

Harbury Parish Council News Winter 2022

Welcome to our latest round-up of parish council news.

Planning & Development

The planning application for a solar farm on land at **Eastfields Farm in Deppers Bridge** was granted planning permission on 14 January 2022. The parish council supported this application as did a number of local residents. As well as providing renewable energy, the development will include a new wildflower meadow with public access and will complement the adjacent WWT nature reserve. The parish council is now beginning a discussion with the developers about providing community benefit and any local projects they can help fund or support.

At the time of writing, an application for another solar farm on **land off Middle Road** has just been received and will be considered by the parish council at its meeting on 27 January 2022. The public consultation period for this application ends on 11 February 2022, so if you have any comments to make, please ensure you submit them to SDC before this date.

The district councils of Stratford and Warwick have decided to work together to produce a new **South Warwickshire Local Plan**. This will take several years to prepare but when completed, will provide the planning policy for all future building and development in this area for the next 30 years. Work began last year with a 'call for sites' consultation during May and June 2021. This is when developers and landowners have the opportunity to put forward areas of land which they think would be suitable for development. The councils have now collated all the proposals and have published a map showing their location. The map is available to view on SDC's website and shows several sites which have been proposed in and around Harbury. Please note that publication of the map is in no way an endorsement by either district council that the site is either suitable for development or will be included within the Local Plan itself. These sites have not yet been analysed and as such it is unlikely that all sites will be taken forward as the plan progresses. In due course, there will be a public consultation on the suitability of sites and at that point local residents, along with the parish council, will have an opportunity to make their views known.

Budget 2022/23

The council begins drafting its budget for the new financial year during December and January. The final draft is approved at the January council meeting. At the time of writing, this meeting has not yet taken place but we anticipate that the precept, which is the amount raised from your council tax, will be a total of £119,677 which equates to £99.58 per annum per household for a Band D rate. This represents an increase of just 0.42% on the current year. A more detailed summary of the budget will be published following the formal approval by the council.



Playing Field Drainage

The drainage works were carried out before Christmas. Although the far end of the field still floods, we hope that water is draining away much more quickly but we are continuing to monitor the situation.

Village Tree Planting

Local resident, Paul Quinney, has volunteered to take the lead on this project. Please look out for more information over the next few weeks.

Bush Heath Road/Butt Lane Traffic

We recently met with WCC Highways and members of the residents' action group to discuss the forthcoming feasibility study which the parish council has commissioned. The study will consider suitable traffic calming measures for this stretch of road and give an indication of likely costs. WCC stressed that they are unable to fund any traffic calming themselves so if we decided that we wanted to take it forward, we would have to raise the money ourselves. WCC agreed to look at amendments to the speed limits, better signage and also physical installations.

Considerate Parking

Please always consider other people when you are parking. Never park across a drive or entrance, and look out for dropped kerbs, some of which have been installed to make access easier for people with mobility problems. Some village roads are very narrow so please ensure that there is still enough space for traffic to pass by while your vehicle is parked. Please remember that your "just five minutes" can cause someone else to miss an important appointment or be late for picking up a child or elderly relative.

Allotments – Well-being Project

Last summer, one of our keen allotment holders came up with the idea of making a plot available for anyone who would like to try growing their own fruit and veg and at the same time, would benefit from being outdoors and meeting other people. The council agreed to set aside a plot for this project, and we have recently applied for some grant funding so we can build raised beds, put in some paths, and build a shelter where people can sit down and enjoy a chat with others. This project is still in its early stages, but we think it will be very beneficial for people who can't manage a garden or allotment of their own or would just enjoy spending some time outdoors and the chance to mix with other people. If you would be interested in helping with this, please get in touch.

New AED for Deppers Bridge

The council has recently bought an AED to be installed at the old phone box in Deppers Bridge. It is currently on order and when it arrives we will arrange for it to be fitted as soon as possible.

Christmas & Winter Lights

We are very grateful to everyone who helped put up the lights and to those who have provided a power supply. We've received lots of compliments from complete strangers who just happened to be driving through Harbury and they took the time to contact the parish council and say how much they enjoyed the display. Well done everybody!

Councillor Changes

In October we said goodbye to Stacey Boyd. Stacey had only joined us in May last year but she quickly got involved so we were sad to lose her so soon, but she has moved away from the village. Fortunately, we were able to welcome Jess Dominick who was co-opted to the council at the November meeting. Jess is a lifelong Harbury resident and leads the Harbury Environmental Group which she set up last year via Facebook. Jess has joined the council's properties group (you might see her out and about inspecting the play equipment!) and the new climate working party.

Just when we thought we had a full house again, Chris Gibb resigned just before Christmas having been offered a new job in Scotland. Chris had been with us for 7 years and during that time he very successfully led the project team for the WW1 Centenary Trail and chaired the council's environment group. We are very sorry indeed to see him go but wish him all the very best in his new role and hope to occasionally see him in Harbury. We will be co-opting someone to fill this vacancy at our January meeting.

Contacting the Parish Council

The office is usually open between 10.00am and 12 noon Monday to Thursday. Tel 01926 614646 or clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk Casual callers are welcome, but if you are making a special trip, please phone first to make sure the parish clerk is available to see you, just in case she has another appointment or has had to go out somewhere.