

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

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Councillors Richard Elsey, Mandy Keegan, Michele Rigby, Roger Sleeman (Chair), Angela Stradling, Graham Valentine, John Whitwell

Somerford Keynes Neighbourhood Development Plan

The progress of this important Plan is now in the final phase. It is now published on-line on the CDC website which provides a link to enable you to have your final say if you wish before it goes before a Government Inspector. This very important plan will affect the future development in Somerford Keynes Parish and you will have your vote. **Please read the accompanying NDP Newsletter.**

New Planning Application

We have received a new application for two new large detached houses and three small social houses to be built in the land to the east of Mill Lane behind the existing houses. This development is contrary to the existing Local Plan and the emerging NDP. Householders who back onto the proposed site have been offered extra garden space and a new public footpath is proposed from the Street into the Village Lake. To view the application please visit the CDC planning website where the reference is: 19/04270/FUL. Please copy your views to the Parish Council.

Village Lake

The grant of £5000 from the Calor Gas Fund is a fantastic achievement for the Village Lake Team. They are now going ahead very strongly with improvements at the lake to raise the experience of visiting: Improvements such as a Pond Dipping Platform, Owl Boxes with a camera, Bat Boxes, Floating Islands, planting a wildflower meadow and a new lockable shed to store all the paraphernalia. Go and visit this important village asset and, if you have spare time, please offer to help with some of the work.

Telephone Box

It is good to report positive progress on our second defibrillator located in the phone box. A vital village asset to go with the one already in place at the Village Hall. Karen and Lynton Mogridge have been leading a team to refurbish the box, but at the time of writing, need muscular help to rehang the door. The defibrillator is however installed and will be operational very soon. A big thank you to Karen and all involved.

Bakers Arms

Most of you will no doubt be aware that the Pub is now in new hands. A small consortium of friends from South Cerney; Mike & Rachel, Darren & Beccy and Mark & Jen, have taken on the lease, refurbished the Pub and are looking forward to meeting their new neighbours. There is a new décor, a new menu and they are organising events to attract business so please support them. It is important that we keep this vital asset in the village.

Village Survey

Many of you will have completed the survey of views on the future development of the Parish. The results of the survey are being reviewed and will be presented at our meeting on the 6th January. It is however very interesting to read some of the comments made and it is obvious that not everybody is aware of how the Parish Council functions. Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of each month starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All meetings are open to the public and the agenda and previous minutes are available both on the notice board and on-line on the website. If you wish these can be sent to you personally via the internet providing you register your email address with the Parish Clerk. If you attend the meetings you will be allowed time to address the Parish Council on matters that concern you. This is usually at the end of the meeting but if it is an urgent matter it can be brought forward in the agenda at the Chairman's discretion. Although this is a formal system, Somerford Keynes Parish Council meetings are usually relaxed, friendly and welcoming. There is of

course the annual meeting held each spring when you can hold the Council to account. We look forward to seeing you.

Highways

We are continuing talks with highways regarding several matters. The very diligent street cleaning following the autumn leaf fall was welcome but however the machines managed to cause break up of several areas of the pavement. This can make walking hazardous in places and there are internal discussions on responsibility between the operators and highways. It is of little concern to the Parish who is to be held responsible. The long ongoing issue of the completion of the cycleway into Neighbridge Country Park is continuing. It was originally a requirement of the development at Lower Mill Estate but mysteriously was taken out in 2004. The cycleway now stops at the Thames Bridge and we had an agreement for its completion from LME as part of their proposed new access further down the MInety Lane. A re-evaluation of development at the Estate now suggests that this access may not be required and therefore the cycleway may not be completed. Potholes and road markings still cause concern as does the overhanging bushes over the pavements. If this applies to your property please cut the growth back.

Seasons Greetings

Roger Sleeman

*The unadopted minutes of the Parish Council are displayed on the Parish Notice Board together with the bus 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 6th January in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.*