

A NOTE FROM...

YOUR (BROUGHTON) PARISH COUNCIL



SPRING 2023

Hello and welcome to our Spring Newsletter. As promised in our first Newsletter, we are planning to publish each quarter with a general update on what has been happening, what is going on at the minute and things that are coming up on the horizon.

As part of this process, we will share some items of interest and, building further on this, we thought it was perhaps helpful to let you have an update each quarter of other meetings we may have attended.

Whilst it is an elected body (or co-opted when there is no election), the Parish Council operates at the primary level of local Government in an entirely non-political and voluntary role with the focus of its purpose being its local community. The Parish Council attends other meetings, interacts with other authorities and organisations in community matters and local government issues and situations so that wherever Broughton can be represented, it is.

Meetings attended this quarter include :

- Broughton Village Hall meeting is attended each month and we are abreast of their ongoing bookings and events and maintenance programme/issues. Their development plans are in continuous discussion and development to ensure the wellbeing and future of the Village Hall
- NCALC meeting (Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils) discussing their long term strategy.
- Parish & Towns Forum – various community initiatives including the Villages Asset Mapping Project, new NNC Highways Contract, Devolution of Assets Project/Policy, Northants Police representation, refugee local resettlement programme
- NACRE (Northamptonshire Action with Communities in Rural England) Parish Council Network/workshop meeting covering Transport, Green Infrastructure, Health & Wellbeing, Food and fuel, etc.
- NCALC training on Localism reported on in 3 parts, Communications, Insurance and Grants vs Borrowing.
- NNC (North Northants Council) Local Area Partnerships meeting. The information delivered was irrelevant to Broughton as it classed the village as urban (Broughton had been grouped in and outweighed by Kettering Town data). The meeting explored integrated care packages and agencies being bought together who provide services to focus on wellbeing and removing pressure off Adult Services.

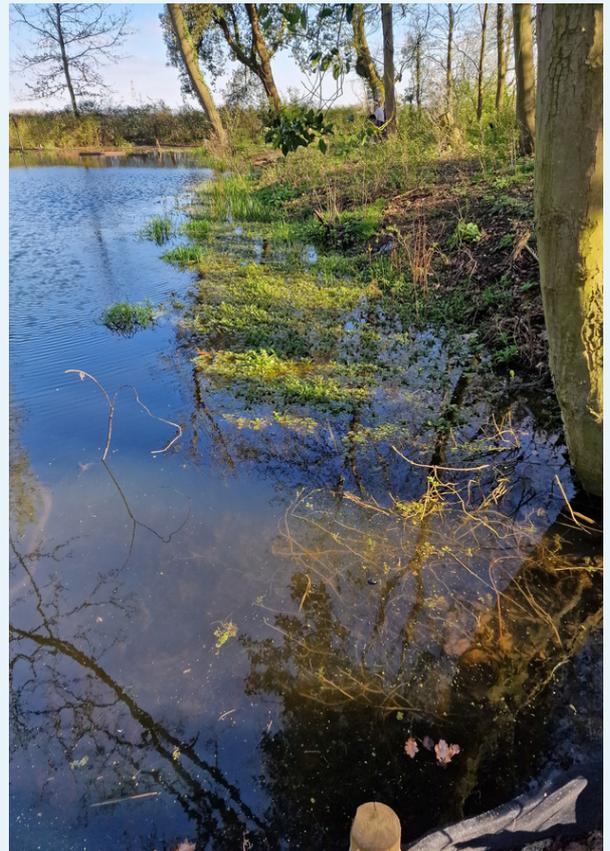
More commentary and meeting reports relating to the above can be found in the relevant minutes of our meetings Jan-March 2023 on our website <https://www.broughtonpc.co.uk/community/broughton-parish-council-15294/agenda-and-minutes/>

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

Pocket Park (Parson's Spinney)



These photos taken at the beginning of April 23 show a healthy pond – crystal clear water and lots of lush vegetation with plenty of pond activity to discover from the dipping platform



As is always the case, at this time of year the pond has risen to its maximum level but it will soon start to drop back down as the better weather arrives, allowing the dipping platform to be used again. Walking around the pond recently it was possible to see many of the 200 specifically chosen plants that were planted last year - we are looking forward very much to seeing the colour and associated wildlife that they will hopefully bring to the area as the year progresses.

If you look up around the pond you can see the bird boxes that we had made with the aim of attracting

in specific birds - we hope to have a reported sighting of these boxes being used so please look out for them too!

All of this has been done to make the area a more enjoyable and interesting place to walk around at the same time as creating a better habitat for wildlife.

Whilst taking the photographs, it was really lovely to see children with their parents enjoying the area, making the whole project worthwhile.

The Pocket Park is being managed by the Parish Council with a mixed contracted/volunteer maintenance programme throughout the year to retain the attractive surroundings and keep the pathways open and, there is an ongoing development programme in place to continue to enhance this village facility - further improvements/additions may follow soon, so look out for our next Newsletter or the Parish Council Facebook page and website to follow progress.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....

Springtime in Broughton

We know when Spring has arrived as all of a sudden, Broughton blooms!

Over the years there has been a conscious effort to bring spring flowering bulbs to Broughton thanks to a scheme called Operation Springbloom that was put in place by Kettering Borough Council as was. About 15 years ago, KBC decided that they could no longer afford to plant bulbs as part of their grounds maintenance programme. It would have been very sad to discontinue bulbs completely so they came up with an innovation whereby they would buy the bulbs and volunteers could plant them.

Broughton picked this up in its early days and for many years was successful in receiving what has amounted to thousands of spring bulbs including snowdrops, bluebells, crocus and daffodils that have found their way all over the village – the bank of snowdrops at Podmore Way are the first to appear, then the crocus lawn at the village hall becomes a carpet of colour on a bright spring day and then the daffodils come through all over.

Every single bulb has been planted by volunteers and very many of these by young people as they were when this scheme started, some of whom are now enjoying them with their own children. Latterly, the Parish Council and friends have picked up on the planting. Very regrettably Operation Springbloom was cancelled last year by North Northants Council but we will lobby whenever we are able to see if we can have it re-instated.



Broughton 4 Youth – Oct 2010



Still there and looking fabulous, April 2023

CURRENTLY.....

An update on the former Memorial Garden

The intention for the garden is that it becomes known as the Reflection Garden, the original purpose of the garden has now disappeared as the War Memorial was moved to the corner of Wellingborough Road/Northampton Road, a new identity is needed.

Following on from the article in the last Parish Council news, We are really pleased to tell you that a beautiful crab apple tree has been planted. The variety is called "Director Moerland" and is a round headed type notable for its distinctive large bronze maple like leaves, deep red flowers at the end of April and the apples will be small and red. The birds will love them. This begins our transformation of the garden.

We thank David Darlow for his kind donation towards the purchase of this tree in memory of his brother Malcolm Darlow. Many of you will remember Malcolm who was chairman of the Parish Council for many years.

We are a little in the hands of North Northants Council to clear some of the old shrubs in the garden, this is slowing down our plans to plant drifts of bulbs for the spring and fragrant plants to be enjoyed during the summer.

However, they have offered us some enormous rocks, which we would like to place artistically in the centre 😊 Apparently there are some delivery problems, but we are sure this can be overcome. We may be asking for volunteers to do some Stonehenge type stone moving when they arrive. If the Druids could manage it, surely there must be no doubt that Broughton folk can?

There was a little chatter on the Broughton Facebook Page re a seat in the garden. The council has taken the view for the time being that it would be unfair on the older residents of St Andrews, whose private gardens back on to this space, to introduce this just now. As everyone will know, this has been a troublesome spot at various times over the years, so we need to learn how the new focus on this space will evolve and how it will be used by residents in order to achieve the best outcome for everyone.



CURRENTLY

Outdoor Gym

Do you fancy a bit of exercise with a difference? Now the better weather is landing, don't forget that the Outdoor Gym is there, ready, available and free to use at Broughton Village Hall. There are multiple units designed to give the opportunity to do anything from a gentle stretch to a proper work out.

This is a great combination with the Childrens' Trim Trail that is alongside - something for everyone !



Free food in the Chapel



The Broughton bags 4 Good food table is available at the Chapel - please feel free to make use of this food - The Chapel is trying to help reduce food waste with the supermarkets by keeping these distributions open. Food Donations are very varied each time as it is simply what becomes available. The Chapel will notify of deliveries via their own Facebook Page and via the Broughton Village Facebook Page so keep a look out and drop in to see what they have.

When open with the Bags 4 Good, the Chapel offers a community warm space with tea or coffee and some company.

WHAT'S COMING UP.....

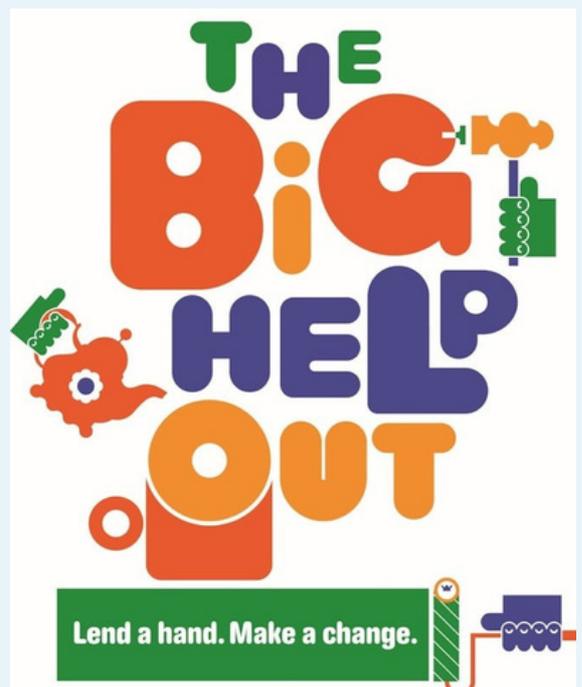
We have a very special Event coming up on us very soon..... The King's Coronation!

There will be festivities in the village with some Street Parties, St Andrew's Church will be showing a live feed of the Coronation itself with Tea and Cake for anyone who would like to come and watch. On Sunday, the Village Hall will host a Field Party Picnic. Keep an eye out for developments and news on our village Facebook pages, flags and bunting will no doubt be appearing 😊

Bank Holiday Monday has been declared Nationally as "Big Help Out Monday". We wondered how to make this theme work as an event and our thinking was that it might be a good idea to make it about us in Broughton!

So, we are asking everyone to take part in this **Big Help Broughton Out Monday** and give it a super spring clean. Please come along and join in, young and not so young, all are welcome - we are very grateful to anyone who is able to help make Broughton look great.

All types of jobs will be listed and you can choose where you would like to work and what you would like to do. Litter pickers, gloves, waste bags and cleaning kit will be available to pick up between 10.30 and 12.30 from Broughton Baptist Chapel in the High Street. Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and biscuits will be waiting for you to thank you for your help when you come back 😊



NOSTALGIA CORNER

We shall aim to feature our Broughton Heritage in each Newsletter – this time we have some fabulous photos of Broughton celebrating a previous coronation



These photos have been shared and reproduced by Martin Rose



USEFUL INFO.....

How to Report Potholes

You can report potholes, follow the progress and view other highways maintenance issues via the North Northants Council Street Doctor service using this link :
<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/report-potholes-or-highway-problem>



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.



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



Please remember that 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.

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.

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

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. Come and meet us at our Monthly Meeting every 3rd Wednesday @ 7pm (excl. August) at Broughton Baptist Chapel Meeting Room.



Meet the Team

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



**BROUGHTON
PARISH COUNCIL**



FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

www.broughtonpc.co.uk

find us on Facebook as Broughton Parish Council Live

Email : broughtonparishclerk@gmail.com

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