

HIXON PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2016

On September 15th this year, the residents of Hixon parish voted overwhelmingly to adopt the Hixon Neighbourhood Plan and all its aims and objectives.

95.2% (451 people) of those who voted supported the new settlement boundary, which defines where future new housing and industrial development should take place. There was also support for 20% of new development sites to be bungalows to enable more flexibility in accommodation choices. The Hixon Neighbourhood Plan will be formally incorporated into Stafford Borough Council planning policies on November 22nd.

Hixon Neighbourhood Plan sets out aspirations to maintain the feel of a small rural community while improving and increasing services and amenities available locally, in particular; health care provision, pharmacy, more community facilities and protection of the environment and heritage.

The Hixon Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group gave thousands of hours over a three year period.....we need now to turn aspirations into realities.



Village Improvements Plan....how you can help!

Could you and your neighbours get together to talk about how your street could look better? Someone might offer to keep the street name plate clean or plant spring bulbs around it? How about keeping weeds at bay along the footpath in front of your house? Does anything need repairing, replacing, painting or maintaining better? Doing small things can make big differences. Hixon Parish Council would like to hear from you.



Local Community Speedwatch

volunteers have been trained by Staffordshire Police

to use a speed monitoring devices. The volunteers have been checking vehicles speeds within the 30mph speed limit areas. One in ten vehicles were exceeding 35mph. One vehicle was being driven at 58mph!!!

Anyone driving within the speed limit has nothing to fear but the registration numbers of speeding vehicles are reported to Staffordshire Police.

The objective of Community Speedwatch is not to 'catch' speeding drivers, it is to deter drivers from speeding and putting themselves, and others, at risk.



Planning update

At the time of writing this newsletter, the situation with major planning applications in Hixon is as follows:

15/21806 90 houses to rear of Green Man pub with access off Stowe Lane. Hixon Parish Council and hundreds of local residents objected to this application. The application was refused by Stafford Borough Council, but the applicants appealed against the refusal. The Government Inspector visited the site in February this year and promised to report back in six weeks. However, the appeal has now been referred to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. A decision has been promised on or before 31st January 2017.

16/23616/ Outline planning application to build a 'Science Park' on agricultural land at Hixon Airfield.

The site is outside the Hixon Airfield Industrial Estate Boundary as defined in the Hixon Neighbourhood Plan and Stafford Borough Council's Plan for Stafford. Importantly, there are currently 25.6 acres (approximately 16 football pitches) of undeveloped land on the former airfield with permission for development. The application was submitted to Stafford Borough Council in January this year and is still to be determined. It should have been decided in 13 weeks.

15/22518/ Construction of a 196 berth narrowboat marina and associated buildings and car park of the A51 at Pasturefields. The Pasturefields Salt Marsh is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and has Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protection. The marina should be refused, but no decision to date.

Crime Reports online

Staffordshire Police have launched an online record of crimes committed in Staffordshire. Click on the link below and you can see details of crimes committed in recent months. We are fortunate that we live in a very low-crime area. In August 2016, there were only two reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Hixon. Follow link: <https://www.police.uk/staffordshire/FM30/crime/>

Highway proposals; looking better, being safer.

Hixon Parish Councillors are working on plans to improve both the look and safety of the Church Lane gateway into Hixon village.

Councillors are working with Staffordshire County Council highways to develop a design for a raised pedestrian crossing near St Peter's School entrance. The raised crossing would act as a traffic calming measure and provide a safe crossing point for school children and parents. Additional signage and some special street furniture concepts will also be installed.

Working with local businesses, it is intended to improve the visual appearance of the Church Lane gateway by additional tree planting and soft landscaping schemes.



Hixon on the move again?

Hixon parish is once again earmarked to become part of a different parliamentary constituency boundary. After decades as a part of the Stone parliamentary constituency, Hixon became part of the Stafford parliamentary constituency ten years ago. It is now proposed for Hixon to become a northern outpost of the Lichfield parliamentary constituency. Hixon Parish Council is objecting to this change. You can have your say up to 5th December 2016 via the following link: <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6490?postcode=ST180FB>

Rural Exception Houses occupied

The first occupiers of the seven 'Rural Exception Houses' in Church Lane moved in over the summer.

Hixon Parish Council played a significant role in bringing about the building of the properties, which can only be occupied by individuals or families with a proven connection with Hixon.

Typical connections might be people wishing to return to Hixon to be nearer other family members, younger people needing to move out of their parents' home to have space of their own or people who work in Hixon. Occupiers must also meet income criteria.

Allotments plots available

There are vacant plots available at the Hixon Parish Allotments in Egg Lane. Plots sizes are generally 15m x 5m. if you would like to register an interest for a plot contact Catherine Gill, Clerk to Hixon Parish Council on 01889 272679, E-mail: clerk@hixon.gov.uk or E-mail: fjanegarner@hotmail.com

Best Garden Awards

The annual awards ceremony were held on Tuesday 8th November in the Green Man pub. The main awards were:

Best Garden: 10 Lauder Grove



2nd: The Rowan, Puddle Hill



3rd: 8 Grange Court, Egg Lane



Best hanging baskets: 42 Sycamore Drive



Most unusual garden feature: 2 Martins Way



Hixon Parish Council website.

Beginning next month (December) the Hixon Parish Council website www.hixon.gov.uk will feature a monthly round-up of news and issues about Hixon. You can request the summary is sent directly to your E-mail inbox. Please e-mail your request to clerk@hixon.gov.uk