

## **BURTON OVERY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024**

Your parish council meets once a month in the Brian Pollard Room in the Village Hall, typically on a Tuesday evening starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are always most welcome to attend for all or part of the proceedings. Council business generally includes a range of matters of interest to our local community including, but not restricted to, recently received planning applications.

The current membership of your parish council is as follows: Cllr Bob Warwick (Chair), Cllr Sarah Rankine (Vice Chair), Cllr Rebecca Brown, Cllr Dave Fletcher, Cllr Bob Pain. The council is ably supported by a part-time clerk - Phil Woodward.

### **CPR and Defibrillator Training Course**

In November 2021, the parish council hosted a short training session in the village hall on how to provide immediate help to someone suffering from cardiac arrest. We are very pleased to announce that this training session will be rerun in the same format on **Saturday, 20th April, 2024 in the village hall, 10am - 12 noon**. The session will involve the showing of several short videos from the British Heart Foundation followed by some hands-on practical demonstrations. Expert advice will be provided by our very own Phil King. As you may remember, in January this year, a man suffered a cardiac arrest at the Bell but survived thanks to those around him who were able to perform CPR and use the defibrillator to restart his heart. Could you provide such help in such an emergency? If not, why not come along to the training course.

### **Roundels and Dragons Teeth**

From time to time the parish council hears concerns about both speeding vehicles and parking congestion in some village locations. Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions here. One recent development in relation to speeding has been the painting of roundels (circles with the speed limit inside) and dragon's teeth (jagged-edge markings at the side of the road) on the three approach roads to the village. At first Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Highways wanted to charge the parish council £3500 for this service, but happily they eventually relented and found some spare LCC Highways end-of-year cash!

### **Biodiversity Duty**

Government guidance issued in May 2023 suggested that councils (including parish councils) would have a new duty to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. In that context, one of the initiatives we are pursuing is the restoration and sustainable maintenance of natural ponds in the parish. One such pond is located in the Glebe field to the north-west of St Andrew's Church. Our ambition is to completely restore the pond and its immediate surroundings, so as to encourage the full range of biodiversity associated with natural ponds. In addition, we would hope to create a safe, accessible space for quiet public enjoyment. Although the scale of the project is such that we envisage the need to employ an expert contractor to do much of the initial restorative work (including possibly dredging the pond and clearing much of the surrounding vegetation), in the longer term we would hope to engage the local community, particularly the younger generation, in the upkeep of this village asset. Unfortunately progress on this project has stalled whilst we await permission to proceed from the church authorities, who own the field. That said we do know that Lyndon Farms of Fleckney, who lease the field, are keen on this project.

In the meantime, we would be very happy to hear of any other ideas or proposals from local residents on the theme of promoting biodiversity.

### **WhatsApp Groups Update.**

The Parish Council administers two WhatsApp groups with somewhat different functions. The *Burton Overy Noticeboard* is used to circulate details of forthcoming parish council meetings and occasional information

bulletins from HDC or LCC. The *Village Forum*, on the other hand, provides residents with a channel for discussing matters of local interest and for informal social contact. As a reminder we do not allow the buying and selling of items or services on the *Village Forum* chat group. Currently there are 107 participants in the *Village Forum Group* and 97 in the *Burton Overy Noticeboard Group*. These groups provide a very good way of keeping in touch with what is going on in the village. If you would like to join either or both of these groups, please contact the parish clerk at [clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk)

### **Revision of the Burton Overy Neighbourhood Plan**

Back in January 2019, following a local referendum, HDC approved the first-ever Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for the Parish of Burton Overy. As well as containing a wealth of information about the village and its environs, the NP has proved to be an important guide, to which the parish council regularly turns, when providing comments to HDC on planning applications. Equally importantly, the policies within the NP form part of the officially recognized framework used by HDC to decide on planning applications. The current NP can be viewed on the village website at - <https://www.burtonoverypc.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

It is now five years since the original NP was "made" and, following an in-house review, the parish council has decided that a fairly major revision of the NP should be undertaken. To that end, in late 2023, the parish council applied to *Locality*, the relevant government organisation, for grant aid for this purpose. Following the successful outcome of that application, we are pleased to report that the local consultancy, *Yourlocale Ltd*, will again be supporting the parish council through the various stages of the NP revision. In parallel the parish council has also been successful in its application for central funding for a *Design Code Study* and an up-to-date *Housing Needs Assessment* pertaining specifically to the village of Burton Overy. These studies are currently being progressed by *AeCom*, a specialist national (and international) consultancy organisation. When available the conclusions of these studies will feed into the revised NP.

The involvement of members of the local community will be key for the successful revision of the NP. Given that this time round we are starting from an existing substantial document, namely the current NP, rather than from scratch, the parish council has taken the view that the best approach is for the community to be invited to comment once the majority of the proposed revisions of the NP are available in a draft form. To that end, the parish council is proposing to hold **a community meeting in the village hall on a Saturday morning sometime in May/June** (date to be announced). At that stage a draft set of revised policies will be available for comment and scrutiny.

A key strategic decision in the revision of the NP is whether there should be any alteration to the Limits to Development defined in the current NP (see Policy S1 and Fig 3 of the existing NP). In this context, the need for new housing is clearly a hugely important issue both locally and nationally and over the next decade Burton Overy may not remain immune from new housing pressures. The parish council is currently adopting the "holding position" that there should be no change in the Limits to Development. However, at the proposed meeting we will be seeking the community view on this matter and asking: "What sites, if any, outside of the existing development boundary might be considered for housing development and on what scale?"

If you would like to find out more about any of the above, you can either speak directly to one of the parish councillors, email ([clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@burtonoverypc.org.uk)) or telephone (07827797125) the parish clerk or come to a parish council meeting.