

Sharnbrook Parish Council

Newsletter

November 2023

Vacancies on the Parish Council

There are currently three vacancies on the Parish Council! If you have always thought you could do something to support your community, please do consider it seriously now! We need your help with the many and various projects coming up, and training is provided! Please contact the Clerk if you are interested!



Help make Positive Changes and Shape the future of our local community!

Newsletter Deliverers wanted!

If you are a new resident of The Oaks, Yelnow Lane (Far Wallis and Antonie Close), and could spare an hour or so several times a year to deliver these newsletters in your area, please let the Clerk know! Thanks in anticipation!

Healthy exercise in the Village

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful village and it's great to go on walks and take in the sights. If you enjoy exercise beyond walking in the village, then you may be interested in assisting us in exploring the case for installing **outdoor gym equipment**. Whether you are an experienced PT and prepared to give input, want to exercise in the great outdoors or just want to be involved with this project, please drop a line to the Sharnbrook Parish Clerk (details overleaf).



Sharnbrook Christmas Fayre

Friday 1st December

3.30- 8pm with Lights switch-on 6pm.



St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival will also be open during the Fayre, as well as on Saturday

Shops open late, seasonal community & craft Stalls; various Seasonal activities.

Temporary Road Closure BBC Highways 4-8 pm: between Home Close and Stileman Way, closing junctions High Street/ Park Lane and Church Lane.

Diversion via A6 through Souldrop Village

Please see the leaflet with this newsletter for full details of the evening and the road closure!

Castle Close Needs You!

Our wonderful Wildlife and Heritage Site needs more volunteers to help keep it tidy and suitable for visitors.

If you fancy getting involved, the work parties meet a few times a month. Equipment provided. Contact George Rowland by email in the first instance. Rowlandgeorge44@gmail.com

Hill Farm Development - Update



We await a revised planning application from the developers who have been asked to make some minor changes to the plan by the Planning Department, principally an alteration to the position of the school site. An application has been made for the development of the former farmhouse, Listed Building and associated outbuildings, which you can see on the weblink below.

You can also keep an eye on the application on the Borough Council website, www.bedford.gov.uk/searchplans and click on Simple Search Tab, type Hill Farm Sharnbrook in the Keyword Search box. If you want to sign up to see the latest information regarding the Hill Farm site, you can find it by visiting the website <https://consultwithyou.co.uk/sharnbrook/hillfarm/home#nav> You can also contact the developers via the site.

Traffic Safety Working Group - UPDATE

Following the traffic survey questionnaires that were sent to residents of Sharnbrook back in the summer of 2022, the 'Traffic Safety Group' within the PC held several meetings to establish, from the completed forms, the most serious areas of concern within Sharnbrook and to prioritise these from "most serious / dangerous" to "least serious/ dangerous". That does not detract from the fact that all areas highlighted give rise to concern but it was felt we needed to prioritise before approaching Bedford Borough Council.

Once this was achieved, we met with the Bedford Borough Council Highways Officer in March and again in July this year and went through the routes in the villages, applying zones to them, and prioritising the areas of concern as above, together with our suggested options for resolution.

The Officer agreed with the work we had done, but the bottom line is that Bedford Borough Council, at that time, had financial constraints, especially for any major expenditure such as raised platforms in the High Street, near the Primary School, or average speed cameras. However, this was to be revisited following the Mayoral election and once the financial priorities had been established.

The Officer did agree to instigate some of the more minor issues or less costly of the actions, such as extending double yellow lines, lorry unloading bays at the Co-Op and NISA, prioritising traffic direction over the 'Sharn Brook' bridge in Park Lane (with priority given to traffic exiting the village). He was hopeful that these items could be implemented before the end of 2023, and definitely before the end of the financial year in March 2024.

To that end, the PC continues to work with Highways to achieve these changes within the time frame given, additionally the PC continues to press Highways regarding the implementation of the more costly actions discussed in the July meeting as the financial situation allows.



Sharnbrook Support Group (SSG)

- Befriending and supporting Sharnbrook Hotel Residents seeking asylum

In early 2023, the Sharnbrook Hotel was given over to accommodate those seeking asylum in the UK. The community were keen to show hospitality and offer support to these newcomers, who have suffered unbelievable trauma and hardship in their flight from war, oppression, and torture. The team at St. Peter's Church took the initiative in co-ordinating this generous support, helping to ensure that our approach was equitable to all residents, regardless of background, colour or creed, and that any and all donations and gifts were specifically targeted to actual expressed needs.

Teams of Befrienders are now engaged with residents, helping with various matters. Expanded details of this post are on the Parish Council website, however, new befrienders are very welcome, so if you would like to be part of this initiative, please make contact using warden@stpeterssharnbrook.church in the first instance.



Get in touch!

Full Council Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month except August, from 7.45pm in the Methodist Church. Park Lane. Amenities Committee Meetings are usually every two months on the third Thursday, with Planning Committee usually monthly on the first Tuesday. All meetings are open to the public. You can contact the Clerk either phone 07988 638054, or WhatsApp or Text.

Sign up to daily emails and keep in touch with what is happening locally. The website is www.sharnbrook-pc.gov.uk, just follow the instructions to subscribe. You can also find us on Facebook (Sharnbrook Parish Council) and Instagram (@sharnbrookpc).