

# Grandborough Parish Council Newsletter

June 2016

## Housing Survey

Thank you to those who returned their Housing Needs Survey in March.

We distributed 162 survey forms and 60 were returned, giving a return rate of 37%.

Responses showed the following distribution by number of bedrooms: 1bed:2; 2bed:7; 3bed:14; 4bed:27; 5 or+bed:10.

There were 57 replies from people who felt that they were adequately housed at present: 5 respondents stated that they are in housing need in the next 5 years

One of the fundamental questions in the survey is that which asks whether people are in favour of a small scheme of affordable homes in the village for local people.

There were 47% of respondents in favour of an affordable housing scheme for local people and who would support such development while 35% said that they are not in favour: 12% of respondents were not sure at this stage.

Midlands Rural Housing, who analysed the returns concluded that "there was a need in the next 5 years for 2 open market (sale) homes and 1 affordable home for local people enabling them to be suitably housed within the community."

"The housing needs that have been identified along with the potential ways to meet them, if desired and necessary, will be explored further by Rugby Borough Council and Midlands Rural Housing in consultation with the Parish Council and the local community."

## Flood Action Group

Since May we have cleaned out a number of ditches along Sawbridge Road, and we are grateful for the work of those property owners who have cleared their ditches. Warwickshire County Council have jetted out their culverts and storm pipes in the same area. However every downpour results in more silting, so the maintenance is never ending.

The surveying of depths near the Old Vicarage has been carried out, and we now need to provide appropriate signage. The sand bin is in position at the rear of The Shoulder of Mutton, and will have sand and bags shortly. Please note that empty sandbags are available from Kay Worrall or Rod Hastie.

We would also like to thank all those who donned macs and wellies to help manage traffic and assist lost motorists during the flooding on March 9th.

The events of March 9<sup>th</sup> underlined the need for further action to minimise flooding, and to manage traffic through the village at such times. We have spent a large part of the year chasing Severn Trent and Warwickshire CC for action on the culverts along Sawbridge Road. We have simultaneously been pressing the Pathfinder team for a second multi agency meeting. This was eventually held on 12th May. Unfortunately Severn Trent did not attend. We have asked the organiser to obtain a written commentary from Severn Trent covering all issues on the agenda pertinent to them, as soon as possible.

## Flood Action Group (cont'd)

Warwickshire County Council representatives were present and outlined their activity since the previous meeting, and we then discussed issues arising from the March 9th flooding and other outstanding issues. WCC agreed to give further consideration to supplying assistance in traffic management during flooding, and to seek further information on disputed ditch ownership within the parish. A further meeting is scheduled for September.

## Chairman's Annual Report 2015- 2016

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners was held on 3rd May. The main points of the Chairman's report are below:

### Flooding

See above

### Lengthsman

The WCC Lengthsman scheme is now entering its second year, and the improvement in road and path maintenance is noticeable. The work has included digging out blocked gulleys and verge grips, cleaning signs, clearing vegetation around signs, weed spraying path edges and kerbs, and so on. The WCC funding runs for two years; we will need to decide if we wish to continue funding this provision from Parish funds next year.

### Minor works

We placed bollards in the verge opposite the Village Hall, set two bench seats in the Open Space behind the Village Hall, and will shortly set a seat in Aikman Green.

### War Memorial

Plans to replace eroded lettering on the War Memorial with cast plaques have been dropped in the light of expert opinion. We are exploring other ways of making good the lettering.

### Council Meetings

2015 was an election year. It is a shame that only three candidates stood for election (for five vacancies), however it is pleasing to report that we were able to co-opt two very suitable parishioners to fill the vacancies.

The Council met on six occasions for its normal bi-monthly meetings. Additional meetings have been called to deal with planning applications, audit procedures and tenders for contracts. A number of planning applications received between scheduled meetings were dealt with by using e-mail and the Rugby Borough Council Planning Portal.

Representatives of the Council have attended meetings of the Rugby Area Committee of Local Councils and the Dunchurch Division Locality Panel, and a number of consultation meetings with Rugby Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council. Public attendance at Parish Council meetings is usually small. We would encourage all electors to come along and observe your elected representatives in meetings. There is always an opportunity to raise any matter of concern at these meetings.

(cont'd over)

## Chairmans Report (cont'd)

### Finance

Expenditure in 2015 - 2016 was £9880 (un-audited accounts). The budget for next year is based on expenditure of £8030. The Precept (our element of Council tax) remains unchanged from the previous year.

### Management of Assets

The new grass mowing contractor performed well, and the contract was renewed for this year. We continue to receive a sum from Rugby Borough Council in return for arranging the mowing of certain areas previously undertaken by the Borough Council. The Council is grateful to all residents who are able to tend the verges bounding their property. This helps to keep down the cost of mowing left to be done by the Parish Council, and thus helps minimise the Parish Rate

We are very grateful for the contribution made by those villagers who plant and maintain the planters. I know they would welcome extra help if you are interested.

We are also grateful for the efforts of those villagers who took part in the recent litter pick, and for the year round efforts of a couple of parishioners who regularly litter pick as they walk the parish roads.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their contributions this year. Finally, finally a special thank you to Kay, our clerk, who keeps us within the proper procedures, and does all the essential day to day work.

The Parish Council meetings are normally attended by our local Rugby Borough and Warwickshire County Councillors. They provide an update on matters dealt with by 'their' Councils which are of relevance to Grandborough. There is also an opportunity for any parishioner to raise matters of concern with them.

### Parish Plan Review

The first meeting of the working group designing the survey for the five year review of the Parish Plan was held on Tuesday 21st June. If you would like to see the survey cover aspects of parish life of concern or interest to you please contact any member of the Parish Council listed below.

## No 12 Bus service

Please note that the operators of the no. 12 bus service from Rugby to Daventry will be re-routing the service from 6th June, so that it no longer runs along the A45

### Footpaths and Bridleways

Thanks to those landowners who have cleared footpaths and repaired stiles, and a reminder to those who need to do so and/or reinstate footpaths in ploughed or sown fields. Guides to six circular walks around the Parish are available in the Telephone box, The Shoulder of Mutton, and from Chris Bilsborrow. If you have difficulty accessing a footpath, find a broken stile or other problem, please contact Chris Bilsborrow.

### Farmland and Dogs

Dog Owners are reminded that **as from 6th April 2016 all dogs should have been micro-chipped.**

Dog walkers are reminded that they and their dog(s) should keep to the footpaths when crossing farmland; i.e. your dog must be on a lead and kept close to heel.

Despite regular appeals to dog owners there are still plenty of instances of fouling of paths and verges. Dog faeces are poisonous to farm animals. If you are a dog owner you must keep it under control at all times, and must clear up any faeces dropped by your dog. Please be a responsible owner, keep your dog on a lead, and clear up any mess. Dispose of dog mess safely, don't just throw it in a hedge. Dog faeces, in a suitable sealed bag, may be placed in the litter bin adjacent to the bus shelter or the litter bin in Church Road, near the Church.

### Grandborough Trust

Trust Funds exist to help residents of Grandborough Parish with educational bursaries and emergency assistance. If you think you may be eligible for a bursary or assistance, or you know someone who needs assistance please contact Tracy Pawsey 810997 or Michelle Johns 812945. All approaches are dealt with in strict confidence.

### Dates of Parish Council Meetings in 2016

Tuesday 5th July

Tuesday 6th September

Tuesday 1st November

All meetings are held in the Village Hall starting at 7:45pm.

All meetings are open to the public, and there is an opportunity before the meeting starts for any observer to comment on any Parish issue of concern to them.

## Parish Council Contact Details

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