursuing our own Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and fellow Councillor Maggie Huckfield is working hard to pull this together. The NDP is initiated by the Parish Council, but it must be owned and run by you, the residents of the neighbourhood, who are in the best position to identify what's important to our community.

Please read the NDP article later in this newsletter and see how you can take part.

The Parish Council will continue to try to take a realistic view on the provision of housing within the parish, recognising the need to balance the requirement for housing of all types with the need to preserve the uniqueness of our community and the desire to promote economic opportunities – achieving this balance will be very difficult the more remote the decision making process becomes, but rest assured we will keep doing our utmost, and your contribution through the NDP will be vital.

SPEEDING

As ever excessive road speed is an ongoing issue across the Parish. Indeed, our District and County Councillors confirm that it is the same

And finally...

Parishioners should be aware that the Parish Council has been working to seek help in addressing this issue. We have recently requested new remote speed monitoring devices at three locations in order to collect covert data of average speeds.

In the past we have had overt monitoring which, surprisingly, revealed lower than expected levels of offence. However, subsequent covert trials which may reveal much higher levels of non-compliance are likely to confirm the info we gathered pre Covid, reaction to which was delayed by the pandemic.

It is a truism that the limited resources available to combat speeding across the County are allocated on a basis of need, and that need is prioritised on casualties (accidents/incidents that result in injuries) so is often reactive as opposed to proactive. Unfortunately, as we have two major through routes, plus a few perceived short cut alternative routes, we are always going to have significant numbers of drivers who think they are in a hurry to get to their destination, though mercifully casualties are low to date. We are actively exploring possible measures including road design, calming measures, road marking, cameras and possible restrictions with the Highways Authority and the Safer Roads Partnership.

Meanwhile, I appeal to all residents to consider their own speed and recognise that if we all slowed down to the prescribed speed limits within our home environment, we would already be making inroads into securing a safer and more pleasant place for all of us.

Andy Lamb

Chairman

Southern Link Road Update

Notwithstanding possible flood disruption and further Covid interruptions, work continues on the Southern Link road project and should be on target for summer completion next year.

As you will have observed, the vast majority of the heavy construction work has been completed. The new Carrington Bridge span and carriageway is complete and currently in use carrying two way traffic whilst work is carried out on the existing carriageway and bridge to bring them up to specification.

The focus of this work is the construction of the so called 'North Wall' designed to bolster the north carriageway embankment and the installation of a wide separated footway and cycle track to safely convey pedestrians and cyclists between the Powick and Ketch roundabouts.

Other residual works relate to the provision of appropriate lighting, highway signage, cable ducting and tree planting. Obviously there will be considerable ground works restoring land to its original state, ensuring a clean environment.

One interesting statistic to emerge concerns the total number of person hours worked on the site, which currently stands at 400,000 (July figure). This equates to one person working a 7.5 hour weekday shift for 205 years!

Parishioners may also be interested to learn that the Hams Way foot and cycle bridge recently achieved 2021 Joint Winner classification in the U.K. Bridges Design Award Competition for structures costing under £5m and has also recently won another prestigious national award for best design in its category!

Neighbourhood Development Plan



MANY SETTLEMENTS, ONE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Thursday 25th November at 7.30 pm at Powick Parish Hall

BE THERE!!

Make sure you keep this date free in your diary as it is our first opportunity to meet together to talk about a proposed Neighbourhood Plan for Powick Parish, which covers the traditional villages of Powick and Callow End as well as the neighbourhoods of Clevelode, Deblins Green, Bastonford, Colletts Green, Byrons Wood and Hospital Lane.

We are finally on our Journey!

There have been a few false starts in launching work on Neighbourhood Planning due to Covid 19 restrictions. Thankfully we now have an opportunity to hold a public meeting where everyone from our community is invited to learn about this opportunity to develop our own Neighbourhood Plan and appreciate how they can participate in shaping the future of our community.

Continued...

Wanted on Voyage..

We're looking for residents who are keen to get involved: If you love where you live, want to protect it at its best and ensure it grows to its full potential, then sign up for the journey even if you can give only a few hours a week, a month or just on odd occasions.

- Clerical work/Data processing skills
- Marketing/Social Media knowhow
- Town Planning/Building Design knowledge
- Report writing experience
- Local History/Environmental enthusiasts
- Team Coordinators/Meeting Chair People

Interested? Please contact our Parish Council Clerk: Michelle Alexander
Tel 01886 884195 or Email powickplan@gmail.com

I think it is worthwhile recapping on what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why it should be important to the future of our community.

A Neighbourhood Plan is:

A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area
- policies that are used to help decide whether to approve planning applications.

Written by our community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority.

A powerful tool to help ensure that the community gets appropriate development, in the right place.

Giving communities powers enshrined in law to shape exactly how their communities develop.

Continued...

Benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan -

An NP should take precedence over all other policies.

It is 100% “legitimate” in the minds of all stakeholders.

Qualifies the community to gain enhanced financial support through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Has the full backing of national Government with strong indications that this will remain the case.

Examples of Policies within a Typical NP -

- Housing development: site selection – brownfield/infill and supporting sustainability, public transport, footpaths/cycle routes
- Balanced community: housing mix
- Open spaces: protecting green space; providing leisure space
- Local amenities: access to healthcare, education, shops, café, Community Centres, EV charging points
- Economic wellbeing: employment
- Health and recreation: community sport and recreation/leisure facilities

SO REMEMBER ..

**THURSDAY 25TH NOV at POWICK PARISH HALL
at 7.30pm**

BE THERE!!

Parish Snippets

THANK YOU

A special thank you to the helpful proprietor of Powick Filling Station, Roy. Always keeping an eye out for those who live nearby, it was gratifying to see him looking after locals during the supposed fuel shortage. Roy was quick to stop greedy out of towners attempting to replenish multiple cans of fuel to stock up, even though it did earn him a few choice words as he took the nozzle off them. By doing this he was able to ensure that villagers still had access to fuel to get themselves to work and around the parish.

VANDALISM

Over the last ten years or so, we have been lucky in the Parish in that we have not suffered a great deal from vandalism. This has been down to effective vigilance and sensible maintenance, aligned with a slice of responsible parenting and some good fortune! However, it is regrettable to report that there have been some recent instances of anti-social behaviour leading to petty vandalism. This is a trend which we do not, as a community, wish to continue.

May we urge all to work together to ensure that Powick, Callow End, Bastonford and all the areas of the parish continue to sustain the stress free rural environment we have all strived to create.

Thanks, in anticipation of your cooperation.



Continued...

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see an article about the Neighbourhood Plan which is being coordinated by Councillor Maggie Huckfield. Whilst this is being driven by the Council, it is an initiative that needs to be owned by residents of the parish, whereby you can help shape the kind of environment in which you wish to live by identifying what is of value, what needs preserving, what needs improving or developing and how the community can best be managed in the future.

Your skills, knowledge and experience are all vital to this task so please get in touch by emailing powickplan@gmail.com or telephone 01886 884195.

AN APOLOGY

To all residents of Powick but especially those living alongside the A449 at the bottom end of the village for the continued lack of street lighting from the area opposite the Cross House, down past the old Butcher's shop and Post Office up to the last house in the village. This is an area which needs comprehensive lighting given the proximity of heavy traffic and uneven nature of the footway which is used by pedestrians and cyclists at this point. Some seven large lamp posts have been out of commission for over a month despite their malfunction being reported multiple times to the County Council's helpline by the Parish Council and several parishioners. Hopefully they will have been fixed by the time this article is published!

The Parish Council has a pioneering contract with the County Council to deliver lighting across the Parish, but it would be fair to say that during the last 18 months the service has not been as efficient as we would have liked. There is inevitably a link to the impact of Covid19 but we shall be looking at improvements when we come to consider future provision.

Neighbourhood Matters

West Mercia Police



Welcome to Neighbourhood Matters

Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through our free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what they're doing in our community.

You're invited to sign up and become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone.

Don't worry, they won't bombard you with every incident! You can choose exactly the type of alert you wish to receive.

They'd really like to hear from you so why not ask your family, friends and colleagues to register too? Let's get everyone talking!

Please note that this service is not for reporting crimes or incidents.

To report a crime or incident please contact West Mercia Police via the West Mercia Police website

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/>

or dial **999** in an emergency, or **101** in a non-emergency.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

If you live in England and are aged 16 or over, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine from a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site without an appointment.

You do not need to be registered with a GP or bring any ID, but it might help to bring your NHS number, if you know it. If you've already had your 1st dose, you need to wait 8 weeks before having your 2nd dose. Only people aged 18 or over (or turning 18 within 3 months) are currently eligible for a 2nd dose.

If you're under 16 and eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, you cannot use these walk-in sites to get vaccinated.

If you or your child are aged 12 or over you can also book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment online. You need to be registered with a GP surgery in England.

A coronavirus (COVID-19) booster vaccine dose helps improve the protection you have from your first 2 doses of the vaccine. It helps give you longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

Who can get a COVID-19 booster vaccine? Booster vaccine doses will be available on the NHS for people most at risk from COVID-19 who have had a 2nd dose of a vaccine at least 6 months ago.

For more information on vaccinations and where to get them please visit the following websites -

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/profile/X5P0R>

Contact the Parish Council

Clerk to the Parish Council

Ms Michelle Alexander, 'Guestwick', Suckley WR6 5EH

Tel: 01886 884195 or Mobile: 07841 862277

Email: council@powickparish.org.uk

Website: <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish>

Chairman of the Parish Council

Andy Lamb, 9 Old Rectory Close, Powick WR2 4QU

Tel: 01905 830737 or Mobile: 07973 679774

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held on the first Weds of each month, except during

August when there is no meeting held.

Planning Committee Meetings start at 7.00 pm

Parish Council meetings start at 7.30 pm

Find us on 

District and County Councillor Tom Wells

Tel: 01905 831752 or Email: talwells@btinternet.com

District Councillor Kathy Wells

Tel: 01905 831752 or Email: katherine.wells@malvernhillsc.net