

Parish Focus is brought to you by North Claines Parish Council



PARISH FOCUS

Summer 2019

*Special
Edition*



NORTH CLAINES PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting dates for 2019

June 17th • July 1st • August NO MEETING

September 2nd • October 7th • November 4th

*All meetings begin at 7.30pm and are held in the
Baptist Church, O'Keys Lane, Fernhill Heath*

Your Councillors



Meg Farmer
Chairman



Andy McManus



Margaret Drinkwater



Bob Hollis

Councillors not pictured
John Carter & Peter Phillips

Chairman's Speech – May 2019

I would like to start by extending a warm welcome to all the new residents who have moved into North Claines this past year and hope you will enjoy living in our beautiful area.

As I sat down to write this and thought back over the past year, so many things came into my mind, and I realised firstly, how privileged I am to live within and serve the parish of North Claines. It is a really great community, and I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contact the Council, whether it has been directly face to face, by phone, email or attending one of the Parish Council meetings. We do welcome people to come to the parish meetings, which are held monthly, and there is always an opportunity to ask questions. The agenda for each meeting is displayed on the parish notice boards as well as on the superb and informative new look website, which will be launched very shortly.

As always, one of our largest areas of budget responsibility is for maintenance right across the whole parish. The team at Top Cut, keep the area in good condition and well maintained. Following the incident of a taxi going through the perimeter fence onto the Brum, a large expense at the beginning of the year was the total replacement of the rather old fencing along the Brum on the A38 side. There had been proposed plans for 2019 to upgrade the Brum and other small open space areas in the parish, but this has been put on hold due to the prospective exciting purchase of the land at Sandy way.

The Parish Council has been pleased to support the various events which have now become annual events - Bunnies, Fun and Christmas on the Brum. Alongside these there are Open gardens and the Scarecrow competition. At all of these events there has been a real feeling of good community spirit, generosity and support.

I would like to thank all of our councillors who voluntarily give up their time to attend various meetings and work very hard behind the scenes so that our community can continue to function and flourish. We are very fortunate to have an excellent parish clerk - Clare Shinner - who works extremely hard to ensure that everything gets done. We are also grateful to District Councillor Tony Miller for his advice, insight and support. At our May meeting, we were pleased to be able to welcome District Councillor Nicolas Wright and look forward to working with him and Tony in the future.

This past year has been a busy year for the parish council and as we move forward into the next twelve months, it is also an exciting time for everyone. Please take the time to read the rest of this booklet, and we would welcome any comments.



Cllr Timothy Butler

Thank you to the people of the Lovett and North Claines Ward for voting for me at the recent District Council elections.

Although I have lived in Worcestershire since 1971 and latterly at Cutnall Green, I look forward to finding my way around all the different parts of the district. I am Clerk to my local Parish Council which has given me the opportunity of getting involved with planning applications, grants, finance and other matters relating to a small rural parish and I have enjoyed working with everyone to improve the village amenities. However, this is my first venture into contributing more directly to the area as a whole and I am looking forward, together with Tony Miller, to represent all the people of North Claines, working with residents, businesses and community groups. **Nicolas Wright**

Land purchase by the Parish Council for use by the public

North Claines Parish Council are proposing to buy two plots of land adjacent to Fernhill Heath for use as a football pitch /public open space/play area/nature reserve for public use. The purchase would also protect the area against future housing development.

The Council would welcome your views on this potential purchase and your views on what should be done with the space, as nothing has been agreed at this stage.

The land is large enough to accommodate a pitch of some type and other facilities including a nature reserve and public open space or park. The final decision will be based on public consultation.

The land is to be known as Sandy Way and is on the A38 on your right as you drive from the Droitwich end of the Parish.

This land is currently in private ownership and is in agricultural use. According to a plan provided by the land agents - the land is split into two parcels divided by a hedgerow. The western parcel is 8.36ha and the eastern parcel is 7.16ha (total of 15.52ha)

The Parish Council believes that this proposed purchase offers a one off opportunity to purchase land within the parish that is accessible to the parishioners either by pedestrian access or car or bus. (The nearest bus stop is adjacent to the Cedars supported living housing on the A38 which is some 350m to the west from the first access point into the site)

The Parish Councils reasons for this land purchase;

There are a limited number of outdoor community facilities open to the public within the Parish:

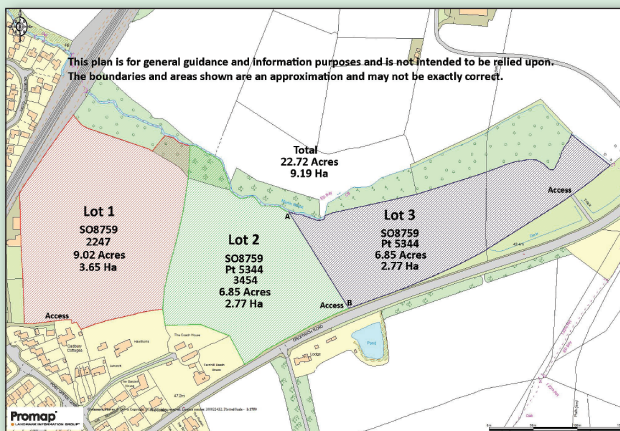
- *the Brum includes an equipped children's play area and open space*
- *Agatha Gardens green space*
- *Teasal Way green space*

There are three new open spaces to be provided as part of new development in the Parish:

1. *'The Shires' on Dilmore Lane (which is currently being developed by Taylor Wimpey)*
2. *Worcestershire Hunt Kennels, Kennels Lane (planning permission granted following an appeal)*
3. *Sling Lane/Old Drive housing allocation (planning permission has been granted subject to a 106 agreement).*

However, neither the existing green spaces nor those being provided as part of new development proposals are large enough or suitable to accommodate a playing pitch or other large area for recreational use.

The land is designated within the Green Belt. This places restrictions on the type of development that would be considered acceptable. The Parish Council have been advised that a football pitch and associated changing rooms on part of the land would be considered acceptable, although It is noted that both sites will require some form of ground works to establish a playing surface that would be appropriate enough for use as a football pitch.



FINANCE – the parish council intends to pay for this land outright and the money will come from the following sources.

The Parish Council would use a proportion of its reserve monies to purchase this land. Wychavon Parish Council would also provide money that is already allocated to North Claines Parish under section 106 arrangements (£55,445) and a one off donation of £30,000 in addition.

The Parish Council is also seeking to use money available from the Claines Community Charity which was established in 1961 for the purchase of land within the Parish and currently stands at over £33,500.

The Parish Council would also be aiming to use the New Homes Bonus money that is available to the Parish (if approved by Wychavon) £32,853

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

The Parish council have already received professional advice from a planning agent, a surveyor and legal advice from Wychavon and MFG solicitors with regard to the purchase of this land.

TIME LINE

After the purchase, there would be a period of planning and preparation whilst seeking out financial grants for the provision of a football pitch or other facilities as requested by Parishioners. During this time, the land would be seeded and the boundaries made secure and would be open for the public to enjoy.

Once additional funds have been identified then there will be a period of preparation, design and consultation with the Parish and then the final stages of construction, completion and ongoing maintenance.

CONSULTATION

The Parish Council welcomes all comments on this land purchase and associated use thereafter. This land is to be for the benefit of parishioners and will be protected legally as such. The Parish Council welcomes parishioners to its meetings to discuss this matter and looks forward to hearing your views. The first consultation will be for the purchase of the land and further consultations on the use of the land will be advertised in the Parish Focus magazines.

Please email the Clerk on clerk@northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk or write to the Parish Council at the **Parish Council offices at The Old Library Centre, 65 Ombersley Street, Droitwich, Worcestershire WR9 8QS.**

Summertime is a lovely time of year as gardens come to life with growth and colour. Although summer is welcome, many problems are caused by the rapid growth that happens on bushes, trees and conifers which overhang pavements and roads. Parents with pushchairs and young children, dog walkers, people with wheelchairs and mobility scooters have all often had to go out onto busy roads to get past the overhang and growth which has far extended beyond the garden boundary lines. Please can you ensure that you cut overhang back, so pavements are left clear, road signs are visible and safety is maintained at all times. It is YOUR responsibility to do this. Thank you



**Keep up to date with all the events and news at
www.northclainesparishcouncil.gov.uk**