



NEWTON POPPLEFORD & HARPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2013

Available on the website +++ Emailed on request to: newtonpopplefordcouncilnews@gmail.com
Collect your own from boxes on Parish Council Noticeboards.

www.newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk



WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

The works are progressing well, as you can see from the Progress Tracker Reports on the Parish Council website. There have been comments on how helpful the workmen are, and how nice and quiet the village has been.



Don't forget that the local businesses need your support - now more than ever!

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What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

It is a statutory land use based plan which means that it has legal teeth and, once adopted, it will be used by the Local Planning Authority when it comes to the determination of submitted planning applications. It will be considered when dealing with planning appeals and at any public inquiries.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR THE PARISH?

An open meeting to discuss the possibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for this parish was held on 11th November in the Village Hall, and 30 people attended. There was a presentation and overview of the requirements, process and benefits of having a Neighbourhood Plan, followed by discussion between those present.

The parish's wish to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan will be registered with EDDC and grant funding will be applied for. A working group will need to be set up comprising councillors and members of the local community, from which focus groups will be identified and for which champions will be needed. If you are interested in becoming involved, in the first instance please contact David Atkins, the Parish Clerk.

It is hoped that at the next meeting an officer from EDDC can attend, and/or a facilitator to present details of the process, timescales, costs etc. in order to get the project under way.

Towards the end of the meeting a show of hands indicated that there was overall support for the project to go ahead.

Probable Next Steps:

1. David Atkins (Clerk to the Council) will contact EDDC to start the process, and in the meantime will collate relevant information from other participating parishes and groups.
2. A leaflet should be drafted and delivered to all households to solicit support for the project.
3. Follow-up meeting (probably in January 2014) to initiate the project.

Please keep an eye on the Parish Council website for updates.

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NEW BENCHES

The surplus funds raised by the Jubilee Committee were passed to the parish to be used to provide something to commemorate our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. These funds have been used to purchase benches installed in public places, with 3 for the Play Area, 1 next to the bus stop by Back Lane and 1 next to the Exmouth Road roundabout.



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UPDATES FROM EDDC

Local Plan Update

The East Devon Local Plan has been submitted to the Government Inspector. The Inspector will start to examine the Plan in February 2014, which means that the East Devon District Council will not be able to adopt their local plan until autumn 2014. In the meantime the District Council said it is reliant on the National Planning Policy Framework (www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2), where the current East Devon local plan is out of date. The new Local Plan carries little weight at the moment.

Planning Applications

EDDC received 2072 planning applications in the past year, including 81 major applications (more than 100 houses). By April 2014 all householder applications will go paperless. It is not clear what this means for the EDDC in terms of notifying neighbours about housing applications. It will mean that all comments will need to be put into the planning application web system. Parish councils (and other consultees) will be given electronic access to put comments on the web site. To influence decision making on planning issues, EDDC advised people to comment on planning applications, with a focus on planning issues and to develop a neighbourhood plan.

Affordable Housing

Currently 3000 households are waiting for housing in East Devon. Cranbrook has delivered 300 affordable homes in the first phase and the next phase is under negotiation, which will include more affordable homes. EDDC aims to increase its stock of affordable housing by buying property and land. An example of this is in Whimple, where land in Grove Road was used to build 4 open market houses, 2 social rented houses, 3 affordable and 2 shared houses. EDDC

has set out its priorities in the Homes and Communities Plan 2012-16 on the EDDC web site. If there are properties or land that would be suitable for affordable housing this can be flagged up to East Devon District Council.

Devon County Council - Tough Choices

Devon County Council has reduced its budget by over £100 million in the last 4 years, however the Council is still under pressure to reduce its budget by a further £100 million over the next 3 years. The County Council will be consulting on its services including; youth, elderly, libraries, housing, children centres, transport, and getting services delivered by other bodies (including parish councils). This means making hard decisions about what to protect and where savings can be found. Devon County Council are asking people to tell them what the priorities should be by completing a survey online at the website: www.toughchoices.co.uk This survey will close on 20th December 2013.

Hazel Jeffery - Parish Councillor

How would you spend up to £10,000 or more on sport and play in this Parish?

Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council is inviting all Newton Poppleford and Harpford's residents, voluntary and community groups and other organisations to send their ideas to their Parish Council on how £10,000 can be spent on sport/play in the area.

All the funds available have been accumulated by East Devon District Council from recent housing developments in the parish of Newton Poppleford and Harpford (Section 106 money). EDDC have a nationally acclaimed policy in involving the residents on how this money is spent.

Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council is urging individuals as well as voluntary and community groups and other organisations, especially sports and recreation groups, to submit proposals for projects they would like to undertake. The ideas can include all sorts of outdoor sports proposals from an outdoor gym or basketball court to a cricket or football pitch.

Proposals must be for:

- * New outdoor sports facilities or to improve existing outdoor sports facilities.
- * Permanently sited sports facilities and equipment. For example football goals, courts or training areas, but not for movable equipment like cricket bats, kayaks or tennis rackets.
- * Sports facilities or equipment that is open and accessible to the community. A small fee may be charged but it must be affordable.

Funding cannot be spent on buildings, indoor facilities or professional sports grounds.

If you are not sure if your project would be eligible you can find out by contacting East Devon District Council's Section 106 Officer on 01395 571549 or email Parish Councillor Bill Phillips at billphillips@eastdevon.com

Your proposal could just be an idea - it does not need to be a worked up project. All proposals/request must be submitted to the Parish Council by **15th February 2014** at the latest. Please send your name, the name of your group (if you have one), your contact details, information on what your proposal is and an estimate of how much funding you want to apply for. This could be as little as a paragraph. We can then contact you for further information if we need to.

Please send the information to Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council by e-mail at billphillips@eastdevon.com or you can hand it in or post it to *Parish Clerk*. Once the Parish Council has received the proposals, the residents will be given a chance to look at all the ideas and vote on them. The ones that gain the most votes are where the money will be spent.

The final list will also be used for future spending as and when funds become available.

Harpford Balsam Bashing 2013

A number of Harpford residents worked all year to keep the gully in Lower Way entirely clear right through the village, and kept to a lower level on river banks. As a result there is far less balsam in the village this year. There is a lot of balsam in the field close to where the A3052 meets Lower Way (which can be seen by those driving along the A3052), as a result of silt washed down from Harpford Woods, full of balsam seeds. Devon County Council then moved tons of the silt into the field last year where the seeds have germinated and flourished. The silt washed down from the woods causes numerous problems and this is just one of them.

Val Ranger, Harpford

Himalayan Balsam 2014

After three years of effort trying to keep this plant clear of the Back Brook, the Parish team have made good progress and want to continue from where we left off this season.

We are looking to set up a **database of volunteers** to help in the Parish effort to help clear this weed, not only in the Back Brook but Harpford and other local locations as well. Work will not start until about next June, but we need to get more people helping us this coming season. We will try to arrange sessions to suit everyone's spare time, but please do try to help. Even if you can only make one session it would be much appreciated.

If you feel you can contribute to our efforts, or would like to discuss what is involved, then do please get in contact.

Telephone Ted Swan on 01395 567450 or email at swanstandg@btinternet.com

CONSUMER RIGHTS

With Christmas nearly here and presents being given and received, there might be questions about returning unwanted or unsuitable items

When you buy an item, **unless it is faulty you do not have any legal right to return the goods**, however many retailers offer exchange or refund as a goodwill gesture. When buying, ask the retailer about this and request a 'gift receipt' if this is possible, and include this with the present. The recipient can then exchange the present if for some reason it is unsuitable. If you pay with a debit or credit card the shop will normally only refund back to the same card, rather than giving a cash refund.

When you buy goods or services by 'distance sale', e.g. over the internet, telephone or mail order, the law says you can usually cancel your contract within a cooling-off period (generally 7 days). **You might have to pay the cost of returning items.** There is no cooling-off period, hence no right for return or refund, if the item has been personalised or made to order.

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ELECTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

From comments made at recent Parish Council meetings, it appears that some residents are not aware of the procedures to become a parish councillor, either by election or co-option.

Throughout England Parish Council elections are held every 4 years, the last one being in 2011. In our parish there are 11 councillor places available. However in 2011 there were not enough nominations so those who submitted nomination papers were elected unopposed and no ballot was required. The next full election will be in **May 2015**. To be eligible to stand as a councillor you must:

- be 18 or over
- be a British citizen, or EU citizen

In addition you must fulfil one or more additional conditions such as:

- be a registered elector for this area
- be the owner or tenant of land/premises within the parish for at least 12 months beforehand
- live within the parish or within 3 miles

(There are some further conditions but these can be checked when needed.)

Although this is a 'warded' parish, **any qualifying resident of the parish may stand for election or co-option for any ward**. The ward boundaries in this parish are very roughly as follows:

Newton Popleford ward - All south of Back Brook.

Harpford ward - The settlement of Harpford plus those north of Back Brook, as far as the southernmost road into Southerton.

Venn Ottery ward - North of the first road into Southerton plus the hamlet of Venn Ottery.

When there is a vacancy (usually caused by resignation or the death of a councillor) during the 4 years of a council's term, this is always

publicised on the official notice boards, on the PC website and in the PC newsletter. When a vacancy occurs any resident may put themselves forward for and may call for an election by handing in a petition with 10 signatures to EDDC (form available). If no petition is received within the time limit (14 working days excluding weekends and bank holidays) then the casual vacancy is advertised so that qualifying individuals may write to the council expressing their interest in being co-opted. If this happens, each interested party is invited to the council meeting to make a short speech outlining the reasons they believe make them the most appropriate person for the position. A ballot of the existing members is then held to elect the new member.

It is interesting to note the **vacancies** that have left the council short of members in the last 3 years:

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES BY WARD			
<i>Date of Newsletter (vacancies listed on back page)</i>	<i>Newton Pop (6 cllrs)</i>	<i>Harpford (4 cllrs)</i>	<i>Venn Ottery (1 cllr)</i>
Jan 2010	1	1	-
April 2010	1	1	-
July 2010	1	-	-
Oct 2010	1	-	-
Feb 2011	2	1	-
June 2011	2	1	-
Sept 2011	3	-	-
Dec 2012	1	1	-
March 2012	3	-	-
Sept 2012	2	-	-
Dec 2012	2	1	-
March 2013	-	-	-

March 2013 was the first time in 3 years that the parish council had a full complement!

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Exeter Road Paving

Thanks to the efforts of Ed Slattery (Parish Cllr) and our County Councillor, a tarmaced surface has been laid to ease access to the bus stop in Exeter Road. Fewer muddy shoes this winter!

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DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

East Devon District Council has had a 43% reduction in government grant as part of the austerity measures of the coalition government. East Devon wishes to continue to provide front-line services but, like other local government authorities, has to consider how to manage with even more cuts in the pipeline.

The East Devon Local Plan is still with the inspector for examination and has not yet been endorsed. It will be good for us all when it is finally adopted.

I expect you will have read in the press how plans for moving the Authority's headquarters from the Knowle are progressing and that 4 locations have been identified for final consideration. The aim is to save up to £500,000 per annum in maintenance costs.

Ken Potter - District Councillor

The Riverside Players

present the *Pantomime*

*Snow White
& the Seven Dwarfs*

By Alan P Frayn

**NEWTON POPPLEFORD
VILLAGE HALL**

**12th - 15th February 2014
at 7.30pm**

Saturday Matinée at 2.30pm

Tickets £7 Matinée under 16: £3.50

01395 568897

PILATES CLASSES!

Free 6 weeks of Pilates!! Active Villages funding is paying the costs for your first 6 classes. All you need to do is to call **07968 917808** to **book your space** and turn up!

Aimed at improving your core strength, mobility and overall posture. The class will be a series of exercises for any ability and fitness level. Please call if you have any queries and to book your free space!

All equipment provided.

Wear loose comfortable clothing.

Max 8 people per class. REPS registered instructor.

Newton Poppleford Village Hall

9 am – 10 am

Starting Thursday 9 January 2014

To book, call Gillian on

07968 917808



COUNCILLORS AS AT DECEMBER 2013

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
Graham Salter	0798 0798 628	Little Shule, Farthings Lane, High Street EX10 0BU	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
Hazel Jeffery	01395 567821	The Stables, Hoppins, Southerton, EX11 1SD	Harpford
Mark Sanders - Chairman	01395 568052	Luscombe, Back Lane, Newton Pop EX10 0EZ	Harpford
Makala Tillotson	01395 567961	Badger Close Newton Pop EX10	Harpford
Chris Cole - Vice Chair	01395 567621	Court Barn, Southerton EX11 1SE	Venn Ottery
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	01395 567430	Brookfields, Venn Ottery Rd.	N/A

The Parish Council meets monthly, with additional or interim meetings as necessary.

The monthly meetings are held on the last Monday of each month - check noticeboards/website for details and agendas. Correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk to the Council.