

# Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

August 2014

Clerk: Muriel Watkins 861614

[www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk](http://www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk)

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*Councillors Tessa de Bertodano, John Brailey, Mike McKeown, Karen Mogridge, Ron Munroe, Sarah Powell (Chair), Roger Sleeman*

## Your Parish Council

The full list of Parish Councillors appears at the head of this newsletter and all are happy to listen to any comments or problems you may have – you can obtain their telephone numbers from the Clerk if you don't know them.

## New Defibrillator – the Yellow Peril!

You may have noticed – it would be hard not to! – that the Village Hall now sports a dashing new feature. The defibrillator is now in place in the yellow box and ready for use, although we all hope that it won't be necessary. The defibrillator, and associated training that will take place over the coming months, has been made possible by funding from the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee, together with generous donations from two members of our community and a small sum raised at the last Church coffee morning. We have also received generous support and advice from the South Western Ambulance Service Trust, Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) and St John's Ambulance.

In the unfortunate case of someone suffering a cardiac problem, the first thing to do is call 999, who will give directions to the nearest defibrillator and the code to open the cabinet, if they consider that is the appropriate action.

The next step for us is a community awareness session to be led by CHT held in the **Village Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30p.m.** This event is open to everyone who would like to attend and it will explain the purpose and uses of the defibrillator and how it fits with other aspects of emergency treatment. Following that the St John Ambulance will run a four-hour practical training session, but this is restricted to a maximum of twelve people. There will be an opportunity for you to indicate your interest in attending this course at the earlier meeting.

## Building Community Competence

The installation of the defibrillator is the first step in a process which we hope will improve our ability as a community to assist with certain kinds of emergencies, pending the arrival of professional help. There is plenty of evidence that support of this kind *can* save lives.

Our long-term aim is to create a register of volunteers who have completed training and/or are competent in CPR techniques, through their

professions and / or associations, who will be willing to respond to requests for help in emergency situations.

If you are competent in CPR and willing to be included in the village register, please contact the Clerk. Furthermore, we would like to hear from you if you have ideas or experience as to how such a register can be best used in a community like ours.

## Insurance

More good news! The long awaited re-modelling of the Upper Thames has now happened. The Environment Agency has produced a new set of flood risk maps for the Parish which drastically reduces the statistical risk of flooding for many areas of our Parish.

The new maps can be viewed at:

[http://www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk/index\\_html\\_files/EAPProduct%204.pdf](http://www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk/index_html_files/EAPProduct%204.pdf)

Please don't be put off by page 2 as this is the old flood risk map! The new maps start on page 5 and show significant areas of the parish removed from flood risk zones or plains.

Unfortunately, insurance companies are not obliged to immediately consider the new flood risk maps. So, if you are experiencing difficulty in obtaining household insurance, the advice is to contact the Environment Agency to obtain an insurance letter (known as an IRR) using the following e-mail address:

[WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Cullimore Application to Extract Gravel in Land Adjacent to Keynes Country Park

The application to extract gravel in the land adjacent to Keynes Country Park was permitted by Gloucestershire County Council on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014. However, the Parish Council and local residents won an important concession on the development of the water management scheme. Rather than this scheme just being agreed by GCC Mineral Planning Officers, it now has to be passed by the full GCC Minerals Planning Committee. Crucially, this process provides the opportunity for the Parish Council and residents to input into the developing scheme.

As part of this process, the Parish Council and residents have met with the GCC Planning Officer and its hydrology consultants, Atkins. At this meeting, we were able to further inform them of our experiences and concerns resulting from the past two winters as well as taking them

on a site visit to show the areas of concern. We believe eyes were opened.

The applicant has assured us that the water situation will not deteriorate as a result of this application. It is our wish that the water management scheme will improve things.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

As you will have seen from a separate newsletter, the Parish Council has embarked upon the creation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The reasons and rationale were set out in that newsletter (available at the link below).

We would like to thank those of you that were able to attend one of the July consultation drop-in events and for the helpful comments. If you were unable to attend one of the events, then the presentations can be viewed on:

<http://www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk/ndp.htm>

Any comments can be made to:

[ndp@somerfordkeynes.org.uk](mailto:ndp@somerfordkeynes.org.uk)

### **Lake 99**

The landscaping work is now complete and new fencing has been installed. Benches and tables should be installed shortly. The Parish Council is looking to establish a management group for the site. If you are interested in assisting with the management of this village amenity then please contact the Clerk.

### **Neigh Bridge Car Park**

You may have noticed that there has been long overdue renovation work at Neigh Bridge. The car park has been renewed and the whole site tidied. The disused toilet block is to be removed and apparently it is intended to make parking "Pay and Display", but CWP Trust members will be free. This is of concern because regular users who are not members of the Trust may not wish to pay and there is potential for parking in the village. Representations have been made to the CWPT to try to resolve this issue

### **Lower Mill – Construction of New Access Road**

Work is about to commence on the construction of new internal access road on the Lower Mill Estate. It will provide a link from Lower Mill Lane to other parts of the estate.

The works should not cause any disruption to Somerford Keynes. You may, however, notice construction plant on Lower Mill Lane.

It is LME's plan, whilst they have construction plant on site, to extend the cycle way along the Spine Road from where it currently stops abruptly, before the River Thames, to Neigh Bridge car park. However, LME is currently waiting information from Gloucestershire Highways.

### **Broadband Update**

Super-fast Fibre Broadband is now available in Somerford Keynes!! This has been part funded by the Fastershire project.

Two services are available from most service providers – up to 40Mbps and up to 80Mbps. The actual download speed you get is determined mainly by your distance from the street cabinet.

Early adopters have been pleased with the new service.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

There have been reports of several incidents in the surrounding villages particularly concerning outbuildings, sheds and vandalism. SK itself has had a couple of serious events including thefts of bicycles. One worrying recent SK incident involved a man purporting to be gardening in a householder's absence but actually looking around to see what he could steal. All this was recorded on CCTV! He even had the cheek to put his clippings into the green bin. Please stay alert and keep a careful eye on your own and neighbours property. Report any incidents to the Police on 101.

### **Community Speedwatch**

Earlier this year, a team of volunteers carried out a number of community speed watches (you may have noticed the new signs in Somerford Keynes). Whilst it did not catch any speeding vehicles, the campaign certainly increased awareness of speeding in the village. The Parish Council would like to express its thanks to the volunteers.

### **Last Post**

From 15<sup>th</sup> September, last post collections will be not before 9AM, but when the postman does his round. There will be no afternoon collection. If you want to send things first class after 9am, you may need to use the Love Lane box in Cirencester.

### **Dates for your Diary**

(both events at the Village Hall)

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September (from 11am)** Village day, including scarecrow trail

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm**  
Defibrillator Community Awareness Session



Sarah Powell, Chair

Email: [sarah.powell.sk@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.powell.sk@gmail.com)

Tel: 860150

*The unadopted minutes of the Parish Council are displayed on the Parish Notice Board together with bus and mobile library timetables. The agenda for the next meeting is also displayed some days before each meeting. **Parish Council meetings are always open to the public.** The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.*