



Salford Priors Parish Council News November 2012



Neighbourhood Plan

In our last Newsletter we explained how the government is encouraging local communities to create a Neighbourhood Plan through the Localism Bill.

It's a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. They will be able to choose where they want new homes, shops, and offices to be built; have their say on what those new buildings should look like; and grant planning permission for specific new buildings they want to see go ahead. There are conditions and neighbourhood plans must comply with national planning policies and also the development plan for the area – in our case the Core Strategy of Stratford on Avon District Council.

Having a neighbourhood plan is not compulsory and we do not know yet whether the process is appropriate for us but the Parish Council has set out on the path to enable the community and Parish Council to make a reasoned decision as to how to proceed.

This started with a public event with structured workshops in September when the process was explained and potential issues discussed. Copies of the presentation and a report of the workshops have been published on our website.

There has to be a minimum of thirteen people committed to working hard to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and ideally a few more. The workshops identified some potential sites for development and these must surely be of interest to residents.

This is now your opportunity to come forward and offer your services to work for the community in producing the Neighbourhood Plan for Salford Priors.

Please contact the Clerk before 12th. December if you are interested in taking part.

Allotments

We still have some allotment plots vacant. It is possible to lease half a plot - at half the cost of course! If you are interested please contact the Clerk for details.

Hedges and Trees

Please will all residents ensure that hedges and trees on your property are trimmed back so that they do not obstruct footways and highways.

Another new bus shelter

Work will shortly commence on a new bus shelter in School Road opposite the one we built last year by Hedges Close.

A year ago the Parish Council received a petition from about 100 residents requesting this new bus shelter and the Parish Council has responded. It is quite a difficult sloping site and the total cost will be £4600.

Community Forum

Community Forums provide an opportunity to hear what is going on in our area from the Police, District and County Councillors and other agencies such as health authorities. The next Community Forum will be held on Wednesday 5th December from 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Salford Priors and all residents are welcome.

Join Parish Councillors to consider priorities for next year's Parish Council Budget

The Parish Council is opening up its consideration of next year's budget priorities by inviting interested residents to join Councillors in a working party meeting to be held before the Council sets the Precept for the coming year. Anyone interested in this opportunity should contact the Clerk before Friday 30th. November by e-mail to clerk@salfordpriors.gov.uk or by phone to 01789 772 934.

Orchard Farm Packing Station and HGV's in our parish

The Parish Council has been working hard to control the number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) using village roads to access the Packing Station by The Orchards. A Public Meeting was held on Monday 20th. August where residents were able to quiz representatives from Angus Soft Fruits who are now responsible for the Packing Station. The meeting was well attended and the company agreed to produce an action plan to improve matters.

Residents will have noticed the improved signage and drivers have been provided with new directions including maps and instructions in Spanish for drivers who do not speak English.

The site manager Kevin Browning has attended the last two Parish Council meetings to update councillors and he has also offered for any resident who is interested, to visit the station to see what goes on there. If you would like to take up this offer please ring Kevin on 01789 774 984 or 07920 269 678. The Parish Council is still in discussion with the District Council regarding the very complex planning conditions for this site and we await legal advice to clarify precisely what is and what is not allowed.

Parish Lengthsman

Expressions of interest are invited from self-employed persons or contractors interested in applying for the role of Lengthsman in the parish of Salford Priors. Lengthsman tasks involve maintaining roadside verges and drainage along with other small highway related work. The work may be expanded to include other small-scale maintenance work. Appropriate basic training on the hazards of working in the highway and standards of work to be achieved may be provided if considered necessary. This contract for services is based on hourly pay and could be up to 10 hours work per month and will be an extendable one year contract. For further details please contact the Parish Clerk.

Jubilee Celebrations

Thanks to some very generous sponsorship the Jubilee events made a small surplus. With this money the Parish Council has agreed to purchase a formal portrait of the Queen to be placed in the Memorial Hall and also to produce a photo book of the parish celebrations, and the organisations involved, for all residents as a reminder of a very memorable year.

If any resident has any suitable photos please forward them to Cllr. Karen Littleford at littlefordkaren@yahoo.co.uk.

New Medical Centre at Bidford

Planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council for the proposed new medical centre utilising the Crabtree Garden Centre and site on the Stratford Road, Bidford. The Centre has plenty of space for providing services, for parking, and also for future expansion. The Parish Council, whilst fully supporting the proposals, does have some concerns about access for persons not travelling by car and is keeping a check on these through our ward members.

Faster Broadband

The County Council is managing a project to improve Broadband speeds in rural areas. They need help from individuals to take on the role of Champion for their area and they need help from all local residents to provide information. For information about becoming a Champion or to help provide information please see <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/downloads-and-resources/for-community-champions/>. As you will be aware, telecoms providers will tell you that can get broadband speeds of **up to** a certain speed, but there are examples where up to 10Mbps actually means less than 1Mbps. The only way we will be able to show where an uplift is needed is to have evidence of real speeds and what broadband is being used for or may be used for in the future.

This newsletter is published by Salford Priors Parish Council.

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Parish council website www.salfordpriors.gov.uk