

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF**  
**NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH**  
**HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr. Arrow, Cllr. Richmond, Cllr Stafford, Cllr. Mrs Turier (District Councillor).

**Attending:**

Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Job, Cllr Pollard, Cllr. Waizeneker, Mrs Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Cllr Mrs Robinson (County Councillor), Cllr. Adams (District Councillor) and twelve 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). Following the recent local elections, Cllr. Fincher advised attendees that Parish Councillors had been elected unopposed, and that Cllr. Adams and Cllr Mrs Turier had been elected as District Councillors for the new, 2 member, Drakes Broughton, Norton and Whittington Ward.

3. **Parish Information Pack**

Attached as Appendix 1 and includes:

- **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting 9 May 2022**  
Accepted as a true record and to be signed by the Chairman, as proposed by Mrs Smith, seconded by Mr Perks, and agreed by all.
- **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)

Cllr Adams and Cllr Mrs Robinson gave their apologies and left the meeting at 8.10pm (reports minuted under agenda items 8 and 9 below).

4. **South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR)/Parkway Garden Town, Norton Active Travel Corridor, Traffic Management Measures, Parking at School Times, Norton Connector Community Transport**

Information contained within the Parish Information Pack reports (see Appendix 1) was reiterated, with discussions summarised as follows:

- SWDPR consultation comments are being reviewed by the SWDPR Team/Wychavon Planning and all will be shared with the Planning Inspector as part of the public examination process.
- The majority of attendees were in favour of progressing a SWDPR petition, focussing particularly on health care provision and infrastructure issues. The Parish Council will liaise with neighbouring Parishes with a view to progressing.
- The Parish Council (PC) is pressing for the situation regarding Wychavon District Council's (WDC) lack of a 5 year land supply and the impact of this on Neighbourhood Plans to be resolved. It is hoped that the Levelling Up Bill may assist.
- The PC continues to press Worcestershire County Council (WCC) to fulfil its delivery of a safe and useable Active Travel Corridor (ATC). Attendees suggested that a record of incidents/near misses along the ATC route could provide evidence of the issues but the difficulties in collecting such data were agreed.
- Parking associated with school drop off/pick-up times has been highlighted as an issue to the PC and a request has been made for the WDC Parking Enforcement Officer to visit along with the WCC CCTV parking enforcement van. Members of the community were asked to park safely and considerately at all times.

- The Norton Connector community mini-bus service continues to operate, with passenger/journey numbers growing. This is a vital source of transport for residents without cars, many of whom are older members of our community. Residents were encouraged to try the service and help the environment by sometimes leaving their cars at home.

## **5. Update on other projects/activities within the Parish**

Sentry Statue: Following dedication of the statue, sympathetic planting is planned in the area around the statue, working with the Worcester Norton Regiment Group, St Peter's Garden Centre and local contractors. Work is planned to start in autumn 2023.

Open air gym proposal: Funding is being sought and ideas/locations explored for an open air gym in the vicinity of Norton. This will be considered further by the PC as the proposal develops and is an example of vision in the community being progressed by a resident.

Commemoration of the King's Coronation – The Parish Hall community event was well attended, with positive feedback received. The event at Norton Cricket Club was postponed due to the very wet weather forecast and is being re-arranged. Commemorative coins are being presented to Primary School aged children that live within the Parish. The PC is also planning to develop a 'King's Meadow' which would establish as a wildflower meadow, with the potential to form part of the planned 'Tranquillity Trail'.

## **6. Wychavon DC Community Legacy Grants (CLG) Round 5**

The Parish has been successful in being awarded New Homes Bonus and CLG funding from WDC which has supported projects including the Parish Hall 'green energy' initiatives, the Parish Hall shop, new meeting rooms at the Parish Hall, the community apiary, the Norton Connector mini-bus and the Sentry Statue.

Round 5 of the CLG Scheme will open towards the end of 2023/early 2024 with opportunities to form a 'Tranquillity Trail' in the Parish being explored. This would provide opportunities to enhance natural areas, provide important natural habitats and for those using the areas to experience nature and potentially improve their wellbeing.

## **7. 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/>

Many of the items highlighted by feedback from residents have been delivered including community transport (Norton Connector), a shop at the Parish Hall, EV charging points and solar panels at the Parish Hall, and the community apiary.

The 'Parish Aspirations' document is a living document that can be added to and residents were encourage to share any other ideas that they may have.

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

Report given after Cllr Adams report (after agenda item 3) to allow Cllr Mrs Robinson to also attend the Drakes Broughton Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Mrs Robinson's report included:

- Activities during the second year as Local Member, with highways issues being a popular topic that is important to residents.

- WCC 2023/24 budget levels, the proposed new High School close to the Worcestershire Royal

Hospital and corporate responsibility for children being very evident at WCC Council Meetings including how/where to signpost for support.

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

Report given after agenda item 3 to allow Cllr Adams to also attend the Drakes Broughton Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Adams' report included:

- Praise for NJK Parish Council as a forward thinking Council and the tremendous hard work of the Chairman, Members and the Clerk.
- Sadness at the passing of Cllr Doug Lucas who made a great contribution to the Parish.
- Thanks to Cllr Mrs Robinson for her support as the Parish's WCC Local Member.
- Assistance available from WDC to help with the cost of living crisis and with post-Covid support.
- Thanks to all who organised and helped to make Princess Anne's visit to dedicate the Sentry Statue such a wonderful occasion.
- Wider community responsibilities for looked after children and for vulnerable members of our society, additional funding and innovative ways to fund placements for looked after children and to aid transition into adulthood.
- A reminder to take up invitations for Covid boosters when offered.
- Revision of the Norton & Whittington single member Ward to become the Drakes Broughton, Norton and Whittington 2 member Ward. Cllr Adams will work hard to serve the residents of all of the Parishes with joint member Cllr Mrs Turier, and is keen that this work isn't hampered by their different political affiliations.
- Appreciation to all who took the time to vote at the May local election which resulted in Cllr Adams' re-election as one of the Parish's District Councillors. Cllr Adams has represented the Parish since 1999 and is humbled to do so.

In response to a question regarding the SWDP Review (SWDPR) and the WDC Planning Committee views of this, it was noted that the SWDPR has yet to be presented to the Planning Committee.

#### **10. Reports**

- **Norton Parish Hall**

Cllr. Fincher, Chairman of the Hall Trustees, provided an update on Hall activities, green energy initiatives, new meeting rooms, the new shop, surpluses generated being ploughed back into running of the Hall and community activities, all supported by an enthusiastic group of Trustees and volunteers. Volunteers were thanked for their support and new volunteers were welcomed.

- **St. James the Great Church**

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

- **Norton-juxta-Kempsey CE Primary School**

The Head Teacher was unable to attend the meeting but is working hard to seek to improve parking issues with the support of the PC.

- **Norton Worcestershire Regiment Group (NWRG)**

A representative of the NWRG highlighted the Sentry Statue dedication by Princess Anne, with appreciation expressed to all that helped for their support. Planting around the statue will be linked with those countries that the Worcestershire Regiment fought in (where possible). Other ideas for commemoration of the Regiment and the Barracks were welcomed.

- **Norton Theatre Group**

A representative of the Norton Theatre Group provided an update on panto activities and how positively this impacts upon all those taking part, in addition to the enjoyment provided to the community. The January 2024 panto will be Alice in Wonderland, with planning/casting etc

starting in September, and with all volunteers welcomed. Further information can be found at: [Facebook.com/nortontheatregroup](https://www.facebook.com/nortontheatregroup)

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

Cllr Fincher (Parish Council WNCIC Board representative) provided an update on regeneration of the Norton Cricket Club site for community use which included approval of planning applications, preparation of the lease, architect plans and costings, grant funding secured and that being sought. It was noted that the Shooting Club is not part of the Community Interest Company.

- **Community Apiary**

A representative of the WR5 beekeeping group provided an update including managing the bee hives (with the support of the Pershore Beekeepers Association), extraction and sale of honey, food hygiene qualifications, fund raising activities, moving towards independent, self-sufficient charitable type status and support from the Parish Council. Apiary information can be found on the Parish Council website: <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/community-apiary/>

## 11. Residents Questions

Summarised as follows:

- Are there plans to replace the outdoor picnic benches at the Parish Hall?  
*These will soon be replaced with more durable and sustainable recycled plastic 'wood effect' benches.*
- Are there still plans for new road name signs on the Brockhill development to include the Regimental Crest?  
*These plans remain however the new Salamanca Drive road name sign was produced and installed to a tight deadline (for Princess Anne's visit) and unfortunately the crest was omitted.*

The Parish Council was thanked for all that it achieves and how it represents the Parish.

## 12. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all those attending, and asking them to share how they keep in touch with Parish Council activities with neighbours/friends in the Parish e.g. the Parish Council website: <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/> , the Parish Council Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil/> and the Parish Council noticeboards.

The Chairman also thanked the Parish Council team, all who support the Parish Council and the local community.

Residents were welcomed to share their feedback and ideas, to seek assistance if needed and to join in community activities by contacting the Parish Council (Email: [NJKparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:NJKparishclerk@aol.com), Tel: 07955 756528, <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/contact/> )

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.



**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 2023**

[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. 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 Maisie Stafford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish accessible defibrillators</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>

<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: 07955 756528

## Parish Council Chairman's Report May 2023

### **Changes to Membership**

Since my 2022 Annual Parish update it is important to mark the passing of Councillor Doug Lucas, who died in office having been Parish Councillor for many years, perhaps his greatest achievement having been the chair of the group that created the Neighbourhood Plan. It is also sad to record the passing of two other previous members of the Parish Council, Charles Ives and Ray Richardson, both of whom were Parish Councillors for many years and made significant contributions to our community. They will all be missed.

But the Parish Council (PC) is enduring, and we have recently welcomed Councillor Maisie Stafford, who as mother with a young family has been a most welcome addition to our number.

### **Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was created to enable the PC to have a modicum of control over where planning should take place within the parish out to 2030. In several Planning Applications it had proven invaluable, having been referenced by Wychavon District Council (WDC) Planners in their approval or rejection of recent applications. However, this happy situation was underpinned by WDC having a five-year land supply, i.e. a plan over the next five years to deliver the new houses required of it by Government policy. Regrettably, that situation has now changed. Due to the South West Urban Extension (SWUE) housing numbers (2,500 new homes) now being used almost purely for the benefit of Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) five-year land supply calculation (rather than supporting the overall land supply figure for the three South Worcester Council areas (WDC, MHDC and Worcester City), WDC no longer has a five-year land supply, and the NP becomes much less effective.

You may well ask 'what about the Parkway Development?' (5,000 new homes between 2030 and 2040, with a potential further 5,000 out to 2060, as the 'Parkway Garden Town' on land either side of the B4084 adjacent to Worcestershire Parkway station). Regrettably, the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) aka the 'Parkway Garden Town', has not yet been adopted and therefore doesn't count towards the five-year land supply figure. Equally important is the fact that the NP only goes out to 2030, not beyond.

So, what are we doing about it? Members of the PC have had several meetings with the head of WDC Planning and are currently working with them to create guidance for planners that will allow the NP for Norton-juxta-Kempsey, and other parishes with NP's, since we are not the only parish in this position, to remain relevant. We are also working towards revising our NP (even though it is less than two years old) to assist it in remaining relevant and almost certainly re-validating it to 2040. Despite the SWUE (2,500 homes on our western boarder) and the SWDPR (5,000 rising to 10,000 homes on our eastern border), we may still have to find an additional 33 new homes within our parish between 2030 and 2040. Whilst this is a little way into the future, it is important to be having these discussions now, not when the bulldozers turn up.

Coming down from the strategic, and focussing on the 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 next phase of the SWUE 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/St Peter's



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 Peter's and Worcestershire Parkway Station and exists to encourage walking and cycling between those two destinations. The PC maintains 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.). I have now personally walked the route with two different WCC Cabinet Members for Transport, both of whom agreed that it was not fit for purpose (particularly at The Retreat railway bridge) and neither of whom have done anything about it. It is worth noting that the repair to the Grade 2 listed (by curtilage) wall in Brockhill Lane, for which WCC have taken responsibility, is now two and a half years in awaiting repair. Ready to collapse at any moment, it is not only a danger to the public using the ATC, but also denies homeowners on the other side of it the use of their back gardens. Having had no effect by lobbying our MP or WCC Councillor, the PC has agreed that I should now write to the Chief Executive of WCC. If you have an opinion regarding this unsatisfactory situation, please make it known to your WCC Councillor, Linda Robinson (Email: lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk, Tel: 07563 399254).

### **Norton Connector**

Funded by the PC from a successful Community Legacy Grant (CLG) bid to WDC and run in conjunction with Worcester Wheels (itself a registered charity), it connects the parish to Tesco St Peter's, the Hospital, and the City centre. With modest but increasing user numbers and the funds to enable it to continue operating in at least to the end of 2023, WCC and other parishes continue to track its success as a model for other rural areas. The PC continues to look for alternative means of funding and we remain hopeful that we can continue to run this important lifeline for so many, into the future.

### **Adoption of land in Brockhill**

After approximately twenty years and considerable effort, the remaining pockets of land in Brockhill previously owned by Persimmon Homes and other developers have now been adopted by the PC. Regarding the two areas of grass on the Pershore bound bus stop side by the large roundabout, it has enabled us to properly maintain the hedge, place an oak tree with circular bench seat to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and create a proper environment for 'The Sentry' (the area around which will be landscaped in the autumn). The land on the left as enter Gazala Drive remains work in progress, with remedial work by Persimmon Homes still to remove tree stumps and plant a new tree. With a commuted sum from Persimmon Homes now held by the PC, it is hoped that these areas of green space, among others, will be properly maintained into the future, making them more attractive for the whole community.

## **‘The Sentry’**

The dedication of ‘The Sentry’ by HRH The Princess Royal on 4 April was a spectacle previously unseen within the parish. As the culmination of several years of hard work by the Norton Worcestershire Regiment Group and multiple supporting acts, ‘The Sentry’ will act as a lasting memorial for all those soldiers of the Worcestershire Regiment who passed through Norton Barracks during its time as their headquarters. The Evening News coverage of the event can be found here <https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/23434717.princess-anne-visits-worcester-pay-tribute-fallen-soldiers/>

## **Parish Hall**

The Parish Hall (PH) continues to go from strength to strength, with the new meeting rooms (Littleworth Suite), EV charging points, and the village shop (Shop @ WR5) now all being part of what people expect from this community facility. It is, however, a labour of love by the small group of dedicated Trustees and their following of community volunteers, with the effort required to maintain a 1970’s building and keep it relevant to modern society being quite considerable. Looking to the future, it is hoped that the remaining areas of old UPVC windows and doors will soon be replaced, and Mary’s Kitchen refurbished, while continuing to deliver the community hub that it has become.

## **Community Apiary and Tranquillity Trail**

The Honey@WR5 team continue to hone their skills as apiarists and are looking forward to their first full year in producing and selling honey and interacting with the wider community regarding pollinators.

The PC owns and maintains several pockets of land throughout the parish, and we continue to pursue Community Legacy Grant (CLG) funding via WDC to create a Tranquillity Trail linking them all up together, and providing better natural habitats while encouraging public access. This will hopefully 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.

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

WNCIC was established in November 2020 to renovate and open to community use 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, but with no further points of contention, it is hopeful that this will be achieved soon. Planning Permission has also been granted and a Preferred Bidder identified, so though there has been little obvious activity over the last few years, it is hoped that 2023 is the year in which all the elements come together, and the project is finally delivered.

## **In Summary**

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish is at the confluence of three District Councils, and is sandwiched between two major developments, hence there is always something to deal with.

We work hard to try to ensure that the community is kept informed by producing 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). Our website is also the place to find out about our Parish and to read the local news and information on what's happening in our area. You can subscribe to receive our Newsletters/news updates directly into your email box, just hit the subscribe button at the bottom of any of our website pages. We also post on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil/>

We are also keen to stand up and brief personally when the opportunity arises. As volunteers we occasionally take criticism and personal abuse, though thankfully more often thanks and praise, but regardless, we all feel passionately about the community which we serve and welcome your feedback. Following recent feedback from residents, the PC has agreed to pursue installation of an outdoor defibrillator in the Brockhill area of Norton, with defibrillator options, ongoing maintenance, power requirements and potential locations currently being explored.

If you think there is something that 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, supportive or otherwise. You can contact us via our website, Facebook or by contacting our Parish Clerk, Jane Greenway, via email: [NJKparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:NJKparishclerk@aol.com) or Tel: 07955756528.

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

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

Since the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting:

- 23 submissions have been considered from Wychavon District Council (22) and Worcester City Council (1).
- Of the 23 applications received for consultation, 13 have been approved, one refused, 7 await decision and 2 have been withdrawn.
- Of the 13 applications approved, the Parish Council objected to 3 applications.
- The refused application was not supported by the Parish Council.
- Of the 7 applications awaiting decision, the Parish Council has supported 2, objected to 4 and not commented on one (Worcester City application outside NJK Parish).

Details relating to planning applications within our Parish can be found on the Wychavon District Council website: <https://plan.wychavon.gov.uk/>

Details relating to planning applications within Malvern Hills District Council area and within Worcester City Council area can be found via: <https://plan.malvern hills.gov.uk/> and <https://www.worcester.gov.uk/planning/planning-application-search>

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

## **South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Update**

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) covers development requirements out to 2041. It calls for a further 14,000 new homes across the three South Worcestershire Councils (Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon) by 2041. Of these, and with a major impact on Norton-juxta-Kempsey, 5,000 will be in Parkway Garden Town – mostly to the east of Worcestershire Parkway Station (WPS) - together with associated infrastructure – town centre, roads, schools etc... A further 5,000 homes are intended after 2041.

There was a final six-week public consultation period from 1st November until 13th December 2022. Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council held a parish briefing on 3rd November for the Parish Council to share its understanding of the proposals and enabled discussions and questions with our residents. On 9th December we hosted the SWDPR team at Norton Parish Hall when residents from the five parishes most impacted by the proposed Parkway development were invited to see the concepts and question the SWDPR team.

Following the consultation the SWDPR team has been making final changes based on comments received and will then submit the plan to the Independent Planning Inspector for “Examination”. Examination will probably take place during late 2023 and, assuming the plan passes the examination, formal adoption of the SWDPR by the three councils is likely to be in 2024.

Some thoughts for you:

- Probably none of us are in favour of the (eventual) 10,000 homes development around Parkway station on top of the 2,500 homes already committed to between Norton Road and the A38 as part of the South Worcester Urban Extension (SWUE). We are told repeatedly that England needs many more dwellings than currently exist to house a growing population and because of inadequate provision in past years. While we can (and do) attempt to influence the plans for the development, it is unrealistic to expect to stop them altogether.
- Local Plans such as the SWDPR, together with our parish Neighbourhood Plan, are essential to protect us from runaway construction wherever and whenever a developer sees an opportunity to make a buck. Imperfect as these plans may be, they are a great deal better than nothing at all. We may not like the scale of the proposed Parkway Garden Town, but without the SWDPR and the Neighbourhood Plan we would likely be a great deal worse off.
- In many ways for us the worst part of the proposed Parkway development will be the disruption to our lives over the next many years – development traffic, noise and pollution, rat-running cars, impact on the hospital and other existing infrastructure etc. These are things we can fight against by making sure we all (individually and collectively) complain loud and long whenever we see a failure to meet an SWDPR commitment or see planning conditions not being enforced.

**Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council**

## **Bus Services Report**

The First Bus X50 service from Worcester to Evesham runs hourly along the B4084 and now calls at Parkway station. 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). Some of the weekday services are subsidised by the County Council which suggests these could be at risk if further cuts are needed.

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 support from Wychavon DC and Worcestershire County Council (WCC). 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 through 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 has not helped Worcestershire at all. Despite this setback, WCC tell us they are looking to develop a rural bus strategy based on dial-up minibus services similar to the Norton Connector. To date, we are still waiting to see if that will help fund the future of the Norton Connector, but as a contingency your Parish Council has budgeted funding for 2024. As such the Norton Connector, providing essential transport for non-drivers as well as an opportunity for the rest of us to be a little more environmentally conscious, is planned to continue operating into the foreseeable future.

Further details relating to the service can be found on the Parish Council website <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/norton-connector/> and on Parish Council noticeboards.

**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. The playground gates are being replaced with stronger and more resilient metal ones with additional safety features.

The Worcester Sorcerers baseball team is now well established and continues to generate considerable interest, with their 2023 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. They are also due to re-purpose/refurbish three of the old wooden picnic benches for use by players and spectators. We continue to have good links with local junior football clubs, and are conscious of the need to monitor and maintain field drainage.

Working with the Hall Trustees, we are replacing the existing wooden picnic benches with recycled plastic benches (to extend lifespan) and these will be fixed to concrete supports/bases, which will hopefully stop the moles undermining them!

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 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: [njkparishclerk@aol.com](mailto:njkparishclerk@aol.com)). One of our residents is keen to spearhead an outdoor gym initiative (with assistance from Tesco 'blue token' funding) and for this to be sited in the Brockhill area, subject to a suitable area being identified and landowner permission being obtained.

As a final point we must sadly, and once again, 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 dogs on leads whilst walking round the Hall grounds, including on the playing field. We would like to thank the majority of dog walkers that use the area responsibly.

Thank you for your support.

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

## **Allotments Report**

Spring has finally sprung! With warmer weather and longer days, this is definitely my favourite time of year, great to be outside digging and planting!

As always, a warm welcome our new allotment holders; we do hope you are enjoying your plots.

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 allotment matters. We hope you can join!

For those who do not wish to use social media, we have a new notice board for the allotments which is situated on the garages over the road from the main allotment plots.

We are keen to get an allotment committee started – made up of plot holders, councillors and myself. Please get in touch if you would like to join.

Currently there are only 3 remaining plots available, with meetings scheduled for those on the waiting list – I anticipate all plots will be let by the time this goes to print. 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 Public Rights of Way 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 <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside-and-leisure/public-rights-way> and select 'report an issue on a public right of way'

Or via: [PROWFault \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](mailto:PROWFault@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Or by phone 01905 765765

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://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/website/Countryside/>

There is currently a vacancy for a volunteer Public Rights of Way Warden for our Parish. More details can be found in the advert on the following page and at

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside)

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

## Why Volunteer With Us?

### PROW Wardens

**Do you enjoy walking and being out in the countryside?**

**Would you like to make a difference to your local area?**

**W**aymark local paths

**A**ctively liaise with landowners

**R**egularly cut back vegetation

**D**o minor repairs

**E**ncourage local people to use the paths

**N**ote problems through regular inspections

**S**upport PROW procedures and practices

For further details on our volunteer opportunities visit  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside) or contact us via  
Countryside@worcestershire.gov.uk or 01905 845617

For more information visit - [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/countryside)

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

Our website continues to be popular with over 40,000 visits in the last 12 months from more than 13,000 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 find out about our Parish and to read the local news and information on what's happening in our area. You can also join the 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 615 followers on Facebook and have made hundreds of posts with many thousands of views. It has developed into an essential means of quick communication with a large number of people in our Parish. Many topics have been covered, with the most popular being the local information that's not readily available from other sources. Where relevant we also directly share our page with the Brockhill Residents and Brockhill Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Our Facebook posts have a much wider audience than we imagined with some reaching more people than we have in the entire Parish via the 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/>

This is a reminder that our communications haven't gone completely online, 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

### Financial Year to 28 February 2023 (11 months)

<u>INCOME</u>	Actual to Date £	Annual Budget £
Precept	59,733	59,733
Allotment/Ground/Garage/Playing Field Rental	4,659	5,673
Grants & WCC Lengthsman Reimbursement	5,125	4,359
From Reserves re planned expenditure (items * below)	0	65,037
Other Income incl. bank interest & VAT reclaim	10,746	12
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>80,262</b>	<b>134,814</b>

### EXPENDITURE (NET OF VAT)

#### Capital Items

Provision for Community Assets *	4,529	6,750
Expenditure re developments within the Parish *	0	2,000
Community Legacy Grant - Parish Hall developments *	0	22,854
Play area replacement/refurbishment (future plan) *	0	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>41,604</b>

#### Community Services

Community Legacy Grant Project: Norton Connector*	4,588	11,250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,588</b>	<b>11,250</b>

#### Parish Maintenance \*

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,398</b>	<b>39,711</b>
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#### Administration

Donations/Grants/Events Support	1,685	3,850
Newsletter/printing & website/social media	1,022	1,150
Audit/professional fees/legal fees *	2,214	6,425
Neighbourhood Plan *	0	500
Parish Officers' costs	21,240	22,463
General Administration/subscriptions/insurance	5,654	5,776
Other Miscellaneous	1,306	2,070
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,121</b>	<b>42,234</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>90,636</b>	<b>134,799</b>

VAT paid on expenses - recoverable	8,285	0
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<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-10,373</b>	<b>15</b>
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## 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 that can be completed within a set 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

	<b>Aspiration</b>	<b>Possible Actions to Deliver Aspiration</b>	<b>Status as at 30/04/2023</b>
12	Reduce the need to use cars.	Introduce community minibus services to link parish to transport hubs/ local facilities.	Completed - Norton Connector
15	Improve local shopping facilities	Set up local shop at parish hall.	Completed
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	Completed - replacement tree & Jubilee commemoration bench Crookbarrow Road

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 30/04/2023</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 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 WCC for bus connections to train station and ensure coverage for the parish/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 30/04/2023</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
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.	<b>Closed - Feasibility and costs reviewed by WCC and rejected.</b>
29	Health	Encourage the provision of a Medical Practice/Health Centre more local to the parish	Currently not active
13	Prevent parking problems	Monitor the roads surrounding the train station for issues; and where necessary work with WCC to install mechanisms to prevent on street parking.	Currently not active. No issues identified since opening. To re-evaluate with increase in station usage.



*The next review is due at the end of May 2023.*

## 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**

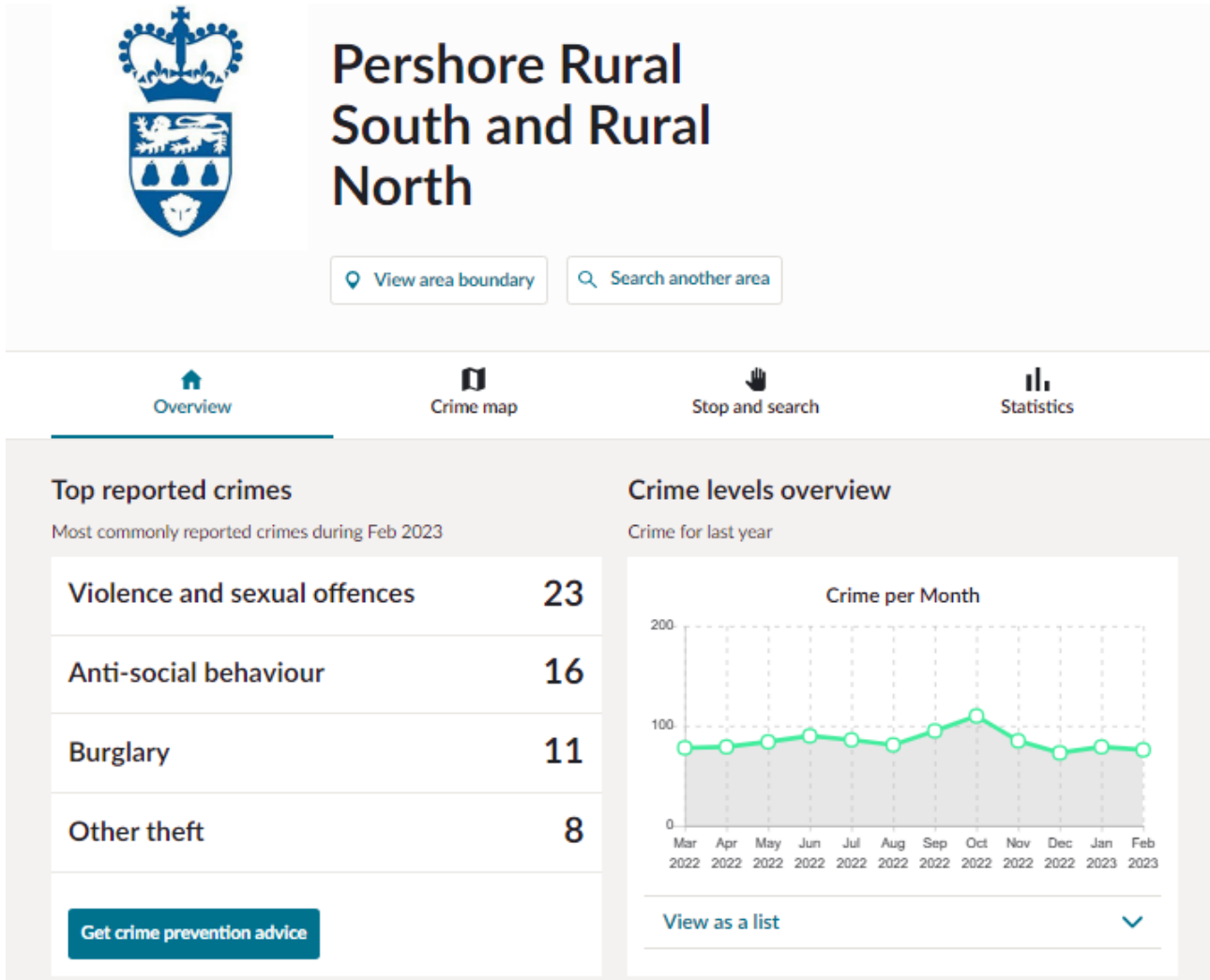
Tel: 01905 820459 / 07906954103

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

## Annual Police Report – 2022/23

Details of crime levels can be accessed via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) with searches available by area or by postcode. The Parish Council's local policing priorities are currently speeding, thefts (from dwellings) and other traffic offences (e.g. parking issues), with these priorities based on feedback from residents.

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



Boundary map for Pershore Rural South and Rural North Area:



The Safer Neighbourhood Team encourages residents to register on the 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.

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**  
**HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL, LITTLEWORTH ON**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022**

**13. 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.

**14. 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).

**15. Parish Information Pack**

Attached as Appendix 1 and includes:

- **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.

- **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)

**16. 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.

**17. 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.

#### **18. 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.**

#### **19. 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.

#### **20. 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/>

#### **21. 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.

## 22. 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.

## 23. Reports

### • **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.

### • **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.

### • **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/>

### • **Norton Worcestershire Regiment Group (NWRG)**

As discussed under agenda item 6.

### • **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.

#### **24. 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.

#### **25. 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.