

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Government legislation was introduced with the aim of enabling communities to have a direct input into the town planning of their neighbourhoods, by producing Neighbourhood Plans for inclusion in the Local Authority's Local Development Plan.

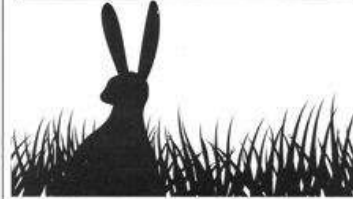
We established a Neighbourhood Plan Group in March 2012 with the aim of producing a NP for Aberford. Initially the main emphasis was to look at housing, as several sites around the village had been put forward for consideration under the LCC Strategic Housing Land Area Assessment document. We were keen to consult residents on their views on housing development in Aberford and the new NPs provided an officially recognised way to do so. In 2013 consultation commenced with a questionnaire and a consultation event and it became apparent that other planning matters were of concern to residents, additional to housing allocations. The SHLA Document had progressed by this point and the greenbelt sites that had been put forward in Aberford were not allocated for housing in the current LCC plan. The sites are all outside of the village current development limits, in the greenbelt and as

such their development would go against planning policy. Aberford is classed as 'rural' by the LCC plan and has no particular housing target allocated to it.

Having analysed the initial consultation feedback and gathered a good deal of evidence concerning existing demographics, services and facilities, the NP group are now in a position to put forward a draft plan for discussion. Its aim is to draw out further comments and suggestions from the parish to ensure that we have fully considered and understood the breadth of opinions put forward in the initial consultations. These comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the Final Plan document which will contain all the supporting documentation.

Following this consultation, the draft plan will be amended as appropriate with policies formalised and put forward for 6-week public consultation. After any further modification, the Final Plan will then be sent for independent inspection to ensure that it complies with our legal planning obligations and is not contrary to the LCC Local Development Plan. Its adoption as Local Plan policy will then be put to a referendum by the people of Aberford.

SPRING 2015



ELECTIONS

Now is your chance to come forward to take a turn on the Parish Council. Elections will be held in May but, for over 20+ years, there has never been a contested election.

In practice what this means is that the current Councillors, should they decide to continue, are returned unopposed. There are 11 vacancies with just 8 Councillors at the present time. The Parish Council is non-political and, with an average Councillor age of around 65, it is not clear what the future holds without younger residents coming forward. Councillors get involved in all sorts of matters: planning, highways, cleansing, school, oversight of parish facilities, to name a few. Cllrs also attend Ward meetings of various kinds where matters of mutual interest to all the PCs in our Ward are discussed. We are represented on the Village Hall Committee, Town & Parish Council Forum, and there are other meetings, such as liaison with the Wind Turbine company, which are held from time to time. Much unseen work goes on in the parish by Councillors and it would be good to have more members to help.

LeedsFest Tickets

Leeds Fest 2015 is on this year from 28-30 August 2015.

The Parish Council has 54 weekend tickets available at a reduced price of £40 each (a saving of £165) for **Aberford & District PC residents only**. Application forms are available from the village shop and by clicking on the link

www.aberfordonline.com

Hurry though as the closing date for applications is **Friday 13 March 2015**. As in previous years, if the tickets are over-subscribed, they will be allocated by way of a draw.

IMPORTANT: If you're not on the electoral roll and win a ticket, you will have to prove you're resident in the village by letting the Parish Council see one of the **original** documents on the list which can be seen on the website above. All documents must show your name and address.

LEEDS >>
2015



CONTACT US

A reminder that our website address is

www.aberfordonline.com

and our Clerk is Ms Julie Sou

who can be contacted by telephone on **07719 797072**

and by email at

jsou.aberford@outlook.com.

Accidents

Accidents On B1217

We have had on-site meetings with LCC Highways Officers and many exchanges of email about the number of vehicles failing to get around the bend!

The 'Estate' is heartily sick of having to rebuild the old stone wall. We asked that any measures which Highways can design should be brought in a.s.a.p. but are in the hands of the 'expenditure restricted'

Highways Dept. However, by the time you receive this Newsletter a lower speed limit may be in force along the Aberford/Garforth road. This was originally only to stay during the time of the major works on the Wind Turbines. We have asked that this lower limit of 40mph be maintained for the future to try to lower the risk to drivers and passengers.

Accidents in Main Street Near the School



There have been one or two accidents in this area. In two cases a vehicle ran into the railings on the footpath outside the Church and this could have had terrible consequences for anyone walking.

Our mums and children use it twice a day! Another incident resulted in damage to vehicles parked outside the old Post Office. There are flashing School warning signs at school times but we will see what

other measure can be taken. Some suggestions are for a 20mph limit for the stretch from the junction of Cattle Lane/Main Street to around the junction of Backside Estate/Main Street. Please can all residents think carefully about parking in this very congested area, especially when our children are going to and from School. Any traffic calming measures we can bring in will rely on drivers obeying them of course.

Speed Signs/Safety Road Markings

After long negotiations with our Insurers and with LCC Departments, we are finally getting the replacement signs installed. These will be powered from the nearest lamppost so there will be no risk of solar panels being stolen! The road markings we have been promised, particularly outside Priory Park, are on the LCC Highways' list of painting to be done but, as usual, we are in their hands.

Wind Turbines

Preliminary work on the site has meant the diversion of a footpath to Lotherton Hall and Micklefield. Access is still possible via the footpath diversion. The turbines themselves are most likely to be erected towards the end of this year. We will be working closely with all parties to minimise any disruption and traffic movements will not be through the village. Banks Renewables have said that our school children may be able to watch at certain times possibly to see the work progressing, and when the turbines are fully installed, and liaison meetings are held regularly with Banks, Micklefield PC, Highways etc.



Bits & Bobs



Walks Leaflets

When the better weather returns (we hope), then why not purchase a set of leaflets. For just £2 per set of 10, with proceeds to school, then you can explore the many footpaths around the village. You can make your own route when you become familiar with

them as many suggested walks can be combined in different ways.

Email: ruthpi1412@hotmail.com for how to get a set. The two Hazlewood Castle walks have recently been amended so ask for an updated copy if you already have a set.

Village Hall

The last planning application, involving the building of some houses on land to the rear of the Village Hall, was rejected by the LCC Planning Committee. There may be an Appeal but the Hall does need very major refurbishment, although structurally sound. It is now (with the closure of the Methodist Church) the only building in the village which has

a room capable of hosting large events. Whilst the School has a large hall, there are many 'hoops to jump through' to hire it and it is only available out of school hours. **If you wish to hire the hall then the contact is David Gluck on 0113 2812522/07905 7666831. Queries can be directed to: www.AVHall@outlook.com.**



Dog Fouling

Thanks to all our responsible dog owners who use the bins – very liberally!

We will look at getting some bigger and/or lidded bins in some places where they do get well used. Our campaign of marking fouling with soluble yellow paint will be ongoing. This does help everyone to avoid the mess and hopefully encourages clearing up too.

Broadband Information

Virgin Media have announced they are investing £3 billion to extend their fibre network. It is a new initiative to invite the public to drive where Virgin Media actually lay the new cables. While we now have OpenReach in the village, it could be beneficial to residents if they had more choice when making their broadband, mobile, TV and phone provider decisions. You may wish to look at this link: www.KeepupVirginMedia.com/cablemystreet which has a form, on which you enter your name, postcode and email address, and this information will be used by Virgin Media to identify areas of demand, so that they can deliver their cable to areas of high demand. So if lots of Aberford residents complete the form at the end of the link, then the village may get a slice of that £3 billion spend on cable, giving more choice for residents.

Aberford School



Did you know that our school will be 300yrs old next year?

Mrs Piper intends to update the information she published in 2008, possibly with an 'ebook' this time. It will be sold with profits going to school funds. Very few schools exist today which were founded so long ago and which have continued to thrive over all that time, on the same site. It is likely that no other primary school in the Country has a connection to one of the finest Universities in the world – Oxford Oriol College. What celebrations would be appropriate to mark

the occasion? Get your thinking caps on! Our school is thriving and continues to be very nearly at full pupil capacity.



Our Pubs

The Swan Hotel: the property has been purchased by a private buyer. It is believed that planning permission will be sought to convert it into dwellings. As with all planning applications, everyone will be able to comment to the Planners so watch for the notices if plans are submitted, as these will be posted close to the property. The buildings are 'Listed' and are within the Conservation Area.

The Royal Oak: as this Newsletter goes out, the pub is closed. Planning permission has been granted for change of use to a residential dwelling. Any plans for detailed development into a private dwelling will come before the LCC Planning Officer and, as with the Swan Hotel, everyone will be able to comment. The building is again within the Conservation Area and edges onto Green Belt.

The Arabian Horse: this seems to be a thriving pub and we are told there will be no major changes in the short-term. Andy and Sarah were good friends of the village and PC and they took part in and helped many village Events. We hope the new tenants will continue the tradition and that they will get the support of everyone – use it, or lose it.

Aberford Almshouse Trust

Did you know that Aberford still has a functioning Almshouse?

The Aberford Almshouses Trust now operates from Parlinton House in Beech View. The Almshouses were established by the Gascoigne family in 1844 to provide accommodation for farm workers and poor people of the area. The original Almshouses (Priory Park) were sold to the City Council in 1976 and a piece of land in Beech View was purchased where the Almshouses are now based, providing 28 flats for independent living. The Almshouse Board of Trustees is looking for new members. A Manager living on site takes care of day to

day management of the Almshouses but Trustees have a very important role to play in providing strategy, guidance and ensuring good governance. Trustees must be at least 18 years of age and act in the best interest of the charity. The role is voluntary and meetings take place every couple of months at Parlinton House.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustees please contact Michael Oakes at Parlinton House, Beech View, Aberford, LS25 3BX or phone 0773 801 3372

Jubilee Field

Work has been completed for the medium term. If you have not been to look since last year then you will find there are now two Table Tennis tables and two Picnic Benches with seats, together with pitch and nets for 5-a-Side Football. We hope the footballers will use the pitch and not the courts and that the

rubbish bins provided are actually used. Our ability to keep this great facility in good order does depend a lot on sensible and good-neighbourly usage by everyone. With the Bowling Green being adjacent, then we have a great facility for a village of our size.

War Memorial

The PC would like to hear from people who live in Aberford if they have any thoughts about the village commemorating the centenary of WW1 and for the future WW2. The children at the village school have already received a commemorative WW1 coin funded by the Parish Council and a Parish Councillor. It might be the flower bed in front of the war memorial is enhanced, maybe an extra inscription is put on the memorial. It might be something is put in the Church to mark the centenary. We would really like to hear **YOUR VIEWS**, it could be you feel we don't need to do anything special. Money has recently been spent on the war memorial making sure the names on it are kept in good order and the stonework has been cleaned and vegetation cut back. Any thoughts and views please contact Councillor Jacqueline Jeffrey via the Parish Council website.