

# **Barton in Fabis Parish Council Newsletter February 2003**

# **Local Democracy Starts Here**

A parish council is a small, local authority. Its members are elected for 4 years at a time in the same way as any other council. It is the corporation of our village. Today there are over 8,000 parishes in England & Wales and new ones are being created all the time.

However, there are two sorts of parishes, whose boundaries do not necessarily coincide, and the two are often confused. These are, firstly the Ecclesiastical Parishes each centered on a church with a parochial church council under the chairmanship of the vicar or rector, and secondly the Civil Parish. A civil parish is a unit of administration and democracy. Where the electorate exceeds 200 there is usually a Parish (or Town) Council. In Barton we have had a parish council since 1895. Over 10 million people live in such parishes.

The parish council can do more than is often suspected. Parish Councils have a wide variety of powers and achieve much in their own right but can also help other groups. Parish councils are the most non-bureaucratic and cheapest kind of local authority in existence. Reassuringly the government has recently confirmed its support for parish councils and as district councils become larger and more remote the role of parish councils will become more important.

Parish councils have the power to improve the quality of village life by representing the views of the village to other authorities like the district and county councils and of course by spending sums of money on things that in their opinion are in the interests the parish or its inhabitants. If you would like to be part of this elections are to be held this May and Council is keen to encourage new people to stand.

You elect the Councillors and you are entitled to go to the Parish Council meetings. Also, by law an Annual Parish meeting must be held, this is not a meeting of the Council but is an assembly for all the parish electors.

# Parish Council AGM & Annual Parish Meeting

This years AGM and Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Although the Parish Council has a legal obligation to call an Annual Parish meeting, it is not Council and it is hoped to have other groups active within the village take part. If you would like to participate and have not received an invitation please contact the Clerk.

#### Freedom of Information Act

The Council has adopted the Parish Council Model Scheme, details from the Clerk. Minutes of meetings will be available on our web site and from the Clerk by appointment

# **Village Roads**

The Parish Council continues to put pressure on the council to repair the roads in the village and recently there have been some improvements. However, more could be done and if know of any roads or paths in need of attention please let us know. We are aware of some roads with serious mud problems which is affecting safety and we are investigating to see what can be done.

# **Planning Role Secured**

The Parish Council takes very seriously its role in local planning issues. All applications within the Parish are investigated together with those in adjacent parishes when appropriate. It was therefore good news to learn that the Government has confirmed local councils will retain their current planning rights.

In a letter Lord Rooker Planning Minister and Alun Michael MP Minister of State for Rural Affairs, state that parish and town councils in England will not lose their rights of being notified about any relevant planning application In their local communities.

# County Council Branches Out With Safety Survey

The County Council has been branching out to improve safety \_by completing a massive survey of more than 90,000 trees alongside roads in the County and including Barton.

The survey, which is thought to be the largest in the Country by area and number, has enabled tree specialists to identify dead, dangerous or poor trees, which were then treated with tree surgery or removed completely for safety reasons.

The County Council now hopes to expand the survey to include trees on private land that might affect roads. This would involve tree specialists advising private landowners as to any work that needs carrying out on trees on their property.

If you have any queries about trees alongside roads in the village contact Nottinghamshire County Council on

© 0115 977 2166. or e-⊠ trees@nottscc.gov.uk

Source Nottinghamshire CC Planning & Property Briefing December 2002

#### The Environment

In July 2002, Nottinghamshire held its second earth summit, Ten Years On. This was designed to enable people in Nottinghamshire to contribute to the United Nations' World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg between 26th August and 4th September. This report summarises what was said at the *Ten Years On* conference and also includes some of the key outcomes from Johannesburg, in particular the call for local action

If you would like more details the report is available from the editor

e- editor@livingfortomoorow.org.uk
Source Ten Years On www.nottsearthsummit.org.uk

#### **Environmental Websites:**

www.sustainiable-development.gov.uk
A website reporting on progress made by
the UK towards sustainable development.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Information from the Environment
Agency about what's happening in the
UK.

# Village Plan

The Vital Villages funding programme from the Countryside Agency has lots of money to hand out for village projects and over £12M has already been allocated but there is still a further £25M.

The Parish Council is keen to develop a Parish Plan for which a grant of up to £5,000 is available and a working party has been setup but we need more members. Contact Bill Harrison for more details.

A Parish Plan for the village is an important tool to protect our environment and help shape future development.

# **Local Heritage Initiative**

The Local Heritage Initiative provides grants and advice to help local groups investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. A local heritage project can have an archaeological, natural, built, industrial or cultural focus to # or include a number of these aspects. Successful projects celebrate the past, inform the present and encourage thought and action for the future.

To maximise the benefit for local communities it is essential that projects reflect what local people value most about their heritage and be initiatives for public benefit now and in the future. Projects must increase people's awareness, understanding and enjoyment of heritage through gathering information and making accessible to the public.

You don't need to be an expert to apply. Three quarters of projects funded so far have been first time recipients of lottery funding. Up to 95% of a project's cash costs can be met, providing you are able to put in volunteer time, help in-kind and at least 5% cash. Grants of between £3,000 and £25,000 are available.

If you have an idea please talk to Councillor Sue Davies or the Clerk.

# **Broadband in the Village**

BT has lowered the number of customer requests needed before it will upgrade exchanges for broadband ADSL. Trigger levels have been reduced at over 300 exchanges, in one case from 750 to 200 requests.

It is possible to register your interest in broadband and BT has said they will upgrade an exchange when the number of requests reaches a set figure.

So, if you would like broadband register your interest at

www.bt.com/broadband

# Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

The Trust is looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks, some are paid some unpaid. For further details contact the Gordon Dyne, Chairman Local members Group

#### **Arts in Rushcliffe**

The Henley Farrell Big Band Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 8:00pm West Bridgford Community Hall, Church Drive £5.00 **20115** 981 19911

Meet Me in St Louis 15<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm Stanford Hall £4.00 20115 981 9911

Rushcliffe Concert 2003 Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>
March Nottingham Playhouse £5.00/£2.50
20115 941 9419

Zum (gypsy tango inferno – music from Eastern Europe gypsy tradition and Argentinean tango) Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 8:00pm West Bridgford Community Hall, Church Drive £6.00/£5.00

#### The River Trent

The Environment Agency has issued its report on *The River Trent Corridor Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy* that outlines the proposed strategy for the next 6 years. The Parish Council has been asked to comment on the report and replies are required before 2<sup>nd</sup> May. If anyone would like to see this report or better still help prepare a response please let the Clerk know.

# **Keeping Warm?**

Keeping homes warm in the winter can be a problem. Rushcliffe has produced some free information packs with energy efficiency advice and details of grants available to improve insulation. For copies 20115 981 9911 or e- customerservices @rushcliffe.gov.uk

# **Prospective Candidates**

A briefing meeting for prospective candidates for the Parish elections is to be held on Monday 3rd March at 7:00pm in the Civic Centre. The aim is to outline nomination procedures, the timetable & polling and count arrangements. Phone to confirm attendance

**2** 0115 914 8515

# Road Improvements for the A453

As many will know the Parish Council has been trying to get the junction at Keepers Cottage made safer for some time. Two things have held us back, firstly the prospect of a dual carriageway has meant the Highways Authority have been reluctant to spend any money and secondly the concern that any changes would be safer.

We have now been told that the Highways Authority are planning to widen the road and provide a central refuge for traffic turning right both into the village and out onto Barton Lane and that this is expected by April 2004.

Detailed plans are not yet available and when they are we will make them public.

Let us hope it happens - but don't hold your breath!

#### **Gotham School**

Many of you may know that
Nottinghamshire County Council have
promised a new school at Gotham.
However, the plans would involve
substantial house building on the current
school field and Rushcliffe Borough
Council, as the planning authority, have
blocked the plan as it would involve
building on the Green Belt.

At the moment there is stalemate but negotiations between Rushcliffe and Nottinghamshire CC are continuing and as soon as we hear anything we will let you know. If we get a settlement by March then a new school for September 2004 may still be possible but it is looking increasingly unlikely. Gotham Parish Council support Rushcliffe in their opposition to the current plan.

# And finally...a Robot Carer?

Mitsubishi has unveiled its latest robot. It is designed to give the elderly or infirm a bit of company, and has face and voice recognition built in. Its serious side is that it can contact emergency services and others if the owner shows signs of illness or is in need of help.

www.idea.gov.uk/knowledge/february/?id=180 203bob

# **Parish Council Contact Information**

Mrs. Susan Davies 20115 983 0495

Village Photographer Jill Pearson ☎ 0115 983 0961

Clerk to the Council
Roger Hawkins

115 983 0411

2- rogerjhawkins@aol.com

### **Barton in Fabis Parish Council**

**Newsletter July 2003** 

#### Barton in Fabis - Past, Present and Future

- Why do you live in Barton?
- What do you value about living here?
- What irritates you?
- How would you like the village to improve?

#### A Parish Plan?

#### A Village Design Statement?

You may not have heard about a Parish Plan or a Village Design Statement and if you have, you may think how are they relevant to Barton. The Parish Council think that these could help improve the quality of life for everyone in the Parish.

At the Annual General Meeting, we heard from a guest speaker about what these mean, and decided at our next meeting that we wanted to do what we could to take them forward. We cannot do so without some more volunteers. We do not want to avoid work, but neither the Parish Plan nor the Village Design Statement can be done by the Parish Council alone – we need to show that we have wider community involvement.

#### So Why Bother?

The Parish Council takes their responsibilities seriously. We see our role as to look after the village for this and future generations, valuing our history and environment, improving the quality of life for everyone.

The community can get involved, and help shape the way we live, the way we treat each other, and enhance the community

Drainage, dog fouling, grass verge cutting, potholes in the road, bus services, noise, housing developments or litter, can all be tackled through a Parish Plan/Village Design Statement. We cannot achieve as much as we would like on your behalf at the moment. With more involvement from the community, we can all work together to bring about a change.

We will be organising an open meeting to discuss these issues, and in the meantime, we would be interested to hear from anyone who has ideas or who would like to serve on a working party – no qualifications required, just enthusiasm. If you would like more details before the meeting, please speak to Roger Hawkins (Clerk) – contact details at the foot of this newsletter.

#### Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 7:30pm in the Village Hall when the Village Plan will be on the Agenda. Everyone is welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and time is always made available to listen to comments, observations and ideas.

#### Chairman's Annual Review 2002/2003

On reflecting about the issues that have faced us this year we have had a quiet year.

#### **New Clerk**

I would like to thank Roger for his help this year and he has embraced the role as clerk very enthusiastically. I would like to thank him and wish him well in the future.

#### Δ453

Another chapter closed on the A 453 saga with the publication of the Pell Frischmann multi-modal report. The current road alignment was yet again secured and various clear intentions declared to upgrade the road. Commitments were made to secure temporary road improvements but to date very little appears to be happening.

Along with the Pell Frischmann report came the intention to put the new park and ride next to the Noble Road estate along with the tram. But 5 years away at least I suspect.

Whatever happened to the Parkway Station at the power station you may ask. Again kicked into the long grass.

The day a Parish Councilor is able to oversee the start of digging will be a momentous one.

In summary it was progress as usual – lots of talking and very little practical progress.

#### The Airport

Again some progress but their remains a logiam between the airport authority and Leicestershire BC. I guess with international flying at a low point there is not a great impetuous currently.

#### **Planning**

Little to report. We objected to the development at RAF Newton on the basis that this land was designated for housing in the borough and should the Government get its way this area may come under pressure once again.

#### Village Design Statement

Whilst little appears to be directly affecting us I know there are people in the village who are eager to establish a village design statement. This process, involving a wide cross section of the village, will lead to a better understanding of what makes Barton the community it is. We will be able to explain it better to the agencies like Rushcliffe Borough Council and hopefully it will ensure that if the village is threatened in the future we will remain united and clear about what we want and don't want in the future.

#### **Gotham School**

Perhaps the biggest issue facing the community at the moment. It is easy to ignore the state of local schools once your children have left but the games that are being played over the education of our children are a disgrace. The County Council has promised a new school. They have lodged a planning application but have done so in such a way that the Greenbelt around Gotham could be seriously undermined. Rushcliffe on their part have been belligerent and offered little by way of accommodation knowing that some redevelopment is required to help fund the project.

#### The Green Belt

Gotham Parish Council is concerned about the Green Belt.

I suspect that this issue will be divisive and we may think it is none of our business BUT it is. Our children need modern well-resourced, educational facilities and anyone who feels that a good and vibrant school helps develop communities should be concerned.

#### Grass Cutting - A453

The Parish Council would like to thank Jack Kent for responding quickly to our request for 'a helping hand'. The problem of achieving the right cut at the Barton Lane/New Road/A453 junction came about because of a lack of organisation between the agencies concerned. We eventually managed to get the grass cut by the contractor on 19 June, but when they failed to cut a wider swathe at Keeper's Cottage, we could not wait any longer and Jack kindly stepped in. We are still determined to make AM Scott fulfill their obligations, and will be sending them the bill.

#### Dog Fouling

We would like to be able to stop people allowing their dogs to foul the village, but short of asking people to exercise more control, and put some signs up (which we will do) we cannot take any action. The only action is unfortunately for anyone who sees a dog allowed to leave its pile inappropriately to report it themselves to the Rushcliffe Dog warden. The owner is liable for a £\*,\*\*\* fine.

Please don't allow your dog (or horse!) to be antisocial – it may be an expensive mess.

#### 30mph

Speeding seems to be coming a problem again on the narrow village roads, please slow down

#### **Garden Fires**

A number of you have asked that we remind everyone of the nuisance fires can cause when lit at either the wrong time of day or when the wind is blowing in the wrong direction. Better still take advantage of the special offer on compost bins.

#### Bus Service Use It Or Lose It

That's the stark message from Nottinghamshire County Council. Many people depend on the bus for a safe journey to and from home. Please consider using the service if you can, regularly or even occasionally if you never use it. We would be happy to hear your comments about what changes to the timetable would make you more likely to use it.

Safeway operate a free bus that gets close to the village but not quite close enough. However, if there is sufficient demand we may be able to persuade them to alter the timetable and take villagers to the supermarket at Gamston. Anyone interested should speak to the clerk.

We understand that the Nottingham-EMA bus has been withdrawn and the Council would like to hear from anyone who is affected.

Travel information is on <a href="https://www.traveline.org.uk">www.traveline.org.uk</a> (2000 0870 608 2 608)

#### Parish Tree Planting Scheme

Trees and hedging plants are again available free from Rushcliffe BC and this year we can submit up to a maximum of three schemes.

The County Council no longer approves planting alongside roads but all other schemes will be considered. The objectives are to concentrate on restoring or preserving a particular landscape character, creating wildlife habitats and planting new stock for future generations to enjoy. If you have an idea for a scheme talk to any Councillor or the clerk.

Rushcliffe will only accept applications via the Parish Council and we have to submit early September.

#### **Fight Crime**

Ringmaster is a new initiative designed to keep us informed of the latest crimes & scams. It is maintained by the police at West Bridgford and uses e-mail to inform about what's going on. The latest message concerned the identification of a number of cars used by bogus Water Board officials who previously used a blue Skoda Octavia and now known to be using the following vehicles,

Maroon Citroen Xsara V346 MDM; Grey Mazda 626 L289 EKN; Silver Ford Focus T223 TTN; Silver Ford Mondeo RA02 RWM.

Anyone who has seen these vehicles is asked to notify the police immediately stating that their sightings relates to **Operation Liberal**. If you would like to receive Ringmaster messages via email then send a message to the clerk.

My advice to you is to put your support behind the school. It is doing its best to remain outside any political support and simply strive for the best educational solution. If you are able to write to the school to express your concern and offer your support it will be greatly appreciated.

Good Luck to the new council and thank you to all the residents who have supported me over the 12 years in the role. My thanks also to Bob Plowright, Mick Bexon, Pat Curtis, Daphne Towers as well as the existing councilors for their help over that time.

#### Alan Kerr

#### Local Heritage Initiative

The Local Heritage Initiative provides grants and advice to help local groups investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. A local heritage project can have an archaeological, natural, built, industrial or cultural focus to it or include a number of these aspects. Successful projects celebrate the past, inform the present and encourage thought and action for the future.

#### Village Footpaths

The County Council is prepared to pay for the cost of replacing styles with gates where practical (subject to landowner permission) to make paths more accessible for walkers. More details from Cllr. Bill Harrison.

#### Wheels to Work

This scheme lends mopeds to young people who have the offer of work, training or education but have no public or private transport to access this opportunity. Successful candidates are expected to pay £3 per week towards the upkeep and all petrol. For more information call 01623 727 620 or visit www.nottswheels2work.org.uk

#### Village Roads

We continue to press for repairs to the roads, pavements and to address the flooding that occurs.

Please let any Councillor know of any specific concerns you may have.

#### **Home Security**

The Parish Council has negotiated an offer on equipment to help protect your home. The Door-com, is a new product that removes the need to open the door to potentially dangerous situations and bogus callers and the Godfather Personal Alarm, with torch and wall bracket, as well as being used as a personal attack alarm can also be used, wall mounted with the strap attached to the handle of the door, meaning the alarm will sound should the door be forced or opened without permission.

The normal price for the Door-com is £14.95 (exc of VAT) for single units and the Godfather is £3.25 (exc of VAT) with additional charges for carriage. However, in this instance we are able to exclusively offer you carriage paid VAT inclusive cost of £14.63, for the duration of the newsletter. The combined retail value of these products is in excess of £29.00.

Further information from the Clerk

#### Growing Older in Rushcliffe

Rushcliffe want your views on life after 50 in the Rushcliffe area on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 10:30-3:30 at Rushcliffe Arena. See the Parish notice board for more details or Penny Spice on © 0115 914 3225 or epenny.spice@rushcliffe-pct.nhs.uk

#### **Parish Council Contact Information**

Paul Kaczmarczuk Chairman

**2** 0115 983 0752

Mrs. Susan Davies 2 0115 983 0495

Rob Newcombe 28 0115 983 0983

### **Barton in Fabis Parish Council**

#### **Newsletter November 2003**

#### The Parish Plan

A very successful open meeting was held in the Village Hall to discuss setting up a working group to look at producing a village plan. Thank you to all those who joined in the discussion, the following is a summary of the issues raised, some are within our control to do something about others will be more difficult. We are already looking to see how transport can be improved how the bus service could be better. We are now looking for volunteers to take ownership of particular issues and help produce the plan and recommend actions. If you would like to help in this contact any councilor or the Clerk

Roads

A453 junction improvement including

Reflectors Lighting

Central refuge

Village

Introduce traffic calming but not humps

Improve drainage

Improve ramps on/off pavements

Trim hedges & overhanging trees to full width

of Pavements Resurface roads

Introduce 20mph speed limit

Footpaths

Improve Signage

Our Village Environment

Recycling

Cans, paper and cardboard

Better publicity

More information on what is

recycled/recyclable

Problem of rubbish on Top Lane

What can be done?

The Village

Empathy with the disabled, parents with prams

and toddlers

New activities

Britain in Bloom

Adopt an emblem that every house can use

Best-kept village competition

Enter competition

Volunteers

Establish register of people willing to assist

with shopping etc

Communications

Combine delivery with Church magazine

Broadband access for computer users in the

village

Youth of the Village

Facilities for Children

Playground for very young children with

Responsible adult in charge

For older children

Consider the possibility of compulsory

purchase to provide land for park and skate

park Pool table

Activities

Luncheon Club

Re introduce into the village weekly, or

Make transport available to visit Gotham club

Crime

Encourage parents to take responsibility for

their children

Improve policing

Finances

Use Grants wherever possible

Church

Churchyard

Transport

Bus

Service to Loughborough for market days

Service to the supermarkets

Rescheduling current service and adding

afternoon service

Proper bus stops with shelters and seats

Airport

Noise nuisance

Development

Resist any further urban sprawl

Maintain the green belt

**Partnerships** 

What are Thrumpton doing? Should we work

together?

Questions

What plans are there for the Rectory

There are some important issues here which directly impact on the quality of life within our village and they all deserve serious consideration. However, it is for the whole village to decide and we would like as many as possible to participate in the process of producing the plan. We are especially keen to see younger members of the village take part and we would encourage a youth Council if volunteers come forward.

#### **Keep Warm This Winter**

The Warm Front Grant is a government scheme that aims to improve the insulation and heating provision in households on a low income, eligibility has just been extended to include households without children. For more information call the Grants Scheme Hotline 0115 947 2207.

#### **Postal Voting Success**

The all-postal vote in the last elections was successful in increasing voter turnout from 40% in 1999 to 54% this year, over 20% better than the national average

#### **Low Flying Aircraft**

If you have been disturbed by noisy, low flying aircraft recently please complain to Mr. N A Robinson, Divisional Standards Manager, East Midlands Airport, Castle Donington, Derby. DE74 2SA.

#### **Proposed Park & Ride at Clifton**

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting in the Village Hall and responded to Nottingham City Council about their plans for the NET and the Park & Ride at Clifton. The land put up for auction by the city Council was not sold.

#### Safeway Megastore

One of the issues raised at the open meeting was the possibility of improving the bus service. The Parish Council maintains a close watch on the Number 5, we consider it to be a vital service and would fight ant suggestion to downgrade the service. However, the County Council who subsidise the service

However we have approached Safeway Megastore and we are discussing with them the practicality of the free bus stopping in the village every Thursday around 12:15 and retuning early afternoon allowing plenty time to do some shopping and perhaps try out the café.

The slogan is again use it or lose it

#### The Notice Board

A reminder that the **Gotham Post Office** provides some banking facilities and it is possible to deposit and withdraw cash if you have an account with alliance & Leicester, Barclays and LloydsTSB

There has been one **Planning Application** received since the last newsletter, namely development of two houses adjacent to 24 Brown Lane.

#### Bus Service Use It Or Lose It

One of the issues raised at the Village Plan meeting concerned public transport. The village bus service is likely to be reviewed by the County and although there is no suggestion that it will be discontinued any further reduction in frequency would be unwelcome.

If you can use the bus please do so

We plan to talk to adjacent parishes about the service and if necessary make a combined presentation, if you have suggestions how the service could be improved please let us know.

Travel information is on <u>www.traveline.org.uk</u> (28 0870 608 2 608)

# Parish Tree Planting Scheme

The response to the Parish Tree Planting Scheme was very poor. Only one serious scheme was put forward and the Council was pleased to support Mr. Hudson's proposal to create a natural visual barrier to the farm south of the A453.

This really is a genuine something-for-nothing scheme run by Rushcliffe BC every year. A variety of trees and hedging is available, all free of charge if the scheme is approved, all you have to do is plant. The main element for a successful scheme is that the trees should benefit the whole community

#### **Fight Crime**

When I was a lad, ah things were different then. But I didn't have enough time to do everything I wanted to do. Today it seems our young people have too much time and nothing to do and as a result our pleasant, quiet village is suffering like most other rural communities from mindless vandalism.

#### **Logo Competition**

The Parish Council would like to adopt a logo to be used on all correspondence and literature and welcome suggestions. Please remember though that not everything we do is in colour so any logo will have to work in both mono and colour.

We hope to have a small prize for the successful entrant

#### A453

The A453 will be closed for essential maintenance on

#### Local Heritage Initiative

The Local Heritage Initiative provides grants and advice to help local groups investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. At the moment 100% grants are available for qualifying projects.

In the words of the Countryside Agency "a local heritage project can have an archaeological, natural, built, industrial or cultural focus to it or include a number of these aspects. Successful projects celebrate the past, inform the present and encourage thought and action for the future."

Lets see if we can get some money, any suggestions for a project to the Clerk.

#### Village Roads

We continue to press for repairs to the roads, pavements and to address the flooding that occurs. Please let any Councillor know of any specific concerns you may have. But also, speeding appears to be on the increase again on the narrow village roads, please everyone, slow down.

#### **Parish Council**

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 5th January 2004 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

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#### **Parish Council Contact Information**

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Clerk to the Council
Roger Hawkins

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Village Photographer
Jill Pearson

☎ 0115 983 0961

Further information on any of the items included in this Newsletter is available from any Councillor or the Clerk. The Newsletter is on the web together with Council Minutes. Everyone is welcome to attend parish Council meetings and time is always made available to listen to comments, observations and ideas