

# **Annual Report of Fiskerton-cum-Morton Parish Council**

## **May 2018**

**All residents are invited to Morton Church Hall  
on 21 May 2018 for the Annual Meeting from  
7pm - 7.30pm**

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This report is written at a time when the Sunday Times identified our villages as one of the top ten places to live in the Midlands. Having lived here a relatively short amount of time, (14 years) I cannot argue with this judgement!!

I have always been struck by the friendly nature and community feel of our villages. Not to mention how our Sports and Gala Association, clubs, societies and local endeavours such as creating our own broadband through a community interest company which bring people together.

This report seeks to highlight what the Parish Council has been doing over the past 12 months and what we hope to achieve over the next year within our existing resources.

## **What is a Parish Council?**

Fiskerton-cum-Morton (FCM) Parish Council has 7 councillors, all of whom live or work within the Parish and who are elected for four years. Any councillor can be contacted easily, as can the Parish Clerk.

A primary concern of the Parish Council is to ensure that the views of the community are taken into account by the authorities, agencies and organisations (such as the District Council, the County Council, health authorities, police etc) that take decisions on services and issues affecting the Parish.

Probably the most common topics that the parish council gets involved with are planning matters, crime prevention, managing open spaces, footpaths and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

The Parish Council responds to and adds comments on structure plans and government consultation documents. It also votes on all planning applications in the Parish, though Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC) makes the final decision.

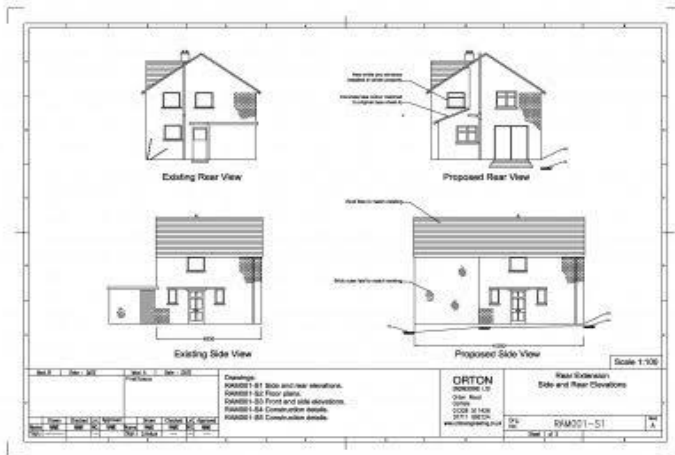
The Parish Council is responsible for various assets within the villages. These include:

- Fiskerton Village Green
- The Children’s Playground at the Arthur Radford Sports Field
- Morton Telephone Box & Defibrillator

Parish Councils do not receive government grants, so the Council raises its income from a precept, which forms part of the Council Tax Bill.

## Work programme and Achievements Planning

16 planning applications considered over the past 12 months. Although NSDC make the decision we use agreed criteria to pass on our views.



## Footpaths

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and in some cases landowners are responsible for the maintenance of footpaths. To support this, we carry out 6 monthly surveys and minor repairs. As a result, old signs are being replaced and any obstructions such as fallen trees removed. To assist us residents are invited to report any defects through the NCC and /or Parish Council reporting system:

[https://forms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&form\\_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Form-236dd8fb-7478-46ef-ae4c-e77dcb97d0ce/definition.json](https://forms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Form-236dd8fb-7478-46ef-ae4c-e77dcb97d0ce/definition.json)

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/fiskerton-cum-morton-7846/report-a-problem-with-footpaths/>



## Councillors

We said goodbye to 3 councillors and welcomed 3 new members. I am very grateful for the hard work of all councillors who act in a voluntary capacity undertaking a range of activities in support of our two villages.

We also acknowledge the contributions made by other residents, be it picking up litter, joining in our Neighbourhood Plan process or simply reporting issues so that they can be dealt with. A number also offer support and practical help to our older or infirm residents which is a vital unseen service.

We have updated the roles & responsibilities of snow & flood wardens. We are in the process of updating the Emergency Plan which along with other key documents will be uploaded onto the FCM web page.

## **Budget**

This year we decided not to increase the precept and will review our running costs to determine what to do the following year 2019/20.



We also have a 'Village Green Fund' to pay for the maintenance of the village green, playground costs and repairs to them in perpetuity.

We are very interested in the views of residents as to how we can fund improvements to the play equipment at Arthur Radford or elsewhere. There may be other ideas for the Village Green and we would be pleased to hear what these are.



## Highways

We have reported defects in our roads the most significant being Main Street, Fiskerton and poor drainage resulting in flooding on Main Street, Morton. Our local County and District Councillors have supported us in raising issues as they arise.



Following sustained pressure, our County Councillor reported at our April meeting that NCC will be resurfacing Main Street Fiskerton later this year. They will also be implementing structural drainage improvements to alleviate the flooding problems in Morton.



## Keeping our villages clean and tidy

We have organised two 'clean up' events in August 2017 & April 2018 involving over 50 volunteers who have helped to fill many sacks of rubbish.



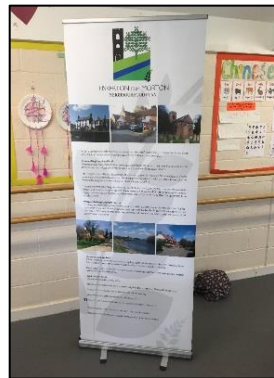
We appreciate the efforts of residents who regularly pick up litter outside of their own property and elsewhere.

## Neighbourhood Plan & Community Engagement

We were successful in bidding for a grant to support the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

A Steering Group separate from the Parish Council is leading this process. There are a blend of councillors and other residents progressing this plan.

Over 100 residents have declared their support for this plan.



Three successful events have been held for residents. The Light up the Green event attracted over 100 residents including children.



A lantern walk brought together 40 adults, children and young people who collectively judged the best Christmas Lights competition which attracted 11 entries.

During this event children and young people were asked to describe what they liked about our villages. The outcome was a logo to head up the description of what a Neighbourhood Plan is about. This can be seen on the banners displayed in both villages.



Our latest event was attended by 43 people who worked together one Sunday to create a Neighbourhood Profile. This required them to use maps and walk around each village to identify its characteristics, assets and areas for improvement.



The next step is wider involvement of residents in agreeing what should be in the final plan once we have secured a further grant to support this process.

The Parish Council recognises the importance of the wide variety of clubs and societies that operate in the two villages and do much to create the community spirit which contributed to the Sunday Times assessment.



## **Our Amenities**

Following consultation two years ago we created a plan aimed at improving facilities in our villages. As a result, we have paid for:

- A box supplying electricity to the Village Green
- Christmas Lights for the Village Green
- Two picnic tables
- Continued to repair the equipment on the playground adjacent to the Arthur Radford Centre
- Replaced a damaged litter bin at the car park to the north of Fiskerton
- Maintenance of the Village Green in its current format

## **Issues**

An inevitable issue in addition to the poor state of our roads, parking on Main Street Fiskerton and flooding on Morton is 'dog poo'!!! It should however be noted that the vast majority of our dog owners continue to act very responsibly by bagging and binning it.

## **Our priorities for the next 12 months are as follows:**

- Support the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Identify how we can improve our existing playground
- Decide if there should be any developments on the Village Green
- Find ways of improving how the Parish Council communicates with residents and support community initiatives
- Engage with NCC to ensure our main roads are fit for purpose and that drivers park safely and adhere to speed limits and do not flood
- Encourage local initiatives aimed at reducing litter and keeping our villages tidy
- Ensure that NCC are aware of their responsibility to maintain and improve the local 300 local bus service for residents who are unable to travel independently
- Explore whether the residents of Fiskerton wish to raise funds for a defibrillator

## Your views matter

The Parish Council welcome your views on these priorities and any other views and suggestions that residents have to improve our two villages.

Please post your comments to:

Lynn Holland  
Clerk to Fiskerton-cum-Morton Parish Council  
c/o 8 Pine Close  
Rainworth  
Nottinghamshire  
NG21 0DN

Alternatively, please email:

[fiskertoncummortonpc@virginmedia.com](mailto:fiskertoncummortonpc@virginmedia.com)

Rob Lancaster

Chair of FCM Parish Council

May 2018