

# A NOTE FROM... YOUR (BROUGHTON) PARISH COUNCIL



WINTER 2022

## HELLO!

Welcome to our new Newsletter ! We hope you will enjoy catching up with us each quarter as we go forward.

My name is Pat Scouse and I am the current Chair of Broughton Parish Council. My colleague Councillors and Parish Clerk are delighted to launch this magazine with you. We hope you will find it interesting and useful. This is our first one so please bear with us whilst we find our feet. Just as we are all finding everywhere, we are looking to reduce our footprint in the world and are actively working towards being a paperless organisation – this magazine will be shared electronically across our social media pages however if you have a neighbour who doesn't have access and they would like to catch up, please collect a copy for them from one of the following locations : the porch @ St Andrew's Church, Broughton Chapel and the Telephone Box Library.

## ABOUT US

Broughton Parish Council is a non political body and operates in the interests of the residents and community of the whole Parish. A Parish Council is the lowest tier of local government. Councillors are un-paid and are elected every 4 years (or co-opted if there is no election). We currently have 7 councillors but we can have up to 11. We are assisted by our Parish Council Clerk.



### Meet the Team

Chair : Pat Scouse, Vice-Chair : Robin Shrive  
Councillors : Hilary Bull, Martin Rose, Carol Taylor,  
Jan Manning and Mark Gray



## CONTACTING US

Please meet Alison McDaid. Alison is our Clerk and will usually be your first point of contact if you are contacting us by phone, text, email or social media



## COME AND MEET US

Broughton Parish Council meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm (excl. August). Meetings take place in the Meeting Room at Broughton Baptist Chapel. There is the opportunity to speak at the meeting or you are very welcome to stay and follow the meeting.

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

## Pocket Park and the Regeneration of the Pond

Some of you may have noticed the work going on in the Pocket Park to improve the area around the pond. This space had been neglected for many years, the area had become overgrown, the pond had silted up and it had all become rather dark and dismal. After consulting with the Wildlife Trust, Froglife (a specialist company with expertise in pond management) and the River Nene Regional Park (an environmental specialist organisation), a plan was created to improve the area for the benefit of the community and wildlife alike.

The perimeter was cleared of small self-set trees and scrub to allow more light into the area and reduce the amount of leaves falling into the water, the pond was dredged to remove the silt that had accumulated over the years and a dipping platform was installed to allow safe access to the water.

The length of the pond was reduced by the installation of a permeable barrier at one end to allow the material removed from the pond to be deposited on the ground as removing it from site would have been very expensive particularly given the difficult access.

The very invasive Himalayan Balsam has been removed (we hope) and some native planting around the edges of the pond has taken place. Two small seats have been installed to encourage people to take a few minutes to enjoy what we hope will become a pleasant spot once the planting matures.

This area is still a work in progress with additional planting being planned once the ground conditions allow. Bird and bat boxes are being installed to provide additional habitat and the pond already has attracted frogs and newts.

Funding for this project has largely come from a grant from North Northamptonshire Council and money provided by Redrow Homes as a community contribution when the Cransley Street estate was built.





# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

## Traffic Issues in the Village

Over recent years there has been increasing concern about the speed of traffic in the village.

For the last 18 months the Parish Council has been monitoring the four main roads in the village with the use of a speed camera which has been recording speed and traffic flow.

The data from the speed camera has been analysed and the main areas of concern have been identified, these being Northampton Road and Kettering Road.

We are now in consultation with North Northamptonshire Council to obtain costings and plans for traffic calming measures in order to determine how best to use the funds we have available.

In addition we are in consultation with the Council regarding a number of issues relating to the A43 junction at the exit from the village towards Kettering. Further updates will follow on both issues once we have a response from the Council.

## Long Service

Broughton Parish Council recently said farewell to Roy Baxter - Roy has served Broughton Community as Councillor for 35 years and we are very grateful to him for this - Roy has been involved in very many projects during his service and more recently, was a Steering Group member and key contributor to the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan where his knowledge and vast experience of the community played a key part in delivering this blueprint for the Parish. We wish Roy a very happy and active retirement from the Council.



## Outdoor Gym

Do you fancy a bit of exercise with a difference? Broughton Parish Council supported the Village Hall Committee to secure the installation of a new Outdoor Gym with multiple units designed to give the opportunity to do anything from a gentle stretch to a proper work out. Please do try it, there is something for everyone and best of all, it is completely free of charge!



# NOSTALGIA CORNER

We shall aim to feature our Broughton Heritage in each Newsletter – as we are experiencing our own Cold Snap this Christmas, our photographs from yesteryear this time are of how things used to be in the snow – the first picture is Wellingborough Road, c.1912 and the next one is Kettering side of the A43, c.1920



These photos have been shared with us by Roy Baxter and then reproduced by Martin Rose





# CURRENTLY....

## Phone Box Library

The old red phone box at the corner of the High St park has been turned into a library. Anyone can borrow books from the library at no cost but we do ask that you return them when you have finished or swap them for an alternative book. If you are donating books we do ask you not to put them on the floor as they will get damp and be spoiled.

## Would you like to be a Broughton Parish Councillor?

We currently have 4 vacancies available to us to welcome new Councillors. If you are interested, please contact Pat Scouse, Chair of Broughton Parish Council or Alison McDaid, Clerk to the Council for more information

## Can you Help?

There are some opportunities in the village to become involved in helping a couple of our brilliant community groups – The Village Hall is a busy hub in the village and used by many community groups for their own activities and for hire by residents for parties and events. The management Committee at the Village Hall are all volunteers and are looking for additional members – there is a wide variety of things to do and they would be delighted to have you join them – do you have some time to spare to help keep this community hub operating for the benefit of the whole village? Please contact Clive Gresham via email : [bookbroughton@gmail.com](mailto:bookbroughton@gmail.com)

In addition, The Broughton Charities are looking to appoint some new Trustees to help run the Charity. If you would like to know more and think you would like to help, please contact Roy Baxter on 790409. The Broughton Charities of Bentham and others are 400 years old and were set up, in a time where there was no Government aid, to provide limited assistance with cases of hardship. The essence of the Charity does continue today with a targeted Christmas distribution and focused support eg during Covid, the Charity was able to support the manufacture of face screens when supplies were very short.

# BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

## Please Close the Gate at The Cemetary

Knowing that our loved ones are safe brings great comfort. If you are visiting or even just passing the Cemetary, please have a look to see if the gates are closed. In years gone by, the gates were closed each day, this is no longer the case so if we can all take a look when passing, this will help.

## Planning some festive Fireworks?

If your neighbours have pets, please let them know so that they can be prepared or drop a note out on Facebook via our page or the Broughton Village page.

## Are you OK?

Loneliness is not always visible and is not easily solved but we can perhaps lend a hand.

Please say hello and pass the time of day with your neighbours - we have a strong, caring community in Broughton, please do what you can to help. Even in a small way, it really makes a difference.

# WHAT'S COMING UP

## Memorial Garden - Revisited

Those of you who have been in the village for a while will know the garden at the bottom of the High Street Playing field as the Memorial Garden. The memorial has since moved to the corner of Wellingborough Road and Northampton Road.

The Parish Council are about to refurbish this area to make it a pleasant space for remembrance and reflection.

Our plan is to replant it with bulbs for springtime which will naturalise with a variety of fragrant plants for the rest of the year. We will plant the edges with herbs of all types, so that you can walk past them and run your hands through them to release the fragrance. There should be enough herbs that if you need a sprig of thyme or a bay leaf you can harvest it from the garden.

Thanks to a very kind donation in memory of Broughton resident Malc Darlow, who was also a previous Chair of Broughton Parish Council, there will be an ornamental crab apple tree which will have abundant blossom in the spring and tiny apples for the birds in the Autumn.

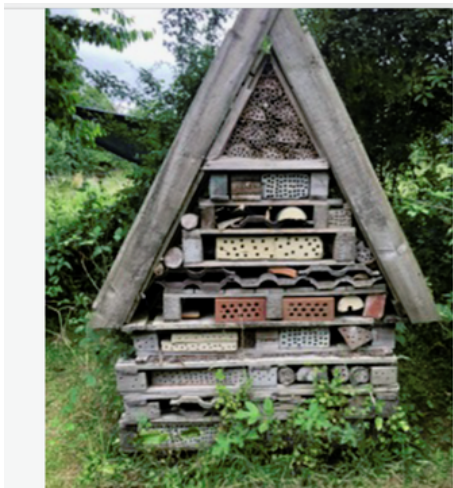
The centre square is planned to be planted with camomile, which can be walked on and release a delicious scent. However, we have been told that it is not easy to grow, so watch this space. (Or watch the centre square which will be more interesting.)

A large bug hotel is in the plans to encourage insect life to the area.

Those of you who have been driving for a few years will remember that when driving at dusk you would have had to clear your windscreen of bugs that had been splattered on it. The insect population has dwindled so much that you no longer have to do this. This garden will hopefully be the start of insect repopulation in this area.

Your local council is looking into the possibility of naturalising the bank opposite and it is going to be very interesting to see the change in insect activity in the area.

We hope that parents will visit the garden and let the children feel and taste the herbs, learn their names and what you could use them for.



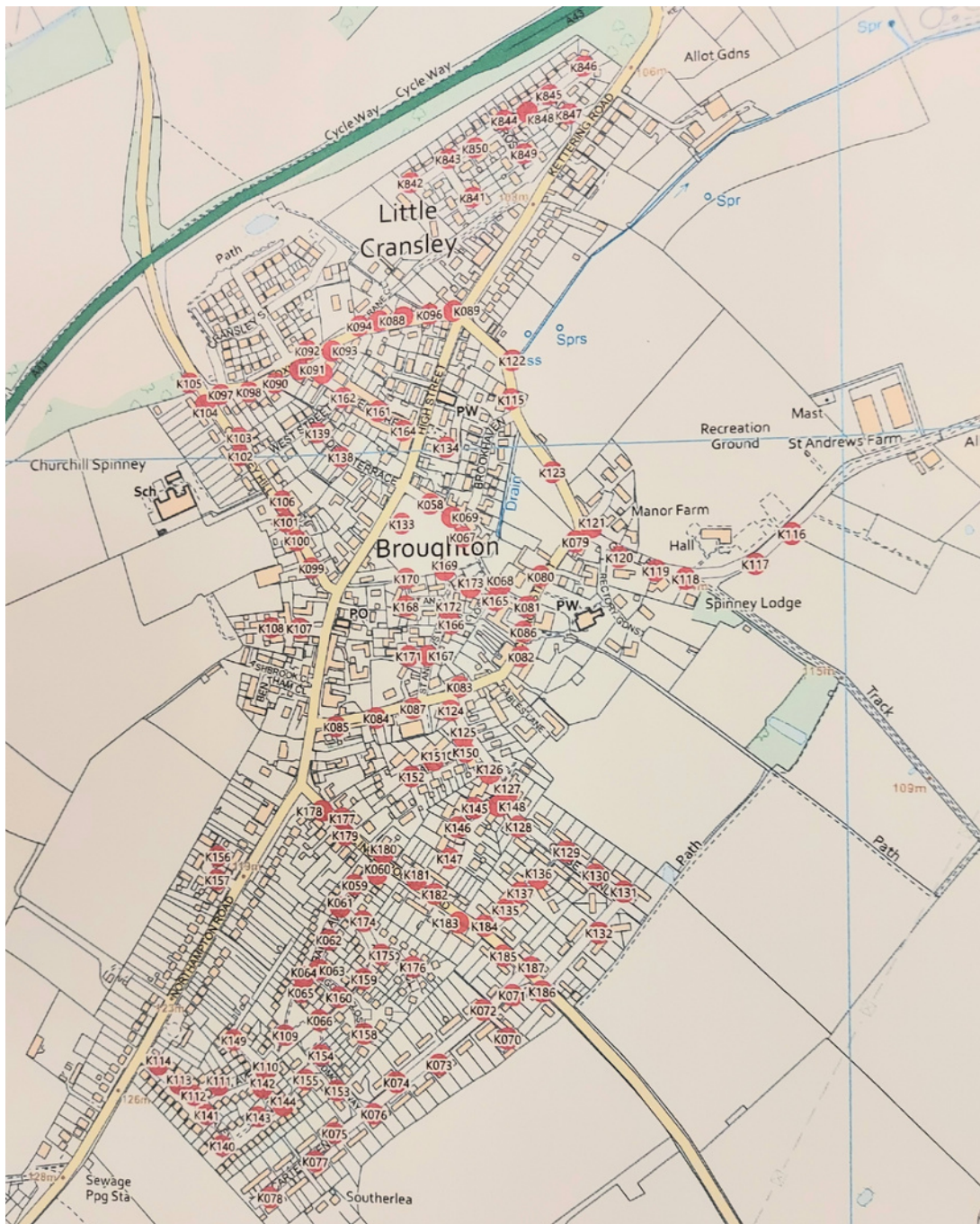
# USEFUL INFO

## How to Report Faulty Street Lighting and Potholes

You can report potholes and follow the progress and other highways maintenance issues to Northamptonshire County Council Street Doctor service using this link

<https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>.

For Street Lighting, there are two reporting routes - the first one relates to streetlights that are managed by Highways and Street Doctor can be used. The second route is for all other lights and these can be reported to North Northants Council (Kettering) via email: [streetlighting.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:streetlighting.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk). Each lamp post carries a sticker with a number and the location of these are indicated on the map below. Broughton is one of just a few villages where this dual reporting operates and this is a legacy from having had the main A43 and other main routes passing through the village.






# USEFUL INFO

## Where to find Planning Applications and how to comment

All Planning Applications relating to Broughton Parish are available to view on the North Northants Council - Kettering Area website and discussed at the regular Parish Meetings. It is possible to comment on any application if you wish to via the NNC-Kettering website : [https://www.kettering.gov.uk/info/20002/planning\\_and\\_building](https://www.kettering.gov.uk/info/20002/planning_and_building).

## Reporting Crime

It is always essential for all crime to be reported to the Police. Without this information, it is difficult for the Police to help us. At a recent Rural Forum Meeting, Inspector Paul Cash, Inspector for the Rural Area stressed the importance of community reporting and engagement to help the Rural Profile as without this, it is more difficult to draw support and resources to our communities. We will always share any consultations that are available and reporting can be via 999 for immediate and urgent help, 101 for general reporting and via Crime Stoppers for anonymous reporting



Last but not least in these final weeks of the year, we thank everyone who is involved in each of our community groups and activities for continuing to make Broughton a great place to live for us all. We would like to share our very best wishes with everyone for a peaceful and happy Festive Season.



**BROUGHTON  
PARISH COUNCIL**



## FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.broughtonpc.co.uk](http://www.broughtonpc.co.uk)



find us on Facebook as Broughton Parish Council Live



Email : [broughtonparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:broughtonparishclerk@gmail.com)



Meetings are held @ Broughton Baptist Chapel on the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ 7pm