

HETHERSETT NEWSLETTER

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Inconsiderate Parking

HETHERSETT Parish Council has written to Norfolk Crime Commissioner Lorne Green about inconsiderate parking and the destruction of grass verges in the village.

Councillors once again expressed concern at the state of a number of verges and also parking on footpaths, which blocks the way for pedestrians, wheelchair users and residents pushing prams.



“This is a massive issue across the whole of our village and we receive constant complaints, but we do not have any power to sort the problems out or stop our verges being destroyed,” said council chairman Jacky Sutton.

Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent to the crime commissioner asking for the support of the police in helping to improve the situation. Some of the ideas suggested at the meeting were the implementation of permit parking, ensuring garages and off road parking is available on any new developments in the village and encouraging residents to leave their vehicles at home whenever possible.

THE parish council is mounting a campaign to increase the number of volunteers in the village. At its latest meeting, members highlighted vacancies on a number of groups. A vacancy on Hethersett Parish Council remains unfilled despite the position being advertised throughout the village. In addition trustees are needed for the Memorial Playing Field, Hethersett Jubilee Youth Club and Hethersett Village Hall.

“These vacancies are symptomatic of the problems we have at the moment in finding enough volunteers,” said council chair Jacky Sutton who launched a publicity campaign to “find some new blood” to help with existing groups.

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHANGE OF FORMAT

There could be a change to the format of Hethersett's annual parish meeting aimed at making the evening more relevant to local residents.

The parish council is looking at ways to improve the evening which receives reports from local groups and organisations.

This year's meeting will take place in Hethersett Village Hall on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 7.30 pm and it is hoped a new format will help attract more residents following disappointing attendances over the past few years.

Ideas being investigated include a café style evening with refreshments and information stalls on various groups, information on the distribution of S106 development money and information on attracting more volunteers and explaining how local people can make a real difference in the village.

THICKTHORN ROUNDABOUT UPDATE

A series of public consultation events are being organised by Highways England to outline plans for proposed changes to Thickthorn Roundabout.

The controversial roundabout is likely to undergo major changes in the light of new development in Cringleford, Hethersett and along the A 11 corridor towards London.

Design Consultant Nick Atkinson attended the latest meeting of Hethersett Parish Council on behalf of Highways England to talk in general terms about improvements to the junction. A number of options will be put forward at public events one of which will take place in Hethersett following an anticipated Media launch in mid March.

"We want the public's opinions to help Highways England select the best option to solve the problems at the roundabout. We want to collect evidence through sensible and open conversations with people," he said.

The public consultation events will feature an exhibition of the various options along with public questionnaires. There will be six weeks of consultations for the public to share their views, taking place in March, with details to follow. We expect there to be a public event in the village."

"There is a lot of work going on at the moment with the aim to make it quicker and easier to get through the area. We have to take in many considerations including traffic flow, the cost and the impact on the environment and come up

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with a scheme that will cope with traffic numbers predicted for the next 15 years,” Mr Atkinson added.

“Highways England is delivering £15 billion of Government investment between 2015 and 2020 to improve England’s trunk roads and motorways, including £400 million worth improvements on the A47.

This will include dualling between Norwich and Dereham, dualling between Blofield and North Burlingham and improving junctions in Great Yarmouth, including reconstructing the Vauxhall roundabout. Significantly for Hethersett it also includes major improvements to the Thickthorn junction

YOUTH CHAMPION NEEDED

Hethersett Parish Council is looking for a youth champion to work with young people in the village.

The champion’s role would include actively engaging with the youth of the village and working alongside local schools, youth club and other youth organisations to ensure the voice of young people is heard.

Councillors decided at their latest meeting that the champion doesn’t have to be an existing member of Hethersett Parish Council and anybody interested in more details about the role should contact parish clerk Ian Weetman on 01603 810915.

COMING COUNCIL DATES

Coming dates for Hethersett Parish Council meetings are as follows:

The full council will meet on March 20th, April 10th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, September 18th, October 16th, November 20th and December 18th. Planning meetings will take place on those dates and also on April 3rd, May 2nd, June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th and December 4th.

SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hethersett Parish Council is looking for at least two more people to join its speedwatch team. Four people came forward following public appeals, but it now transpires that six are needed to take the scheme forward.

The team would monitor motorists’ speed in the village by using detectors which would also give data about problem areas. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact parish clerk Ian Weetman on 01603 810915.

Dog Bin Charges Rise

The additional cost of dog bins in Hethersett could force the parish rates up.

At the latest meeting of the parish council, clerk Ian Weetman read out the latest cost proposals from South Norfolk Council following complaints from a number of parishes, including Hethersett, to proposed price hikes.

“The current cost for this year of emptying the bins is £520. The new proposals would see this rise to £1,900 in the next financial year and £3,000 a year after that,” he said.

Councillors agreed that the bins are an important amenity for the village.

“We were one of the first councils to have dog bins and taking them away would be a retrograde step. We should continue to provide the service, but it could

HETHERSETT Parish Council is supporting the Campaign to Protect Rural England’s (CPRE) attempts to safeguard the environment and landscape of Norfolk from over development. Councillors agreed unanimously at their latest meeting to sign a pledge with the following wording:

“Hethersett Parish Council supports CPRE Norfolk in its campaign aimed at ensuring that no new sites are allocated for house building in revised local plans to 2036 until all existing allocations in current core strategies have been developed. We consider that unrealistic and unnecessary new housing targets, currently under consideration, would cause unacceptable damage to the environment and landscape of Norfolk.

“This council therefore asks that our local authorities prepare cases to demonstrate that the environmental harm caused by slavishly following housing market assessments is serious enough to outweigh potential benefits and in so doing enable the adoption of local plans to 2036 that do not elevate housing targets beyond existing levels.

“We note that the Annual Monitoring Reports of local councils reveal that housing delivery is considerably below target levels and that large areas of land already allocated for development remain available and therefore there is no need for new allocations to be made.”

The CPRE has written to all parish and town councils in Norfolk for support: