



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2012

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www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk

SHORTAGE OF PARISH COUNCILLORS!

There are still **2 vacancies** on the Parish Council. Councillors are not demons or angels - they are your friends and neighbours and they could do with some support!



Elections for the parish council take place every 4 years; the last one was in May 2011 but as only 5 people submitted nominations while 11 are needed for a full council, the 5 were elected unopposed. An additional 4 councillors have since then been co-opted - leaving 2 spaces.

If you can spare a few hours per month to discuss parish matters including planning applications, events, responses to consultations and many other issues and interesting topics, please consider offering your services. *You will probably find it a lot more interesting than you think!* Contact the Parish Clerk for more info.

SHLAA SITES

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

It is well known that there appears to be a shortage of housing countrywide, and in East Devon it was found that another 17,100 dwellings should be built in the next 15-20 years to address this need. Cranbrook goes some way towards providing this housing (approx 7,500 eventually), but more houses have been deemed necessary.

Thus, over the past few years EDDC have invited landowners in East Devon to suggest sites that might be available for development of housing; a map showing these potential sites can be seen on their website, along with a large table that comments on the suitability, sustainability etc. of each site.

In our parish quite a number of sites have been suggested, but it is important to note that **planning applications have not been submitted and there is no presumption in favour of development.** The exception is the Waterleat site, which is already within the development boundary of Newton Poppleford

and a planning application is currently under consideration at EDDC for 17 houses. NP&HPC have not supported this application.

The recent meeting held in the village hall was a chance for all residents to view the sites and have their say. There was an excellent turnout and many different views were aired. These will be fed back to East Devon District Council and form part of the decision making process.

You can see more information about the sites and the process on the EDDC website www.eastdevon.gov.uk where there is a link under 'Maps' near the bottom of the Home page (labeled Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment); this will take you to the district map. Searching within the website will get you to the table showing the comments about each potential site.

More general info about SHLAA can be found by searching on the net.

EDDC - LOCAL PLAN

The local plan sets out strategic policy for development and development management policies across East Devon. It includes the full suite of policies for the seven main towns of the District. They will be doing further work on planning for the smaller settlements through a separate Village Development Plan Document.

You are invited to submit representations on the 'soundness' of the proposed plan from Friday 16th November 2012 until 12 noon on Monday 14th January 2013.

The proposed document plus associated other documents are available to view and download from the Council's website at:

<http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/localplan>

Paper copies available to read at The Knowle and local libraries.

WINTER PREPARATIONS

- * If you don't have double glazed windows then consider using double glazing film to improve insulation.
- * Buy a bag or 2 of salt/grit to put on your icy path or driveway - don't take it from the grit bins!
- * Check that friends and neighbours are OK, especially if they are older and have difficulty getting out.

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

From next issue onwards the Parish Council Newsletter will be available for **collection from boxes at parish council noticeboards or by email**. Please send an e-mail to this address and we will email future issues of the newsletter to you. **Please note this e-mail address is NOT for correspondence, it is purely so we can send you information.** The e-mail address for newsletters is:
newtonpopplefordcouncilnews@gmail.com

Some areas of the parish will still have newsletters delivered where possible. However if you have difficulty in collecting a newsletter please contact us and we will try to deliver to your address.

Correspondence can still be emailed to the Clerk using the existing email address::
parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank those volunteers who have been out in sun, wind and rain to distribute newsletters since the newsletter started 10 years ago.

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PARISH PLAN 2012 – THANKS!

By now you should all have received your copy of the Parish Plan. Producing the Plan on behalf of the Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council was a lengthy process which took between 2 and 3 years. During this period, all members of the Steering Group gave up many hours of their valuable free time to see this process through, with the support of the Community Council of Devon. All of this work was totally unpaid.

In accordance with the wishes of the members of the Steering Group, their names do not appear on the Plan. However, I should personally like to take the opportunity of thanking all the members of the Steering Group for their continued hard work and support. In no particular order these are Haylor Lass, Shân Merritt and Joce Dyer. Without these people in particular, there would not be a Plan as you see it today.

We should say a big thank you once again to all those who kindly delivered and collected the questionnaires and/or delivered the finished documents.

Now that the people of Newton Poppleford & Harpford have spoken and the Parish Plan is complete, I hope we can all look forward to seeing how the Plan will be incorporated into shaping the future of our Parish.

If anybody didn't receive a copy of the Plan and would like one, please ring me on the number below.

Gill Potter, Chair of Steering Group
(01395) 567147

The Parish Plan Steering Group wish it to be known that in no way have they been associated with the more recent SHLAA process, which is a completely separate issue.

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Newton Poppleford Village Hall News

On the evening of 12th October we were entertained by Tony Beard, the Wag from Widecombe. What a great evening it was too. The first half Tony spoke of the history of Widecombe, with some flint arrowheads and other relics which had been found locally. After a ploughman's supper we were entertained by very funny stories and a song.

We have started with the updating of the kitchen. Along with the kitchen, we are looking to get new curtains made and a fresh lick of paint.

The Hall is now available for hiring on a Monday evening. Anyone who would like to discuss this or would like to become involved with the running of the Hall, please contact David Jeffery on 01395 568897

Barbara Vernon

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ROAD SAFETY

WEAR SOMETHING LIGHT AT NIGHT!

Pedestrians and cyclists are sometimes nearly invisible to the motorist, and dusk arrives early in winter. Do yourself (and everyone else) a favour and make yourself more visible by wearing **light coloured outer clothing** if you walk or ride your bike - especially at night, and carrying a small torch in unlit or poorly lit areas might be helpful (but never shine a torch at a driver!).

Cyclists: Make sure that your rear light is working properly. You might be able to see cars quite easily - but car drivers can't always see the dim outline of a cyclist when driving even at modest speeds.

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NEXT BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS

Ottery St Mary, Football Club: 11/12/12

West Hill Village Hall: 27/12/12

Ring **0300 123 23 23** for appointments.

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As winter sets in it has been time to enjoy the beautiful autumn colour on the trees and kick through the lovely, scrunchy heaps of reds and golds underfoot. The winter birds have arrived from the north and east and all the summer ones have left long ago for warmer countries. One exciting winter visitor, hen harriers, are occasionally to be spotted, and can be identified by their strongly ringed tails. Don't be fooled (as I nearly was) by a particularly big female kestrel. She led us a dance for ages before we got a clear view of her tail. In a sunny patch there are still butterflies and large dragonflies to be seen: red admirals and (a probable) migrant hawkers were spotted by the volunteer workparty on 14th November, but the dragonfly zipped by so fast that the identification was a bit tentative.

Most of the cows are off the reserves now, leaving only a few to over-winter at Blackhill Quarry and on the North part of Aylesbeare Common. The hardier ponies remain: the Dartmoors will be grazing at Venn Ottery Common, while small groups of Exmoors can be found at St Mary-in-the-Willows, Harpford Common and at Black Hill Quarry alongside the cows. They are proving to be excellent at keeping the rank grasses and scrubby species at bay whilst allowing the heather and other specialised heathland plants to grow away. If only someone could provide us with animals which would thrive on bracken!

The work to put up the perimeter fencing continues, and in some areas it has been an opportunity to repair collapsed hedge banks, fill in gaps and coppice over-mature hedging shrubs. There will be a digger on site from 19th November to sort out the slipped earth banks. So, although the work might look like devastation in the short term, the bare earth will soon mellow down, the new shrubs get established and the coppiced ones grow away, and in the long term we will have a much better habitat for the invertebrates, birds and even dormice, plus a much more secure boundary.

Dormouse surveys have just come to an end for this year, having been carried out by trained volunteers who are specially licensed by Natural England to be allowed to handle these rare and threatened little mammals. They live mostly in the hazel coppice, eating nuts and fruit, and hibernate for the winter. These are our native common dormouse, not the edible dormouse (even rarer!) which the Romans used to fatten up in special jars and cook in honey....

Ash die-back has been in the news a lot recently: a nasty tree disease which has arrived in the UK. We have no reason to think there is any on the reserves, and we haven't planted any new ash trees recently, but we will be keeping a sharp eye out, especially when the trees start to come into leaf next spring.

Finally, we can sell you produce from the common in the shape of dry, seasoned firewood and baled hay – contact the reserve office on 01395 233655.

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THANKS FOR THE PLANTS!

A big 'THANK YOU!' to the **Sidmouth Garden Centre** for kindly supplying 450 wall flowers which have been planted in the flower bed by the road at the eastern end of the village.

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

The final draft of a Local Plan for East Devon District Council's next 15 years is now available for inspection and comment. It can be viewed online at www.eastdevon.gov.uk/localplan or, if preferred, a paper copy can be seen at EDDC's offices at Knowle, Sidmouth on Mondays to Fridays 8:30am to 5:00pm. To respond to the Plan, anyone can submit representations by email to localplan@eastdevon.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Policy Section, East Devon District Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL. Replies should arrive before 12 noon on Monday, 14th January, 2013. Any responses received after this deadline will not be published or passed on to the planning inspectorate with the Local Plan.

Newton Poppleford is a wonderful place in which to live and it is attracting a lot of attention from developers who would like to build here. Planning applications are coming in thick and fast and I do recommend you attend monthly Parish Council meetings (please see noticeboards) in order to keep up-to-date with the changing situation.

The proposed move of EDDC's headquarters to Honiton is of great interest and, hopefully, will be resolved soon. I hope the decision will be in everybody's best interests.

Please accept my best wishes for a happy festive season and New Year.

Ken Potter - District Councillor



The Riverside Players
present the Pantomime
Jack and the Beanstalk
 by Alan P Frayn
13th - 16th Feb 2013
at 7.30pm
Saturday Matinée at 2.30pm

Tickets: £7
(Matinée under 16: £3.50)

01395 568897

NEWTON POPPLEFORD VILLAGE HALL

COUNCILLORS AS AT DECEMBER 2012

| Name | Tel. | Address | Ward |
|---|--------------|--|-------------|
| PARISH COUNCILLORS | | | |
| Jean Clarke | 01395 568815 | Thornlea, Exeter Rd, Newton Pop EX10 0BJ | N Pop |
| Maureen Cook | 01395 568348 | 24 Littledown Orchard, Newton Pop EX10 0BQ | N Pop |
| Dave Jeffery | 01395 568897 | Old Orchard, Burrow EX10 0BP | N Pop |
| George Pearce | 01395 568571 | 25 Turner Close, Newton Pop EX10 0EN | N Pop |
| Ed Slattery | 01395 567111 | 7 Down Close, Newton Pop, EX10 0JD | N Pop |
| Bill Phillips | 01395 567786 | 7 Chestnut Way, Newton Poppleford EX10 | Harpford |
| Mark Sanders | 01395 568052 | Luscombe, Back Lane, Newton Pop EX10 0EZ | Harpford |
| Derek Simmonds | 01395 567751 | Westfield, Lower Way, Harpford EX10 0NQ | Harpford |
| Chris Cole - Vice Chair / Chairman pro-tem | 01395 567621 | Court Barn, Southerton EX11 1SE | Venn Ottery |
| <i>(2 Vacancies)</i> | | | |
| County Cllr Christine Channon | 01395 442927 | 12 Cricket Field Court, Cricket Field Lane, Budleigh Salterton | N/A |
| District Cllr Ken Potter | 01395 567147 | Bayford Lodge, Exmouth Road, Newton Pop | N/A |
| Clerk to Council David Atkins | 01395 264003 | Potters, Lympstone Hill, Exmouth EX8 5AF parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk | N/A |
| Local Police Officer Dave Wallace | 08452 777444 | | N/A |
| Website & Newsletter Shân Merritt | 01404 812733 | Venn Ottery Barton, Venn Ottery, EX11 1RZ webmaint@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk | N/A |
| Pavilion David Zirker | | Brookfields, Venn Ottery Rd. | |

The Parish Council meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month, in Newton Poppleford Village Hall at 8.00pm. **From March 2013 meetings might move to the 2nd Monday of each month - check noticeboards/website for details. Correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk to the Council.**