

Thruxton Times

Produced and distributed by
Thruxton Parish Council

FEBRUARY 2022

email:
thruxtontimes@gmail.com

Welcome to all our readers

Thruxton Parish Newsletter - February 2022

G'day, as my Aussie friends say and welcome to February's newsletter – also known as the Planning Times. The last couple of weeks have been dominated by the planning application for land off Stanbury Close and I make no apology that a large portion of the content of the newsletter this month is focused on this and similar matters.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank all those who gave up their evenings on 27th January to attend the Public Meeting and who have since written to TVBC Planning with their objections to the application submitted by Orchard Homes to build 26 affordable houses on a corner of the field off Stanbury Close. We had over 80 people attend the Public Meeting and I congratulate everyone for maintaining a calm and orderly conduct of the meeting. I didn't hear one voice in support of the proposed development although I did note that several people expressed support for the principle of the provision of affordable housing – just not on this scale nor in the proposed location! This opposition is very clearly expressed by the numerous expressions of objection that have been lodged with TVBC – I'm writing this on the morning of 4th Feb. and I count 57 individual objections with more to come before the closing deadline later today. I certainly hope that TVBC hear the message that we're sending them!

The Parish Council have also lodged their objection – you can read our comments by following this link: <http://www.thruxtonvillage.com/community/thruxton-parish-council-14865/planning-applications/>

At the Public Meeting, Mark Sennett, the representative of the developer, took note of many questions and observations raised by residents. He has

Dates for the Diary

18th February	Quiz Night Memorial Hall
25th February	Film – 'The Last Bus' Memorial Hall
Every Wednesday (from 9th February)	Thruxton Loves Cake Memorial Hall
19th February	Rumble/Jumble

since responded with the official response of Orchard Homes to those questions and this document has been posted to the Parish Council website, Thruxton Village – follow this link and scroll down to the document (<http://www.thruxtonvillage.com/community/thruxton-parish-council-14865/planning-applications/>).

At the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd Feb. TVBC Cllr. Phil Lashbrook took time to explain how the planning process would work. The Case Officer will consider the application and all submissions and will either dismiss the application or give permission; if the latter (permission) is granted, Cllr. Lashbrook will request that the application is considered at the next Northern Area Planning Committee of which he is a member. He believes that there is a sufficient public interest to warrant the application being considered by the full Committee. The meeting will be open to members of the public who can request to speak, although there is a limit of 3 minutes for any question from the public. The Parish Council will attend. If they dismiss the application, the developer might lodge an appeal to an independent Planning body located in Bristol and their decision is, in effect, final.



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We will keep residents updated on any developments through Facebook and the Parish Council website (see above).

Still on the subject of planning, we have been told that a formal planning application will be filed in mid-to-late February for the development of 9 self-build houses on land at the eastern end of Lambourne Close – often referred to as “Jason’s field”. As noted in previous issues of Thruxton Times, once we receive a copy of the application, we will call a Public Meeting (another one!) to allow residents to hear more about the proposal from the developer and ask questions, as well as make their views known to the Parish Council to guide our response to the application. Again, we will publicise the meeting through social media (Facebook), Parish Council noticeboards and the website, so please keep your eyes open for our communications.

Finally, we have been notified that the formal application to build a solar farm on Lains Farm on the southern side of the A303 has been lodged. Thruxton Parish Council have not objected and we expect it to be approved in due course. It has been confirmed that the electricity supply will be run underground to the Thruxton sub-station along Village Street to the junction with Stanbury Road, up Stanbury Road and along St. John’s Lane and we will receive a share of the Community Benefit payment in compensation for the inconvenience this will cause. Final discussions are continuing but we expect the payment will amount to a one-off sum of around £23,000.

Having learned more in the last month about the Planning process than I ever thought possible, I have been considering how best to capitalise on all this new-found knowledge. However, on reflection, I think I will leave it to others to specialise in this complex and arcane

field of public policy and I will concentrate on my garden, following the 6 Nations rugby and dreaming of warm, sunny summer days – oh, and being a Parish Councillor!!

Best wishes – Peter Christie

Parish Council Meeting – Wed 2nd Feb. 2022

The Parish Council met on the evening of Wednesday 2nd February and the following provides an overview of the principal points of discussion. The full minutes will be posted on the Council noticeboards and on the Thruxton Village website (<http://www.thruxtonvillage.com/community/thruxton-parish-council-14865/meetings-and-minutes--agendas/>)

We were pleased to co-opt Cllr. Leo McDevitt back onto the Parish Council and look forward to our next meeting when we will vote to co-opt Richard Munday as a Councillor. This will bring our numbers back up to our full complement.

- A member of the public raised the issue of the poor state of the road surface of St. John’s Lane and whether SSE will repair it to a high standard following completion of their work on the sub-station. The Chairman explained that SSE had agreed to fix the potholes and smooth out the surface but not to raise the standard of the road to an adoptable level. The Chairman understands that the road is unadopted but not private, so the condition of the surface of the road is a matter for residents with frontage onto the road. The resident will investigate ownership of the road and speak with residents to ascertain their willingness to pay for road surface improvements.

- The Clerk confirmed that remedial work on the trees on the Village Green has been completed and that some logs and chippings remain on the Green should anyone be in need. The tree folk will return for additional work required by the Lambourne Way postbox and the trees on the triangle by the mile post on Village Street.

- The meeting noted the damage inflicted on the retaining wall at the side of Pillhill Brook by a passing lorry and noted that Hampshire Highways have been notified.

- Council noted with appreciation an offer from a resident to help control weed growth along the banks of Pillhill Brook and also roadside verges. The Council will purchase materials to enable the resident to undertake this work.

- Cllr. Durant reported on her work to identify additional sites for locating speed warning signs around the village, including Thruxton Down. The recommendations have been submitted to Hampshire Highways and we await their visit to confirm which sites can be used. Following this, we will purchase the equipment, including posts to fix the signs to and plan their installation.

- HCC Cllr. Chris Donnelly reported that Hampshire CC has been preparing its next budget and was pleased to confirm an increase in the Highways budget and continuing funding for community bus services. He also informed the Council that Hampshire is trialling road bollards made from sugar cane as part of its green initiative programme.

- Cllr. Davis summarised the various planning applications that are current – more details appear in the introduction to this month's newsletter.

- Community thanks were given to James Kitchen and Ricky Wells for all their work on the play area; to Geoff Bourner for his help in loading the grit bin with sand; to the team of residents who hand deliver the monthly newsletter; and, finally, to everyone who has lodged objections to the Stanbury Close planning application – you know who you are!

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Machin Room of the Memorial Hall on Wed. 2nd March at 7:30pm.

Neighbourhood Watch

After many years of co-ordinating the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Thruxton, Kate Phillipson has passed the baton to Martin King. We would like to thank Kate for her sterling work and commitment to our quality of life. A big welcome and thanks to Martin for taking on this role and best wishes for an uneventful few months – or even years! He can be contacted at mking92039@aol.com

Thruxton's Got Talent: Stories from the Parish

Did you know a lifelong local living in the parish was runner up in the inaugural series of Britain's Got Talent? He is now a successful voice coach helping emerging talent.

Damon Scott, the youngest of three brothers, was brought up at the Parkhouse Guest House, now Motel, owned by his parents Ron and Sue, a stone's throw from the west end of the parish. Aged three he was already winning talent contests and entertaining hotel guests. Locally he was a member of Durrington Amdram, Shipton Players and in a number of choirs. A family friend, a Punch and Judy performer, introduced him to puppetry. He immediately took to this form alongside his singing, acting, juggling and even fire breathing aged 12! He got his first puppet in 1989 and over the next decade developed his act joining the Crystal Gold singers in Wilton and entering talent contests, winning the Bournemouth Echo Star contest in 1997 and the national best speciality act in 1999. This exposure got Damon a feature in a 1997 BBC documentary with his monkey puppet act that gave a strong nod to a certain global pop star who famously owned a monkey – guess who? In 2006 Damon applied for a new TV show called Britain's Got Talent, auditioning in the Cardiff Millennium Centre and appearing on the live shows in 2007. Nothing prepared Damon for the crazy audience reaction that helped propel him to the final and he eventually ended as runner up to Paul Potts. The TV audience was over 22 million and the YouTube clip was in the top 10 viewed worldwide that year. The clip is still online. Since 2007 Damon has travelled the world performing, appearing on TV shows, cruise ships, corporate gigs, supporting acts from Gene Pitney to Westlife on tour and undertaking charity work.

Alongside his act Damon has continued to sing, then after helping a friend with voice coaching youngsters found a great opportunity to help others. He is now in high demand but would gladly look to help the next generation of local singing talent. His email is Damon@damonscott.co.uk.

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Thruxton Memorial Hall

Friday 25 February 7.00 for 7.30



This critically acclaimed film follows an old man (Timothy Spall) on a journey from Lands End to John o'Groats relying on local busses and the kindness of strangers.

Released last year, many will have missed the chance to see this beautiful film in the cinema, so come to the Hall

and see it on the big(ish) screen.

Tickets (£6) can be purchased in advance on Eventbrite or on the door.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/preview?eid=260057648427/>

St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Thruxton

Services being held in the Church during February will be as follows:

6th Feb 0930 Parish Communion

13th Feb 0930 Morning Worship

20th Feb 0930 Parish Communion

27th Feb 0930 Parish Communion

On Wednesday 2nd March at 1030 we will gather at St. Peter's Church in Shipton Bellinger for a special Benefice Ashings service to celebrate Ash Wednesday - all are welcome to attend.

Christine Barrett - Churchwarden

Brushes Up

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Rumble/Jumble

Saturday 19th March 2022

2 - 4 pm

Want to get rid of your accumulated stuff in the attic/leftover Xmas presents/grown up children's detritus. Why not be part of our village-wide jumble sale on your own drive. Donate £5 to the village as a stall holder, we will do the advertising and you keep the profits for yourself. Potential "customers" will pay for access to a map showing the sites round the village. Everyone gains! Any income raised will go towards the Jubilee Celebrations

Location map needs to be produced by Wednesday 16th March so please send address and contact information (and £5) to Pat Counsell, Frogis Land, 17 Lambourne Way or email pat4tennis@yahoo.co.uk or phone 773296/07787-946016.

If you are coming to buy, a location map of the stalls can be purchased on the day for £2 from Pat at

Frogis Land, 17 Lambourne Way (house with green fence directly opposite the Village Hall)

If there is anything happening in the village that you want to shout about please send your piece to thruxfontimes@gmail.com

Tea Party
Sun 6th March 3.00pm
Memorial Hall

Following the completion of their work on the electricity sub-station, SSE cordially invite all residents of the village to a tea party to be held at 3:00pm on Sun 6th March in the Memorial Hall.

This is by way of a "thank you" to everyone for putting up with their vans and lorries and the general disruption that has occurred whilst they upgrade the transformers. The invitation is open to any resident of the Parish.

**Thruxton Loves
Cake**

After a Winter break, TLC returns to the Hall on Wednesday 9 February with cake, hot drinks and good company. Please come down and join us. Why not arrange to meet your friends and make a party of it? We are open from 10 – 12.00 and get awfully lonely without you.



We also have a fantastic range of puzzles in our Jig-saw Library for you to take home and put together.

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Jubilee Quiz Night

Friday 18 February 2022



Once again, hosted by Thruxton's very own 'Ant & Dec' - 'Fitz & George' we promise a fun evening of entertainment and laughter!

Teams of 6 - if you can't make up a team, please register and we will put you in one. Tickets £10 each to include your first drink and pizza. Doors open at 7pm. For further information or to book please email Annabel Humphrey - annabeljhumphrey@gmail.com. Look out for more details on Facebook via Thruxton Life.

Social Issues

You may be aware that Tricia Harris, one of the Parish Councillors, has responsibility for helping residents address any social welfare issues they may be experiencing – e.g. housing, benefits, health, etc. Tricia will provide advice and/or support on who to contact and how best to approach different agencies. She can be contacted at pharris@thruxtonparishcouncil.com

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From the Hall.....

You know it's not good news when the water starts running down the walls! For a short while now, we have noticed growing patches of 'damp' in two places in the hall and have been monitoring them closely. A sudden rainfall a couple of weeks ago drew more attention than usual and the roofers were summoned and the far corners of the inside of our roof were examined closely. Apparently, it's not a terribly good sign when you can see daylight when looking upwards through a roof and by all accounts, the insulation should not be sodden – who knew?

Swift action was taken by Gill Odling, who now looks after the building and I am delighted to report that steps have been taken to once again make the Hall water-tight. Whilst the scaffolding was up, we took advantage of having the whole roof examined and thankfully most of it appears sound. We now wait with baited breath for the full report and are hoping for a sunny spell to dry ourselves out.

The hike in energy costs is going to hit the Hall hard as our 3 year contract, under which we have enjoyed some very favourable rates comes to end in February. As a result of an expected rise in our electricity costs of possibly 80% we have had to increase our rates from 1 March. Full details will soon be on our page on the Thruxton Life website but you will be pleased to notice that rates for Thruxton residents remain lower than for other users.

Thruxton Loves Cake returns on Wednesday 9 February and we hope that many of you will join us for cake and a chat. Sadly, we will be without our most loyal supporter, Chris Goode and we shall miss him very much. I rather suspect that at some point during the morning we may raise our tea cups to him and partake of a few calories in his honour.

And don't forget to get in touch with Annabel to book your place at what promises to be yet another superb quiz night – this time in aid of the Jubilee Fund. A full bar will be available and Pizzas will be delivered.

Lorries in the village

The Parish Council continue to lobby Hampshire CC regarding the damage inflicted on the roads and verges by lorries trundling along highways ill-suited to such behemoths. Evidence of the damage that can be done can currently be seen in the wall alongside Pillhill Brook on Village Street - a Dutch lorry drove so close to the edge of the road that some 6 metres of wall have cracked and are now leaning perilously toward the stream.

We have asked for larger signs to indicate the road is unsuitable for large lorries and for sat.nav companies to change their software. Watch this space but don't hold your breath!

Southern Water update

You will have seen that SW have recently created a lay-by next to the pumping station in East Cholderton (opposite the White Horse). This is to enable tankers to park off the road if and when it becomes necessary to re-start tankering operations.

The good news is that ground-water levels are considerably lower than the last 2 winters - as evidenced by the trickle of water in the Pillhill Brook – and SW do not expect any tankering operations to be needed until at least late February, depending on how much rainfall we receive in the coming few weeks. The lower ground-water levels also mean that the sewage network is not being infiltrated and, therefore, over-pumping has not been required either. I understand from speaking to people in Amport that this has meant a recovery in fish stocks in the stream and that trout have been seen between Amport and East Cholderton – and I don't mean in the fish farm!

The bad news is that SW have not been able to assess the efficacy of the re-lining of the main sewer and private laterals that they have been engaged upon – but I think we're all happy that we don't have tankers trundling through the village this year.....to date!

The Parish Council will keep residents updated with further developments and with SW's programme of investment to address the long-standing issues with sewage and with ground and surface water drainage.