



Barton in Fabis Parish Council Newsletter November 2011

BARTON UNDER THREAT (AGAIN)!

You will probably have heard that Rushcliffe Borough Council have proposed allowing the building of 2,500 houses 'south of Clifton' (in Barton Parish) – although this is only half the story as along with this would come industrial units, retail parks, schools etc. The development would therefore cover a huge area extending as a first stage right down to Barton Lane (between the A453 and the Gotham Road).

The proposals have come about as part of the development of a Local Development Framework. A group of 10 Councillors and Rushcliffe planners have been meeting in secret behind closed doors without anyone to represent our views (our Borough Councillor – Trevor Vennett-Smith was excluded).

Rushcliffe have stated that the housing is subject to the A453 being improved but we believe that developers are already doing a 'backroom' deal to provide some of the money – probably in return for a lot more development.

The Parish Council has met and unanimously agreed to continue to fight these development plans.

Why? There are many reasons but here are a few:

- The Borough Council's own figures show that there is no need for this housing in the Borough itself.
- This is Green Belt land and the development would destroy farm land and the countryside and peace and quiet we all value for ever.
- If the Green Belt is breached and this huge development went ahead, we can be sure that property developers would not stop there and there would be no argument ('defensible boundary') against building across the whole area up to the M1 and incorporating Barton, Thrumpton and Ratcliffe in to a single development.

What is the Parish Council doing? The Parish Council is lobbying all Borough Councillors to oppose the plans. We are forming an Action Group to draw up our detailed arguments and response and getting together with Gotham, Thrumpton, Ratcliffe who are also threatened.

What can you do? As before it's vital that all those who agree, support the fight – direct individual responses often count for more than Parish Councils acting on behalf of their community.

There are two things you can do:

- 1) **Write to Paul Randle Deputy Chief Executive** (Rushcliffe Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5FE) and let him know what you think of the plans.
- 2) **Join Parish Councillors to show we oppose the plans by coming to the full council meeting at Rushcliffe Civic Centre (off Trent Bridge) on 15th December 7pm** when the Borough Council is due to debate the plans. Please contact a Parish Councillor if you need a lift.

What happens after that? There will be a formal consultation process in the New Year, followed by an 'Examination in Public' later next year - we'll keep you updated. However, these consultations are often only 'rubber stamp' proposals so it really is **vital that as many people write to Rushcliffe NOW.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At the same time as we are threatened with large scale development being imposed on us, the Government is planning to give local communities more say about planning within in their towns and villages and make it easier for communities to agree what type of development they want. To do this communities such as ours have to prepare a Neighbourhood plan which designates what type of development they would like in the village. Following the successful meeting on 15th November we have some initial ideas, but we welcome your input and would like to hear from you:

- Would you support more housing in the village?
- If so, what sort of housing and where?
- What about offices and other employment development?
- What about leisure facilities?
- The Parish Council will also be drawing up a survey to get the views of as many villagers as possible.

NEW ROAD

The Parish Council has funded some work clearing the ditch at the bottom of New Road and removing much of the weeds. Site lines have been improved for motorists and we expect road drainage to have been improved.

This work has exposed much of the “Manor Wall” and it is clear that remedial work is required on the wall if we are to stop further deterioration.

The Parish Council is now seeking quotes for this work.

NOTTINGHAM IN BLOOM

Congratulations to everyone who helped our entry this year, through your hard work the village was awarded a Silver Certificate. The judges visited the village in August and were very impressed and particularly noted that the village was litter free, the church brass plates well polished and the grass verges well kept. The project to plant trees near the flood bank and the involvement of the children especially was well judged together with the flower tubs, notice boards, telephone box and signs. The village also scored on the front gardens and in addition Paul & Angela received a special award for their garden and their support of wildlife. The judges made some suggestions for next year so after Christmas it is planned to ask for volunteers to come along and see who can help.

BUS SHELTER

At last, after extensive negotiations with the County Council which seem to have gone on for years, we almost have a bus shelter on Manor Road.

The shelter is partially installed and might be completed by the time this newsletter appears and there is now hard standing on both sides of the road to help with wheelchair and trolley access.

FLOODING/ HOUSE

INSURANCE

The Parish Council has received reports that some villagers have been refused house insurance on the grounds of flood risk. It does appear that the Environment Agency has not updated the information they supply to Insurance Companies. The Parish Council has received written confirmation from the Environment Agency that the flood risk in Barton within the floodbank is 1 in 100 years. If anyone is refused insurance we are happy to supply copy of this letter and would like to hear of any instances where insurance is refused.

CONSULTATIONS

There are currently a number of consultations which you might like to respond to as they impact on the village.

Nottinghamshire County Council Street Lighting

The County Council proposes to turn off our streetlights between midnight and 05.30. The Parish Council has not objected to this proposal but to see the proposal in detail as it affects the village and respond go to www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Boundary Commission

Initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries in England

This consultation seeks views on the Government's initial proposals to reduce the total number of constituencies in England from 533 to 502 and make sure that each constituency contains a similar number of registered electors. The proposal as it affects the parish is to abolish the Rushcliffe Parliamentary Constituency and Barton along with Gotham would be in a new constituency which is created north of the river! To see the detailed proposals and respond go to <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/consultations/1987347>
(Rushcliffe BC would remain unchanged)

Alternatively, if you have views on either of these, please let a Parish Councillor know

CO OPTION

Due to a resignation there has been a vacancy on the Parish Council. The Council is now pleased to announce that Mrs Lynda Dransfield has been formally co-opted. Lynda lives on Trentside and she is particularly well placed to represent those who live in that part of the village.

POLICE NOTICE

A new, non-emergency phone number has been introduced to contact the police when it is less urgent than a 999 call. 101 replaces the 0300 300 99 99 number which will gradually be phased out before being turned off completely on Monday 9th January 2012. It should be used, for example, to report a car theft, property has been damaged, to report a minor traffic accident, to provide information to the police or you want to speak to the local police officer. ALL calls cost 15p.
www.police.uk/101

Remember in an emergency always use call 999

Our local police officer will be attending the next parish council meeting subject to operational requirements. If you have concerns about crime or safety come along to the meeting.

A453

Representatives of the Highways Agency's contractor A One are coming to the next Parish Council on 5th January. We will be pressing them on ideas to improve the safety of the higher Barton junction with the A 453 and to install reflector bollards at the lower junction to improve visibility when turning in to the village. If you would like to attend this meeting, please do so and voice your concerns. The meeting starts at 7.00pm.

Also we understand that despite the upgrade to the A453 resurfacing will take place in January. The scheme is programmed to start on Sunday 22nd January 2012 and will have a duration of 3½ weeks. The resurfacing works will require the A453 to be fully closed overnight between the hours as stated below.

- Monday to Thursday 20:00hrs to 05:30hrs
- Friday 21:00hrs to 05:30hrs
- Sunday 21:00hrs to 05:00hrs

QUEEN'S JUBILEE & OLYMPIC GAMES

We would very much like to celebrate these two events with style and are looking for volunteers to join a committee to come up with ideas and help organise. We would like to involve as many as possible and welcome everyone's input.

If you are interested, please contact Sue Davies.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Since the meeting last month we now have some coordinators for each street and Trentside. A meeting will be called shortly to decide what and how we do in the future. Many of you have taken up the Smartwater offer, the police recommend this as deterrent and we still have some limited supplies left at £18 per bottle; contact Susan Davies.

RECTORY PLACE

The parish council was asked some time ago if it was possible to improve street lighting on Rectory Place. Following discussions with Nottinghamshire CC it was agreed there was a need but the County informed us they did not have a budget for this work. The parish council has undertaken a limited consultation in the area in question and has decided to part fund the improvement and an additional street light should be installed soon.

BARTON WEATHER

A summary of the local weather conditions in Barton updated every 15 minutes and a 12-hour forecast is now available online at www.weather.bartoninfabispc.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Members of the Parish Council attended the Cabinet Meeting at Rushcliffe BC when it was agreed to put the proposed Local Development Framework to the full council on 15th December. The Parish Council asks for your support in opposing the Borough Council and would like as many residents as possible to attend the meeting at the Civic Centre on 15th December. If anyone would like transport please ask any councillor or the clerk. This is an important opportunity not to be missed to show the strength of feeling against these proposals to include a large area within the parish for 2,500 homes.

Do you have something you think the Parish Council should do or put right?

We always want to hear from villagers – please let any councillor know

Julian Coles Chairman ☎ 0115 983 0788	Susan Davies ☎ 0115 983 0495	Bill Harrison Vice Chairman ☎ 0115 983 0313	Allan Kerr ☎ 0115 983 0596	Lynda Dransfield ☎ 0115 983 0202
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See the web site for additional information on some of the items included here

[**www.bartoninfabispc.org.uk**](http://www.bartoninfabispc.org.uk)