

Parish Council News

The Parish Council meeting took place at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 13 February. At the start all six Parish Councillors and six members of the public were present. Resolutions are contained in the Parish Council minutes which are on our website.

20mph speed limits

In last month's Houghton News report, I explained that the Parish Council was now looking at how certain roads currently not included within the 20 mph speed limit could be brought in line with most other roads.

We have received a comprehensive response from the County Council (LCC).

LCC has confirmed that as part of the original 20mph speed limit scheme implemented in 2022, there is no requirement for developers to include a 20mph speed limit on the new developments as their planning permission was approved prior to the 20mph speed limit scheme.

All newly adopted roads require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to implement the 20mph speed limit.

The cost of any scheme that requires a TRO will cost a minimum of £7,500 which will cover the whole cost of the scheme including the legal public consultation and, if the scheme is successful, the implementation of the road markings/signage. Whilst usually this cost will not be covered by LCC, officers are working on a project in the Harborough area where LCC will be able to include the plans for the 20mph speed limit on the following developments at no cost to the developers, parish or other alternative third party funding.

- Ash Tree Close
- Harris Drive
- Redvers Avenue

LCC is approaching developers to discuss the proposals to implement the 20mph speed limit as the roads are not yet adopted as highway and therefore LCC does not have jurisdiction over them. If the developers are content, then LCC aims for the TRO to be advertised around May/June 2025 at which stage the proposals will go out to public consultation.

Once LCC has a decision for the developers, LCC will inform the Parish Council.

Portable Slow Down Indicator Device

The new device has been installed on Ingarsby Lane and the Parish Council hopes that residents will notice a reduction in vehicles exceeding the 20 mph speed limit.

Bench seats

The Parish Council maintains eight seats which it inspects periodically to assess whether any maintenance work/painting is required. For some reason the one situated on St. Catharine's Way close to its junction with Linwal Avenue has fared worse than the others. Consequently, a one-off re-paint will take place when the weather improves.

Planning Applications

Planning application: **24/01060/FUL**

Decision issued date: 16 January 2025

Proposal: Change of Use of Car Sales; Showroom and MOT Garage to Part Car Sales (Retrospective) and Part Car Wash (Sui Generis Uses); Erection of canopies and blockwork boundary wall (revised scheme of 24/00240/FUL)

Sunnybrae Garage

67 Uppingham Road

Houghton on the Hill

Decision: Application Refused

Planning application: **24/01464/FUL**

Decision issued date: 14 January 2025

Proposal: Conversion of roof space to habitable accommodation, installation of two dormer windows to the front elevation, installation of roof lights to front and rear elevations, erection of a single storey front porch

5 Uppingham Road

Houghton on the Hill

Decision: Application Permitted

Planning application: **24/01497/CLU**

Decision issued date: 16 January 2025

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness of proposed development for a single storey rear extension to create new garden room

14 Firs Road

Houghton on the Hill

Decision: Application Refused

Planning application: **24/01391/FUL**

Decision issued date: 31 January 2025

Proposal: Installation of gates and boundary wall

Homelands

Uppingham Road

Houghton on the Hill

Decision: Application Permitted

Planning application: **25/00061/PCD**

Decision issued date: 31 January 2025

Proposal: Discharge of condition 4 (CEMP) of 22/01276/FUL

Houghton Playing Fields Association

Weir Lane

Houghton on the Hill

Decision: Application Permitted

Harborough District Local Plan

The Local Plan guides decisions on future development proposals and addresses the needs and opportunities of the area. Topics that Local Plans usually cover include housing, employment and retail and they also identify where development should take place and areas where development should be restricted.

Harborough District Council confirmed that it has published its draft local plan on 12 February 2025 as part of the papers to be considered at the HDC Cabinet meeting on 20th February. If Cabinet approves the draft local plan, then it will go to full Council on 3 March. If Council agrees, the draft local plan will then move to a public consultation in March 2025.

The council has also announced that it plans to extend its public consultation on the draft plan beyond the six-week statutory minimum to an eight-week period to give local residents, businesses and local groups plenty of time to read and respond to the draft plan.

The Government announced its response to the recent National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation before Christmas 2024. As Harborough District Council was at an advanced stage with its draft local plan, the council has been able to continue with its plan-making under the old NPPF and previous (lower) housing numbers.

Can you spare some time to support Neighbourhood Watch in Leicestershire?

Neighbourhood Watch Associations are a support base for volunteers, members and supporters in your policing force area and have asked the Parish Council to promote their message:

‘As a valued member, supporter, or volunteer of Neighbourhood Watch, we are reaching out to invite you to play a pivotal role in helping us to establish a new Neighbourhood Watch Association in your local area. Currently, there is no association in place, and we believe this is a crucial step to support the ongoing work of Neighbourhood Watch, strengthen the connections within our community, and empower our volunteers.

We are looking for passionate individuals to help lay the foundation of this vital association, ensuring it serves as a resource for members and volunteers alike while also fostering stronger ties with local partners.

If you’re interested in volunteering to help set up the association, we would love to hear from you. Your experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to our shared cause will make a significant difference. Together, we can build a strong support structure for Neighbourhood Watch in your area and further the work of this incredible community-driven initiative.

Please contact us at volunteer@ourwatch.org.uk to express your interest or if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to make this vision a reality!

Thank you for your continued support of Neighbourhood Watch.’

Cheryl Spruce
Head of Membership and Community Engagement
Neighbourhood Watch Network

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the **Methodist Church Schoolroom** on **Thursday 13 March 2025 at 7.00 p.m.**

Steve Derry
Clerk to the Parish Council

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