



# **NRS&NMHPC**

Newton Regis, Seckington and No Man's Heath Parish Council

*Three villages, one community*

## Annual Chair's Report May 2026

The Parish Council is delighted to report that we have now managed to fill our previous vacancy and Cllr Rob Scully has now been coopted onto the council. Rob brings with him a lot of practical knowledge and will be a real asset to us.

During this year we have continued to support some community groups and activities namely at the Annual Christmas Light's Switch on, The Goose Walk, News and Views contribution and in arranging litter picks to rid our roads and lanes from an ever increasing amount of litter.

The Craft Club are now well established in the former bowls club building and have made excellent use of the facility.

All trees in the orchard managed to survive last year's very hot, dry summer; are growing well and looking healthy with some bearing fruit in their first year, There is still much work to be done to make it the quiet peaceful reflective space that has been envisaged and it is hoped that a group of volunteers can make regular visits to help to move this project forwards.

In recent week's we have, once again, had our sit on Kabuto tractor stolen despite the improved security. However, there was little we could do to prevent this as the back of the shed was completely removed, the shelving and its contents thrown onto the field and the tractor taken up 'the track' to No Man's Heath. In the same week we have learned of other similar thefts at Colehill CC, Atherstone CC, and Austrey playing field. We are disappointed that the police have not been in personal contact and the only way we could report the crime was through an online form. As the field is so isolated this has left us feeling very vulnerable and it is unlikely that we will seek to replace the equipment but will look to use contractors for the cutting of the field, play area and orchard in the future.

Appleby Magna continue to use our field for their junior teams to practise and for their girls to play matches. During the year we have received approaches from many cricket clubs who are seeking grounds to play their games. After many meetings we have agreed with Ansley Cricket Club to play some of their games on our field during August. If this proves to be successful we may be able to extend this to other clubs in the future so that the field, can once again, be used for its original purpose when the land was leased to the former Newton Regis Cricket Club by Thorpe Estate.

After our jubilation at receiving Lottery Funding to improve the car park at the recreation field, we have still not been able to make a start on this project due to the Village Hall no longer able to support us financially and to the increased quotes for work, namely drainage and the ground works, that we need to undertake. As the funding would have to be handed back to the

National Lottery by 2027, if it remains unspent, we are determined to use this money and the finances that we have pledged to improve this area for all of its users.

It has been decided to use 106 money, pledged to us by Cameron Homes who undertook the Manor Farm development, to replace some of the very old and much used equipment at the children's play area. Currently we are in the process of obtaining quotes with help and guidance of Stephanie Wagstaff, NWBC development officer and aim to complete the project by the end of the year.

We were disappointed to learn that the proposed housing development of 39 houses NW of Townsend Close has now been appealed successfully. A development of this size would not normally be considered in Newton Regis, with infilling of spaces as and when they become available being the preferred option. However, as North Warwickshire could only display a 2.2 year land supply for housing it opened the door for a development of this size to be permitted. This will have a huge impact on Townsend Close residents and will increase the size of our small community dramatically.

Another planning application was also successfully appealed and permission has been granted to build one dwelling by Lime Grove on Main Road. There has been no further progress made on the 3 bungalows that were granted permission last year and no approaches made to the PC by the developer.

Flooding has once again been a major issue in the village especially in King's Lane where the road flooded every time it rained and flood water extended into the garden of Newton Lodge bungalow and onto the drives of the residents living at the bottom of King's Lane near to the telephone exchange. The Highway's department made many visits to the site; to pump the water away and to clear the drains with limited success, but we're now relieved to report that pipes have been replaced and we are hopeful that there will be no more flooding next winter. There has been no progress on the flooding between Newton Regis and Austrey and we will continue to press for this to be resolved.

The villages (along with the rest of the country) are blighted by potholes on the roads which we have been urged to report to Warwickshire CC. To date despite the Parish Council and many of our parishioners reporting them there has been no attempt to fix them.

North Warwickshire along with many other councils sent out 'a call for all sites' to landowners asking for land that they would be willing to have considered for future development. The Parish Council and the residents of Newton Regis and No Man's Heath were dismayed to learn, in November of last year, that Thorpe Estate had offered most of their agricultural land for development, some to North Warwickshire and some to Lichfield District Council. This amount of land would herald thousands of houses being built resulting in loss of rural NW. After a very brief consultation period where NWBC arranged drop-in sessions to answer questions and give further information, the Parish Council returned the lengthy consultation document to NWBC for their consideration. NWBC are in the process of considering all options before releasing their Draft Local Plan in the summer of this year, when we will once again be able to make comments on their decisions before they submit it to the Government for independent

examination by the end of 2026. We sincerely hope that our unique rural landscape will remain as it is and preserved for future generations with development on such a huge scale rejected as an unsuitable location.

The flooding in No Man's Heath, on Austrey Lane, has finally been resolved much to the relief of the residents but there has been no further progress on changing the status of Salt Street to a restricted byway which would prevent the off-roaders from using it and continuing to destroy this ancient walk way. As Leicestershire have now agreed to adopt Salt Street, hopefully this will mean that one day it will be cleared, repaired and returned to its former beauty.

The junction on the B4593 at Seckington remains a hot spot for accidents with many near misses on a daily basis and three in the last six months requiring police and ambulance presence. The Parish Council have continued to raise their concerns with our Warwickshire County Councillor and the Highways department to seek changes at the junction to make it a safer place for all road users.

We have undergone our annual audit which have been signed off by the internal auditor and are now being sent to the external auditor for their scrutiny. Our 2024/25 accounts were signed off in July 2025 with no issues raised. The Parish Council wishes to thank, our clerk, for her hard work and diligence in preparing for this and for her guidance and efficiency throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillor Stephen Shaw, our County representative, Councillors David Humphreys and Brynna Ririe, our local NWBC representatives and to all the Parish Councillors for their help and support during the year.

Dilys Cox

Chair NRSNMHPC