

Rothley Parish Council

Newsletter No 1, Sept 2016

From Percy Hartshorn Chair of Rothley Parish Council

This is the first of a number of newsletters that RPC intend to print via Rothley Post. RPC feel that as the village gets larger (the population has now topped 5,000) it is essential that we keep local residents informed as to local decisions and reasons behind them as well as giving out information.

Who's who on RPC

The Parish Council is currently made up of 8 local residents. The full compliment is 10. Elections take place every 4 years the next one being in May 2019.

The council is made up as follows: -

Percy Hartshorn (Chair)

Roger Gross (Vice Chair)

Geoff Hall, Sally Lee

Steve Mitchell, Jonathan Rashleigh

Barry Simons, Doug Sutherland

Andy Brettle* & Graham Hall*

* co-opted at the August full Parish Council meeting Monday 15th August 7.30

Administration

With an increase in parish business the Parish Council is set to create a new post of Deputy Parish Clerk. The appointment will take place this autumn and will help take the pressure off the existing office staff.

The staff of the RPC is as follows:

Parish Clerk: Gail Newcombe

Admin Assistant: Sara Fleming

Head Caretaker: Steve Tomlinson

Caretaker: Steve Cross

Caretaker: Jennifer Cornish

Caretaker: Bernadeta Skubala

Parking issues

Parking continues to provide a challenge for the Parish Council. We are currently looking at a number of issues including investigating the area at the top and towards the left of the Rothley Centre car park.

In addition, as we are responsible for the maintenance of grass verges it is in our financial interests to protect some of the larger tracts of land where the grass is being destroyed by car parking. The first areas to be protected are the area opposite the Bluebell and the grass verge outside the Town Green Street playing fields.

Despite a number of requests to protect these areas the County Council will only permit wooden posts for protection.

Grass cutting contract

RPC took over grass cutting within the parish boundaries a year ago and our contractors have now got to grips with the areas we are responsible for. The Parish Council receives some money from Leics. C.C. to assist with costs and local RPC money is used to make up the difference.

Areas we are not responsible for include the new estates built by Charles Church Athena & Aspire; the grass swathes that run up through the Garland and areas outside the 30mph speed limit. Our contract specifies a fortnightly cut whereas the County Council who are responsible for verges outside the village cut once every six weeks. The Parish Council does not make any contribution towards maintenance costs for these areas

Planning

The Parish Council is consulted on all applications in Rothley plus large-scale developments in surrounding villages. Application details are circularised to the planning subcommittee, which meets prior to full parish council meeting. The committee considers all applications for the month, which make recommendations on whether to object or not. The minutes of this meeting are considered at full council meeting where upon comments are put on the CBC planning portal. Most applications are decided upon by a planning officer at Charnwood. If there is any conflict the Borough Councillor can ask for the application to be referred to plans committee. All large developments go to plans committee, where a representative of RPC can speak. The committee discuss and vote whether to grant conditionally or refuse. If the application is refused the applicant can appeal to a government inspector to review the decision. If the application is granted RPC has no chance of appealing against that decision.

New improved website

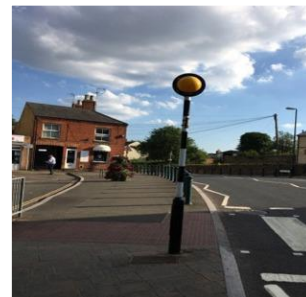
The County Council is no longer able to fund parish council or local Leicestershire villages websites. Therefore as from 31st August the Parish Council will be organizing their own website and combining all the extensive information that was previously also on the villages website. This is a massive logistical task and for period of time in the autumn the website, although live, will still be under construction.

Changes at the Rothley Centre

A programme of redecoration has started along with range of fire prevention initiatives including improvements to safety doors and fire alarm installation. The toilets are also going to be modernized sometime in the autumn 2016.

New crossing lights

New brighter lights have been installed at the zebra crossing at Cross Green. The Parish Council was aware of a number of near misses on the crossing and is grateful to LCC, who installed the lights, for their prompt action on this issue.



New street names

Charnwood asked the Parish Council for some suggestions for the new roads at the Walton Way junction. Thanks go to Terry Sheppard, local historian, for submitting names reflecting historical aspects connected with the land.

His suggestions have been accepted and the roads will be named Bier Way, Draycott Avenue, Moore Gardens Close and Woolerton Drive. Old School Way is the name given to the road next to the Library where the primary school once stood.

Leicestershire County Council funding crisis

Having saved some £100m the County Council is now looking to save further £78m over the coming 4 years. One of the consequences of this saving has been the formation of a charity delivering library services using volunteers at Rothley Community Library. However further savings will require some contributions from local sources in other ways in order that 'we can unlock the capacity to support vulnerable individuals

& families thereby reducing the demand on public services' statement from the current online L.C.C. consultation. Rothley Parish Council will be looking to work with Leics. CC in order to design and support new ways of delivering community services. An example, given at the LCC Local Councils Conference, was where local help could be enlisted was over the issue of roads maintenance. A suggestion being looked at is to ask residents to highlight highways issues like potholes. Instead of maintenance engineers using valuable time visiting the sites there could be use made of local volunteers taking photos and giving descriptions so that the issue could be reviewed at Glenfield before deciding on a course of action.

Improvements in Rothley

Play facilities for children have been extended with the installation of an outdoor table tennis table and a multi - goal with basketball ring at Town Green Street playing field. Additional skate boarding type pieces of equipment have been put at Fowke Street playing field. Monies from building developers have funded these improvements. In addition some of these funds have been used to remove old soccer storage units at Fowke Street.

A new RPC noticeboard has been erected on Warren Way and a further one is planned for the end of Woodgate. Benches from outside the old school have been saved and are to be placed in Bunney's Field and under the trees within the Library grounds.



Cemetery plans

Having reviewed the arrangements for the sp decided as from the Autumn to completely r presently used since it has become completely overgrown and difficult to access.

In addition we are looking at a request from a resident to have a store for cemetery users with some basic tools in.

Neighbourhood Plan

To have a 'Neighbourhood Plan' is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act of 2011. Communities then have the opportunity to have more say in how their areas are developed and what further facilities are needed.

In December 2015 Charnwood Borough Council [CBC] approved an application for the Civic Parish of Rothley to be designated as a 'neighbourhood area'. This allowed Rothley Parish Council to take lead responsibility for producing a Neighbourhood Plan for our parish. Once agreed by RPC, Rothley residents and CBC the plan will sit alongside CBC's Core Strategy and Local Plan and must be taken into account when decisions are made on planning applications. RPC has now formed a Rothley Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, consisting of a mixture of Parish Councillors and Rothley residents advised by expert consultants. The steering group has begun a period of consultation with residents to identify issues of interest or concern relating to a number of topics: housing, business and employment, green spaces, conservation and heritage, traffic transport and parking, and community facilities. Later in the year there will be a questionnaire survey within the parish to obtain further views from residents.

The process is closely regulated and it may take around two years to complete. For more information please see our dedicated website www.rothleyneighbourhoodplan.co.uk or email us at rothleyneighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com.

Dog Fouling

RPC continue to work with Charnwood Borough Council in trying to promote responsible dog ownership with the provision of 'poo bags' free of charge, available from the Parish Office. We have also been involved with a project in the provision of a poo bag dispenser at the Kiln Garth area so that residents there do not have to travel to collect these items.

We know that the vast majority of dog owners clear up the mess but it continues to be a problem in the village especially when the darker mornings / evenings occur as this is when those irresponsible owners think they can get away with not tidying up thinking that they won't be noticed. We strongly recommend any local resident to always report incidence of dog fouling to Charnwood Borough Council on 01509 634564 as they monitor these occurrences and sometime alter the pattern of street warden visits accordingly.

Parish Council Finance

Parish Councils receive most of their funds through part of the Council Tax called a local precept.

For a current band D property this is £54.56 for each local household. When Charnwood Borough Council collects all these they are then forwarded to Rothley Parish Council. Rothley's precept brings them in an annual amount of £103,000 that RPC then allocate to meet all the services they provide. A full set of accounts and all relevant financial information is available on the Parish Council Website.

Have you got any ideas?

We are always responsive to ideas and suggestions to improve our delivery of services or improve things for residents. If you have a contribution please e mail the office (clerk@rothleyparishcouncil.org.uk) or write to Parish Council office at 12, Mountsorrel Ln, Rothley LE7 7PR