

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL,
LITTLEWORTH ON WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY 2013**

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Bennett, Cllr. James, Cllr. Richmond and Mr. Reeves.

Attending –

Cllr. Turvey (Chairman), Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Mrs. Hewison, Cllr. Mrs. McGovern, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs. Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer), Mr. Dyer and 21 parishioners.

2. Welcome and Report from Cllr. Turvey, Parish Council Chairman

Cllr. Turvey welcomed attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting and general community update. Cllr. Turvey referred to the Parish Information Pack, circulated to all attendees, which included the Chairman's Report. Cllr. Turvey welcomed any questions.

3. Parish Information Pack

Attached as Appendix 1 and including:

a. Minutes of the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2012

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. McGovern, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hewison and all were in agreement that the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2012 be accepted. The Chairman signed these as a true record.

b. Parish Reports – see Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1

- i. Planning** (see also item 4)
- ii. Allotments**
- iii. Playing Fields**
- iv. Public Rights of Way**
- v. Finance**
- vi. Norton Charities**
- vii. Superfast Broadband**
- viii. Highways/Norton Adoptions**

Cllr. Turvey welcomed any question regarding the content of the Parish Information Pack during the residents' questions item at the end of the meeting.

4. South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)/Planning

A summary of the background to the SWDP was provided along with details of Parish Council activities, public meetings held and responses to the SWDP Team at various stages of the consultation process. Current maps/plans were displayed and explained. The Parish Council has liaised with Wychavon DC, the SWDP Team and Welbeck Land to influence plans for the benefit of our Parish. The SWDP and Welbeck outline plans are now quite similar. The key items from the survey of residents in 2010 have been focussed upon and include retention of an open aspect from Crookbarrow Road across to the Malvern Hills (which has been achieved), retention of a semi-rural nature (increased green gaps/buffer zones have been achieved) and 'rat run'/ infrastructure concerns (discussions continue to agree the road layout around Norton Road to restrict traffic access). Other areas of continuing discussion were highlighted including the area to the south of the garden centre (re detail/layout of sports pitches and houses in the significant gap), access road/routes to/from the proposed development along Norton Road, plans for the area around Broomhall Cottages and the need for all land available for development to be considered, not just that owned by Welbeck.

Wychavon DC has voted to endorse the SWDP, which will now be considered by the Secretary of State with a response expected in September/October. This response may require further work or may allow for the Plan to be adopted. Once adopted, the SWDP will be the main plan for the area and it is hoped that the detail of the plan will be enforced upon prospective developers.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that there are no other allocated sites for development within the Parish. It was noted that there are 2 traveller sites to be identified within the SWDP. Wychavon has fulfilled its requirements, but Malvern Hills and Worcester City have yet to do this and therefore Wychavon is resisting any plans for the site within its boundary. There are no plans to block off Norton Road, but to redesign this to change priorities and discourage use as a rat run. It was noted that transporters/HGVs will need to be able to negotiate any new layout. Whilst there are plans to dual the A4440 from Whittington to The Ketch roundabout, there are no plans to dual the bridge across to Powick and concerns have been raised that this will not resolve the bottleneck issue. Welbeck is considering management of the new development (in terms of open space, sports pitches etc.) by a Community Trust and this is being explored with input from the 3 District Councils and 3 Parish Councils that this development will span.

As a major application within the Parish, background was provided to the proposals for the old Regiment HQ site along with an explanation of concerns relating to the current plans. These include the lack of consultation by Rooftop Housing, the nature and number of proposed dwellings and the need to ensure that homes are allocated to ex-servicemen/disabled ex-servicemen. The Parish Council and local residents have objected to the current proposals and are discussing these with Wychavon DC. Cllr. Adams offered his support.

5. Severn Trent Water (STW) – Proposed First Time Sewerage Scheme, Littleworth

The proposed scheme was outlined by Ed Jones, Dalcour Maclaren, who are acting on behalf of STW for land/planning matters and Mark Lasance, NMC Nomenca, who are the main contractors for building the proposed pumping station. Representatives of STW have been liaising with the Parish Council regarding the proposed scheme which would include a pumping station on an area of the Parish Hall car park.

STW hope to start the 6 month project in October 2013, with a road closure of c. 3-4 months to lay the necessary pipe work. Contact details will be provided in case of need during the period of works. Reassurance was given that there will be no smell or noise from the pumping station which will be enclosed by a 1.8m panel fence. The road closure period will be minimised as far as possible and STW are in discussions with Worcs CC regarding the impact on the public and school buses. Shuttle buses have been suggested and are being considered. It was confirmed that there will be access to the Parish Hall at all times. If it is necessary to concrete the entrance to the car park, a temporary entrance will be provided. The Clerk will obtain dates of large events so that the contractors can plan for these and minimise their work compound. The Parish Council is exploring the possibility of re-surfacing the Parish Hall car park and hopes to minimise disruption by undertaking this work in conjunction with the STW project and the laying of the new pipes to connect the Parish Hall to the new mains sewer. A Worcs CC drainage scheme is also proposed in the proximity of the Parish Hall. The Parish Council is liaising with Worcs CC to link this with the STW work to minimise disruption to the area. It was confirmed that the proposed pumping station is to service existing properties, it is not linked to any development plans and it will not impact upon the pumping station at the end of St. James Close.

Contact details were provided in case of need, or queries can be sent to the Parish Clerk for forwarding the STW. Ed Jones and Mark Lasance were thanked for attending.

6. Police Report

CSO Allchurch was unable to attend and a report is included in the Parish Information Pack. The next mobile Police station at the Parish Hall will be held on 4th June at 10am. It was suggested that the Police & Crime Commissioner could be invited to a future Annual Parish Meeting to provide a short presentation, receive feedback from residents and answer questions.

7. Report from Cllr. Rob Adams (County and District Councillor)

Cllr. Adams reported on the post election make up of the County Council, budget cuts/priorities/efficient working and resident survey results, which included roads/potholes and footways as a high priority. Vulnerable people and safeguarding issues are another top priority. Changes to the way health services are provided/managed were noted and also the offer from the new Police and Crime Commissioner to come and meet parishioners. Cllr. Adams supported the Parish Council stance on planning matters, with the need for developments to be within the development area to protect the local area; support for any plans outside the development area could set a precedent for further future developments. The Parkway Station proposals remain in the background, with work continuing to secure funding and to obtain agreement from operators to stop at a new station. Cllr. Adams is aware of flooding within the Parish and will ensure that this is considered as part of any Parkway plans. A mobile vehicle activated speed sign has been purchased from Cllr. Adams' member's budget which it is hoped will reduce speeding throughout the Parish. Additional road markings outside school are planned for September and ways to improve parking along Church Lane are also being investigated.

Cllr. Adams thanked the Chairman, Parish Councillors, co-opted members and the Clerk for their support and consistent hard work as a dedicated team. Cllr. Adams was thanked for his support.

8. Parish Reports

a. Norton Parish Hall

Mrs Harris provided a report as Chair of the Norton Parish Hall Management Committee and Trustee of Norton Parish Hall Charity which included the improved financial situation, the move of Norton Pre-school to its own premises, increased bookings/new hirers, maintenance work undertaken, competition from other venues, the balance between community/commercial events and joint working with other community groups. It is hoped to provide more events for local residents in the future but this is very much dependent on attracting more volunteers to help the existing small team. Ideas for activities were welcomed as were new members of the team. The Hall Management Committee/Hall Trustees were thanked for all their hard work in turning round the finances of the Hall and for giving up their time to manage the Hall on a daily basis.

b. Norton Youth Club

Mr. Hodgkins was unable to attend the meeting but it was noted that the Norton Youth Club which runs on Thursday evenings (5-7pm) is very popular with young people from age 11 (or Year 6) and above. The leaders and volunteers running the club were thanked for their time.

c. Norton Community Games

Mr. Hodgkins was unable to attend the meeting. The annual Community Games was agreed as a very popular and successful event and all volunteers were thanked for their involvement.

d. Norton Theatre Group

Mr. Simms provided information about the Norton Theatre Group and the pantomimes staged at the Parish Hall since 1986. The 2014 panto will be Cinderella with details of auditions and contact points included in the Parish Council newsletter. As well as actors, help is needed behind the scenes and all volunteers are always appreciated.

9. Residents Questions

In addition to questions during the meeting, the following matters were raised.

The locations for the new mobile vehicle activated speed sign will include Wadborough Road, Littleworth to help highlight speeding concerns to motorists. Speed checks have been undertaken by the Police and whilst there are some speeding cars, most vehicles are not travelling at excessive speeds.

The Worcs CC drainage scheme, in the vicinity of Coppice Cottage/the Parish Hall, will increase the capacity of the pipes under the road and into the field at the back of Coppice Cottage,

improving the flow away from properties and Wadborough Road. The Parish Council has in previous years worked with Wychavon DC, land owners and Network Rail to improve the drainage across the fields and under the railway line to reduce the risk of flooding.

The new road layout along the A4440 southern link road is creating problems at the roundabout at the junction with Norton Road. Traffic travelling along the A4440 frequently blocks the island, making it extremely difficult to exit/access Norton Road. It is also creating difficulties for pedestrians and cyclists attempting to cross the A4440. Cllr. Adams noted these points and advised that he will press Worcs CC for further improvements/bridge crossings.

Disappointment was noted about the delay in the play area at the new Crookbarrow Road development and also the situation regarding the new roundabout/pedestrian crossing. It was confirmed that the Parish Council is pressing for these to be installed as soon as possible. It is understood that for health and safety reasons, the play area will be installed once the site has been completed and it is anticipated that this should be shortly. The roundabout/pedestrian crossing construction has been delayed due to long standing land ownership issues which have also delayed adoption of Crookbarrow Road. The Parish Council has highlighted to Wychavon DC that a planning condition for this development required the roundabout/pedestrian crossing to be constructed before any properties were occupied but unfortunately this condition has not been enforced. Worcs CC is in contact with the developers to try to resolve these issues as quickly as possible. The Parish Council has contacted the developers to highlight the safety issues due to all vehicles from the new development using the older part of Talavera Road, or drivers moving the barriers to use the roundabout entrance/exit, and the need to resolve the situation as a priority. It was suggested that the Parish Council explores Worcs CC views on 20mph zones within residential developments such as Brockhill, although it was agreed that there is a balance between a rural area and urbanisation with traffic calming measures.

The issue of lack of maintenance to some hedges within the Parish was raised. It was confirmed that in most instances, hedges are the responsibility of the land owner or in some instances Worcs CC or Wychavon DC. The hedge along Norton Road (parallel to Regiment Close) and that in front of the 'old section' of Crookbarrow Road (in front of the old Barracks HQ and the black and white cottage) remain under the ownership of the developers due to outstanding adoption issues. The developers will be requested to carry out hedge maintenance/undergrowth clearance. Other hedge matters can be reported via the Worcestershire Hub for the attention of Highways.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem and the Parish Council will consider purchase of additional bins. It was noted that there have been instances of inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists/skateboarders in the Norton area and this information will be passed to the Police so that the situation can be monitored. A new Parish Litter Picker has been appointed which it is hoped will improve litter problems.

The project to redevelop the recreation facilities and play area at the Parish Hall has progressed, with suggested designs produced and initial consultations undertaken. Further research is being undertaken regarding play area installations and funding opportunities will need to be identified for applications to be submitted. Whilst the project is live, due to other Parish Council work, progress has been slower than had been hoped and any offers of help would be appreciated via the Parish Clerk. Existing volunteers were thanked for their help to date.

10. Close of Meeting -

The Chairman thanked all those attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 9.35pm.

Norton-juxta-Kempsey
May 2013
Annual Parish Meeting
Information Pack

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Draft Minutes from the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Member	Areas of Responsibility
Cllr. Howard Turvey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council Chairman • Planning matters • South Worcestershire Development Plan Working Group • Public Rights of way
Cllr. Mrs Christine McGovern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council Vice-Chairman • Allotments • South Worcestershire Development Plan Working Group • Parish Council Newsletter
Cllr. Tony Bennett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • PACT representative • EnviroSort Liaison Group
Cllr. Chris Dawson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields • Parish Hall matters
Cllr. Kevin Fincher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Worcestershire Development Plan Working Group • Planning matters • Parish Hall matters
Cllr. Mrs Diane Hewison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing fields • Allotments • Parish Hall matters
Cllr. David James	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters
Cllr. Peter Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning matters • Playing fields
Vacancy for Co-opted Parish Councillor	
Mr. Mike Reeves (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding issues
Mr. Garry Dyer (co-opted member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Worcestershire Development Plan Working Group

Parish Clerk	Contact Details
Mrs Jane Greenway	18 Corunna Close Norton Worcs WR5 2PW Email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com Tel: 01905 763515

Annual Parish Meeting 2013 - Chairman's Report

Firstly my thanks to everyone in the Parish involved in community projects, including all my fellow Parish Councillors. Thanks also to our Clerk Mrs. Jane Greenway and to Councillor Rob Adams who represents us both at District and County level.

Once again planning matters have taken up a fair proportion of time. The SWDP is covered separately in detail, but in summary we have achieved a reasonable proportion of what we set out to do, although some of the assurances we were given early on in the process have not been delivered. We feel that more recently the views of the developers have been given too much weight over the legitimate concerns of the existing residents.

The development of the site on Crookbarrow Road is almost complete and we are expecting that the long awaited play area will be available for us in the summer. The developers are also providing funding for the refurbishment of the tennis courts at the Parish Hall to create a multi-purpose play area which we are planning to combine with an update of the play area. This project is underway and we are hoping for completion by early next year. We were pleased that this development included some affordable homes although the local allocation did not turn out to be quite as high as we had originally hoped. The development of the new roundabout has been held up due to land ownership problems, and regrettably adoption of parts of the original development is still not complete. Although not our direct responsibility, both are being chased by the Parish Council on a regular basis in the interests of the residents.

Progress has been made with flooding issues in Littleworth with the installation of a new drainage pipe across the field adjacent to the Parish Hall using grant funding. Further downstream work was also carried out by Network Rail after a considerable amount of pressure was applied. We are liaising with Worcestershire County Council (WCC) who are planning some further work to increase pipe capacity in the area of the Parish Hall and we are hoping that this will be completed in the next few months.

We are also working closely with Severn Trent on a scheme to extend the main sewers in Littleworth, with a pumping station sited on land in the car park of the Parish Hall which is currently owned by the Parish Council. Inevitably this will involve some short term disruption for long-term benefit.

Whilst the Parish Hall is run as a separate charity, the Parish Council is extremely keen for this to be an effective facility for the community. I am therefore very grateful to all those involved in the management and operation of the Hall. You will see that there have been improvements made over the last year and these will continue.

Discussions have been held with Wychavon (WDC) to extend super-fast broadband throughout the Parish and a WCC funded project to provide new capabilities across the County. We are hoping that we can be included in the early part of the roll out.

You will have seen a 0% change in Parish Council funding on your 2013/14 Council Tax bills, which the Parish Council agreed in view of economic circumstances and the availability of a Government grant passed on by WDC. With careful management we believe the same level of service can be provided during this financial year.

Howard Turvey, Parish Council Chairman

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

Since the 2012 Annual Parish Meeting:

- 21 submissions have been considered of which 18 were approved by Wychavon District Council (2 of which were not supported by the Parish Council).
- 1 application was refused (also not supported by the Parish Council).
- 2 are awaiting a decision.

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

Allotments Report

Despite all the recent miserable weather, I can see that the majority of the allotments are looking well cultivated and planted. As I write this, the weather is beautiful but I hope it doesn't dry the ground up too much. Thank you to those allotment holders who take great pride with their plots.

Vacant allotments will be allocated as soon as possible. Whilst the waiting list has reduced, we do still have people looking for a plot, so if anyone wishes to give up or reduce the size of their plot please let me know.

The Parish Council are considering erecting a fence adjacent to the public footpath and a meeting is to be arranged with the tenants to discuss these proposals in more detail.

Any issues that I have been made aware of have been dealt with, but if there are any concerns please contact me.

Keep up the good work.

Christine McGovern
Councillor with responsibility for Allotments
Tel: 01905 820459
Email: mcgovern260@btinternet.com

Playing Field Summary

The playing fields continue to be used by an adult football team on Sunday mornings, with ad-hoc use by junior football teams and other private hirers.

The annual RoSPA play area inspection report, relating to the play area at Norton Parish Hall, has been received which reveals no high risk items. Recommendations contained within the report will be considered by the Parish Council. A project to redevelop the play area at Norton Parish Hall is being slowly progressing with the help of volunteers. If you would like to be involved with this project then please contact the Parish Clerk, Jane Greenway.

With the aid of S.106 funding from the development by St. Peters Garden Centre, the tennis courts at Norton parish Hall will be developed into a multi-use facility and again if you would like to be involved in this project, please contact the Parish Clerk, Jane Greenway.

Dog fouling and dogs being allowed off their leads at the Parish Hall remains a problem. Please can dog owners clear up after their dogs and also keep dogs on a lead in the Parish Hall grounds as there have been a number of recent incidents. If the problems continue, unfortunately consideration will be given to the Parish Hall grounds becoming a dog free zone, which would be disappointing for the majority of dog owners who assist us by meeting with these requests.

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

Public Rights of Way Report

The Parish Council continues to work closely with Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service to maintain and improve the rights of way within the Parish.

The three main areas are: signing, accessibility, and vegetation clearance.

One of the major achievements during the last year was the publication of a map detailing all the Rights of Way within the Parish, and a summary of points of interest. This was distributed to all households.

During the last year a number of new roadside signposts have been erected to replace those that were old, or damaged, and this process will continue as required. Maintenance of waymark signs is ongoing, to help ensure the routes can be readily followed.

We will continue to liaise with landowners to find appropriate locations where gates can be installed instead of stiles to improve accessibility.

We have an annual program of grass cutting on key paths to make use easier, and larger scale vegetation clearance occurs periodically where necessary. A proportion of the funding for this comes from Worcestershire County Council with the remainder from Parish Council funds.

We have an active Parish Path Warden, and a group of volunteers who periodically walk the Rights of Way within the Parish and report any problems that they encounter. With ongoing financial pressure on both the County Council and the Parish the budget for this work is limited, so we try to ensure that items are handled in priority sequence, and that maximum use is made of the available budget by using volunteers wherever possible.

Howard Turvey
Parish Path Warden

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

Financial Report - Year to 28th February 2013 (11 months)

	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
<u>INCOME</u>		
Precept	30,576	30,576
Allotment, Ground & Garage Rental	2,270	2,025
Sports & Other Field Lettings	480	300
Investment Income & Bank Interest	399	720
Grants	1,728	50
Tax Rebates	1,322	0
Lengthsman Reimbursement	1,260	2,000
Pre-school Rent/Cost Reimbursement	2,186	2,337
Other Income	5,445	2,595
TOTAL INCOME	45,667	40,603
<u>EXPENDITURE (NET OF VAT)</u>		
<u>Capital Items</u>	558	6,580
<u>Parish Maintenance</u>	13,064	13,673
<u>Administration</u>		
Donations, Grants & Events Support	1,779	1,100
Newsletter	1,248	2,600
Audit/professional/legal fees	1,938	2,580
Election Costs	0	0
Parish Officers Honoraria (Clerk, RFO etc)	7,210	7,717
PAYE tax and NI paid	470	300
General Administration	1,733	1,500
Insurance - Capital & Public Liability	2,801	2,700
Subscriptions	816	900
Training for Members & Clerk	20	400
Councillor Expenses	99	250
Vandalism Costs	50	200
Chairman's Allowance	30	100
Reimbursement of training room fees collected	120	0
<u>Total Administration and Other</u>	18,315	20,347
TOTAL EXPENSES	31,937	40,600
VAT paid on expenses - recoverable	2,365	
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	13,730	3

Norton Charities Report

Charities within the parish of Norton-juxta-Kempsey are regulated by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners 28th 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. Each year a Bible is purchased for the leavers of Norton-juxta-Kempsey First School.

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 Trustee may be appointed.

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

Police Report

For the period 17th May 2012 to 18th May 2013, reported crimes in the Parish are detailed below:

- Criminal damage – 4
- Theft – 10
- Burglary non dwelling – 3
- Attempt burglary non dwelling – 2
- Burglary dwelling – 1
- Attempt burglary dwelling – 1
- Theft from motor vehicle - 17 (detected - 1)
- Attempt theft from motor vehicle – 4
- Theft of motor vehicle – 1

In total there were 43 crimes in the last 12 months, 15 less than during the 12 month period from 17th May 2011 to 17th May 2012.

CSO Ben Allchurch 6594
Pershore Rural North
West Mercia Police

Non-emergency phone number: 101

Superfast Broadband for Norton-juxta-Kempsey

Do you realise how dependent we are becoming on internet broadband at home?

- contacting friends and family – email, facebook, Skype, Twitter etc
- browsing the net, to find things out or help the children do their homework
- keeping up with the news or sport
- downloading films, videos, watching catch-up TV
- shopping on line – Tesco, Amazon.....
- communicating with government, the council or other public bodies
- on-line banking, to pay bills, credit cards
- and for some of us even running a business,

The list is almost endless, the fact is we are increasingly being forced to go on-line in almost all aspects of our lives and that is only going to increase. Many of the sites and applications get ever more complex which means we need ever faster broadband connections to use them.

The government is hoping for Superfast Broadband to 90% of the population in the next year or so and promising download speeds of up to 30 Mb/s (Megabits/second), which is fine if you live in towns/cities where BT and the like will make a commercial investment. But for those of us who live out of town as we are here in Norton/Hatfield/Littleworth most of us struggle along with speeds not much above 1 (yes, one) Mb/s.

Funding is available to bring superfast broadband to rural areas and Worcestershire County Council (WCC) is in the forefront of this. In April, Howard Turvey and I met with Chris Brooks, regeneration manager at Wychavon District Council. WCC is inviting bids to provide superfast broadband to 90% of the rural areas which should include Norton-juxta-Kempsey (NJK), however this could still be 3 years away if at all.

Priorities as to which exchanges and which parishes get connected first will depend on demand. Demand will be measured through the WCC Broadband Demand Survey. Regrettably so far we in NJK have not “demanded” very strongly. The February 2013 WCC Broadband Newsletter ranked this parish at around 110 out of 190 in the county, only 4% of us having completed the WCC survey.

So what can we do?

First and foremost is for every internet-using household to complete the resident’s survey. You can find it at

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/researchweb/broadband/fasterbroadband_residents.htm

If you are running a business from home or in the parish you also need to fill in the business survey

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/researchweb/broadband/fasterbroadband_business.htm

If you could let me know that you have done either or both, that will help us keep count of how well we are doing. Email me at jwaizeneker@sky.com

Secondly tell all your friends, neighbours and contacts in the parish to get them to complete the surveys.

If you live in the barracks area and are on St Peters exchange you may already have superfast broadband. Lucky you! However please fill in the survey anyway as WCC will look at NJK as a whole so the rest of us need your support.

You may also have seen a notice that the survey was closing in April. This was just to enable WCC to take a count of interest so far before inviting bids. The survey is still live – please fill it in. Filling in the survey puts you under no obligation to take superfast broadband when it does become available.

If you would like to see more about what is happening with WCC go to this address <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/cms/superfast-worcestershire/about-superfast-worcestershire.aspx>

And finally, if you have already done the survey, thank you and apologies for taking your time. I would still be grateful if you could let me know at jwaizeneker@sky.com

We will keep you informed as events develop.

By the way, I am just another resident (in Littleworth) who foolishly asked the parish council what was being done about faster broadband. Guess who got roped in?

John Waizeneker

Highways/Norton Adoptions

In view of the delayed construction of the new roundabout at the entrance to the new development by St. Peter's Garden Centre and the inconvenience this is causing for residents, representatives of the Parish Council have recently met with Cllr. Adams and Worcestershire County Council Officers to discuss this matter.

Whilst this new roundabout was due to be constructed before occupation of the new homes, due to issues relating to the outstanding adoption of Crookbarrow Road (following the earlier developments at Brockhill), the necessary legal agreements have not been able to be completed to allow construction to proceed. For safety reasons, access to this roundabout from the new section of Talavera Road will remain closed for access by residents until the new roundabout has been constructed. It is understood that the developers are in the process of addressing these issues which, once resolved, should allow for construction to commence.

In terms of the outstanding adoption of Crookbarrow Road and Norton Road, Worcestershire County Council is in the process of identifying remedial work required and will provide details to the developers for completion of this work. Once this work has been satisfactorily completed the adoption process can progress.

The roads within the older developments at Brockhill have been adopted. The Parish Council has been asked to highlight to residents of these areas, that where there isn't a pavement outside their property, there will be a 1.8 metre wide service strip adjacent to the carriageway and that this service strip is part of the public highway. This must remain as grass and not be resurfaced with any other material. Periodic Worcestershire County Council highway inspections may highlight service strips that are no longer grassed, which could result in residents being served with enforcement notices requesting that the area is reinstated as grass.

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with Worcestershire County Council regarding the outstanding adoptions and roundabout construction work.

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

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
NORTON-JUXTA-KEMPSEY PARISH HELD AT NORTON PARISH HALL,
LITTLEWORTH
ON THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2012**

11. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Bennett, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Richmond, Mr. Reeves and Cllr. Adams, District and County Councillor (late arrival).

Attending –

Cllr. Turvey (Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. McGovern, Cllr. Mrs. Hewison, Cllr. Lucas, Mr. Dyer, Cllr. Adams (District and County Councillor), Mrs. Greenway (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and 31 parishioners.

12. Welcome and Report from Cllr. Turvey, Parish Council Chairman

Cllr. Turvey welcomed attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting and general community update. In a change to the format of the meeting to previous years, Cllr. Turvey referred to the Parish Information Pack, circulated to all attendees, which includes the Chairman's Report. Cllr. Turvey welcomed any questions.

13. Parish Information Pack

Attached as Appendix 1 and including:

a. Minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting 7th April 2011

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. McGovern, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Hewison and all were in agreement that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th April 2011 be accepted. The Chairman signed these as a true record.

b. Parish Reports – see Parish Information Pack attached as Appendix 1

i. Planning

ii. Allotments

iii. Playing Fields

iv. Public Rights of Way

v. Finance

vi. Norton Charities

Cllr. Turvey welcomed any question regarding the content of the Parish Information Pack during the residents' questions item at the end of the meeting.

14. South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)

A summary of the background to the SWDP was provided along with details of Parish Council activities, public meetings held and responses to the SWDP Team at various stages of consultation. This has included a petition signed by parishioners to support the view that residents wished to retain the individual identity of the settlements within the Parish, the semi-rural nature of the Parish and not to be linked to Worcester City. A young person's petition was also submitted in support of these views. A SWDP Team consultation event at St. Peter's Garden Centre attracted a large attendance which reflected the interest and concerns of local residents. Welbeck Land has also held consultation events regarding developments to the south of Worcester and the Parish Council has had initial discussions to highlight our residents' concerns.

The Parish Council response to the SWDP is included on the Parish Council website which includes reference to some development, recognising the need for growth for future generations, but in a controlled way, minimising the impact upon the Parish. In particular, maintaining the integrity of the Norton Barracks/Brockhill area as a clearly separate and differentiated settlement, with no coalescence with Worcester or with any new developments, with significant strategic green gaps of major importance. The consultation responses are being considered by the SWDP Team and the Preferred Options Document is due to be considered further by Worcester City Council, Wychavon

District Council and Malvern Hills District Council in early July.

Cllr. Turvey welcomed any question regarding the SWDP during the residents' questions item at the end of the meeting.

15. Police Report

CSO Allchurch reported on annual crime and detection figures within the Parish in the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 (79 reported crimes). No questions were asked or issues raised.

16. Report from Cllr. Rob Adams (County and District Councillor)

Cllr. Adams arrived at 8.10pm, due to attending another earlier Annual Parish Meeting and provided his report after item 7 below. Cllr. Adams thanked the Chairman, Parish Councillors, co-opted members and the Clerk for their support and consistent hard work as a dedicated team. He reported on budget cuts at County and District levels, better shared services, working together across the County, City and District Councils and a zero increase in Council Tax. A project is being proposed to provide superfast broadband across the County with a target delivery date proposed as 2015. The long awaited play area at Norton will be delivered as part of the new housing development by St. Peter's Garden Centre and road names/signs at this development will reflect the link to the Worcestershire Regiment. Wychavon DC is working with the MoD to assist with provision of housing for ex-services personnel on the site of the old Regiment Office in Crookbarrow Road. At a County level, armed services week activities are planned along with a community covenant to strengthen Local Authority and armed forces links. A grant was provided to assist with the set up of Norton Youth Club which is proving very popular. The Parkway Station is supported in principle but concerns exist surrounding drainage in the area. Worcestershire CC is keen for this to progress and the proposal will be considered by the new franchisee. To provide a safer route to St. Peter's, use of the farm bridge over the Southern Link Road is being explored which could also provide a cycle route.

Cllr. Adams was thanked for his support.

17. Parish Reports

a. Norton Parish Hall

Cllr. Lucas provided a report as a Parish Hall Trustee which included background to the Hall which opened in 1977. Norton Parish Hall is a registered charity and the building is leased by the Parish Council. The Charity Trustees are unpaid volunteers and are elected each year at the Parish Hall AGM. More volunteers are being sought to help to manage and expand use of the Hall. The Hall is generally self sufficient and funded through booking revenue, although grants and support from the Parish Council have been sought for some capital items. Significant work has been undertaken to increase bookings, in a competitive environment, which will assist in funding the day to day running of the Hall. Costs are being reviewed to identify savings that can be made which will help to make funds available for redecoration/refurbishment of the Hall. Residents were invited to the Parish Hall AGM on 25th May at 7.30pm at the Hall.

b. St. James Church, Norton

A representative was not available to attend the meeting.

c. Norton Methodist Church, Littleworth

Rev. Smith and Mr. Spyby attended as representatives of Norton Methodist Church and provided an insight into their backgrounds, times of worship, the congregation, events, Church facilities and the stability of their finances. A 'Sunday School' is held on a Wednesday afternoon which is primarily attended by children of First School

age. Residents were welcomed to join services, events and meetings held at Church, many of which are detailed within the Parish Council newsletter.

d. Norton Youth Club

Mr. Hodgkins explained his background and also that to the Norton Community Games event and the new Youth Club. The Norton Community Games event in 2011 was very well attended and proved popular with residents and a 2012 event is being held on 8th July at Norton Cricket Club with everyone welcome. The Youth Club at Norton started in January for children and young people from the age of 11 (or Year 6). Numbers have grown quickly with around 45 attendees each week, with adult supervision provided by volunteers for sports activities, indoor games and arts and crafts. 80 young people are now registered and more volunteers are being sought. Cllr. Adams was thanked for the £1,000 contribution towards the Youth Club set up costs. A picnic on the cricket pitch will be held on 4th June in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with all welcome.

e. Norton Community Games

See d) above.

f. Norton Theatre Group

Mr. Simms provided information about the Norton Theatre Group and the pantomimes staged at the Parish Hall since 1986. Changes to the way the Group operates were highlighted including those relating to new child protection requirements. Between 50 and 70 people are involved in each production including back stage helpers and around 20 children. The 2013 pantomime will be Aladdin. Involvement in the Group has helped individuals to increase self esteem, confidence and grow their character, with some members going on to be involved in professional roles within the drama field. A link with Worcester New College and the Blind College is being explored for their involvement in future productions, perhaps from a musical perspective. An information evening will be held at the Hall on 7th September, with open auditions on 14th September and all are welcome.

18. Residents Questions

Prior to taking questions, Cllr. Turvey advised that it is hoped that the play area at Norton will be completed in early 2013 and that if anyone is interested in the affordable homes within this new development, they should contact Wychavon DC to add their details to the Home Choice Plus Register and contact Festival Housing. Priority will be given to applicants with a local connection.

In addition to the earlier opportunities for volunteering, Cllr. Turvey advised that volunteers are being sought to assist with a project to redevelop the play and sports facilities at the Parish Hall and anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council was asked how confident it is that the requested changes/recommendations to the SWDP will be included within the revised plan, in particular with regard to the 'Norton Barracks extension'. The Parish Council has made strong representations for this area to be made open space, these have been positively received by Wychavon and the SWDP Team and it is hoped that this will be included in the revised SWDP. There has been comment that this area could be allocated for a school, which may be considered as acceptable by residents, but business development would be strongly resisted. At the time the development of 74 houses by the Garden Centre was approved, positive feedback was received that this would be the Parish allocation within the SWDP. The Parish Council view is that if the land to the west of Norton Road is insufficient for the proposed number of houses, then numbers should be reduced, the development should not spread to the land to the east of Norton Road. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be advised if there are any planned changes

relating to the Parish Council requests in the revised version of the SWDP, which will be considered in early July.

Residents commented that the Welbeck consultation events were considered confusing and the Parish Council view was sought. It was agreed that the timetable for these events was confusing and that these were considered premature as the SWDP consultation is still continuing.

A question was asked about any liaison with Kempsey Parish regarding the SWDP. Whilst Kempsey is a neighbouring parish, there are some differing views, different concerns and not all common ground. Therefore the scope for joint working has been limited.

In response to a question seeking clarification about whether the cricket ground could be built on, or whether it is protected, the Parish Council advised that it is understood that it is probably unlikely that planning approval would be given for houses on the top pitch. It is believed that there may be difficulties in relocating the gun club from the lower section of the site.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the old parish map has been displayed in the Committee Room at the Hall.

19. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.