

Neighbourhood Plan - An invitation to help shape our future

As you may be aware the District Council has been formulating a plan to control development until 2031. It's about highlighting the need for housing, where it could go, what employment and transport needs will be needed and other aspect of forward planning that goes with it. It's a truly large scale piece of work.



In a traditional sense the Parish have been bound by what the District Council decides but times are changing and we now have an opportunity to have our say in a scheme called a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood plans are a relatively new idea which gives Parishes an opportunity to develop their own document to complement (not oppose) the so called Core Strategy. It's developed and evidenced locally, voted on in a Parish referendum and then it carries legal weight. Developers have challenged these plans in the High Court and lost. As a Parish council we feel it's an opportunity that's too good to miss.

Neighbourhood plans cannot reverse plans already approved but it can protect areas of land from further development, it can set policies on types on development, community facilities, protect of heritage.... It is also a lot of hard work and we will need your input

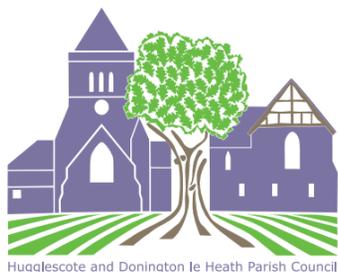
What can you do? Turn up to our open morning on **Saturday September 23rd between 10am and 1pm** and let us know your priorities, what you would like to see happen in our community and yes, perhaps volunteer to help.

Get in touch get involved

At the moment we do have a full compliment of councillors but vacancies do arise from time to time. Failing that our next elections are due in May 2019. However we do have very valued volunteers who give their talents and time to the Parish without being a member. Perhaps that could be you?

Our meetings are on the third Thursday of every month (except August) at 7:30 in the Community Centre and the public are very much welcomed.

In the meantime if you have an issue, or an idea, you can contact us through the Parish Clerk :
Simon Weaver, clerk@huggdonpc.org.uk Phone 07927 384847
or any of the Councillor team. All details are on the website



The Bear Facts

The Newsletter of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council

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Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council - A brief introduction

Welcome from your Parish Chair

A warm welcome to our first Newsletter which Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath Parish Council will be issuing to each household as part of the Community Voice publication.



The parish does not have one publication that covers its whole area so those households who do not receive this publication will receive this as a parish council newsletter.

Our aim is to impart news and items of interest as well as to complement the information contained on the Parish Council website (www.huggdonpc.org.uk). We hope (if you are able) you will visit our website – the content is informative and covers details about the Parish, Parish Council matters, planning applications, useful local contacts. We hope also that this newsletter will help you to understand what the Parish Council achieves on your behalf. We have spent some time updating the website and we would like to encourage you to use the Community pages to promote local events, clubs meetings etc. along with contact details.

Again, welcome to you all – we very much hope that you will look forward to our news and please let us have your views – Thank you Russell Johnson



The Parish Council only came into being in 2011 when 9 community minded individuals were elected to serve. Since its inception the cast has changed (only two members are still in place from that original group) but the scope and depth of its work has steadily grown ever since.

What does the Parish Council do?

We really are the eyes and ears on the ground. We have recently taken over all open spaces previously owned by the District Council. and maintain and improve them to a standard that the council and you as residents desire.. Things like grass cutting, flower beds, play provision and equipment are now our responsibility and we can now determine what and how these are developed.

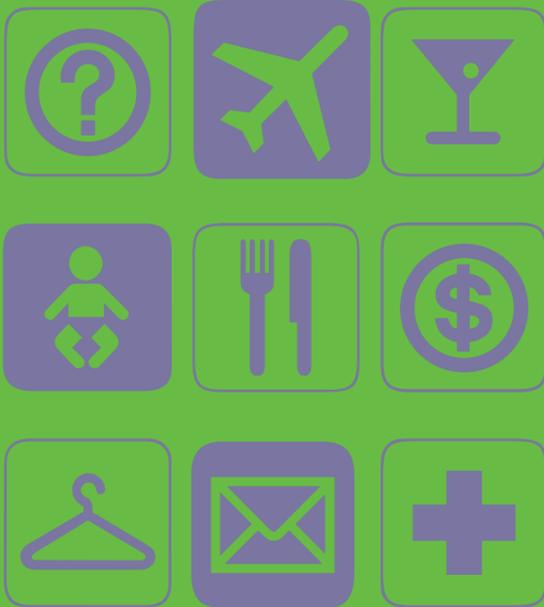
Planning. Traditionally Parish Councils don't get to decide if and where houses get built but we are consulted on all planning applications and we are increasingly confident in getting our voices heard. How our area will look in the future continues to be a challenge but we consider every application received from NWLDC's Planning team.

Times however are changing and we have recently begun work on a Neighbourhood Plan which gives communities greater say on development within their boundaries (more of this elsewhere).

Do you remember the so called C.R.A.G. campaign that was formed to protect our community centre from unwanted re-development? That came from an idea of the Parish Council. Have you seen groups litter picking on a Saturday morning around the Parish? That might have been us. Have you seen people out and about monitoring speed of traffic in the Parish, that's another scheme the council gets involved with?

In short if it's going on in Hugglescote and Donington le Heath we could be involved.

The Bear Facts



Village Quiz

We have always known that the people of our Parish are smart people, after all look where they choose to live.

However just how smart? That is the question

The Parish Council will be running a village quiz for the community to come together, enjoy a drink and have a fun evening.

Groups of friends, teams from community groups, family teams it doesn't really matter. We can't promise big prizes (and our quiz master is certainly no Chris Tarrant) but it's the first instalment of something we hope will be an annual event.

The quiz will take place on September 29th at 7:30 in the community centre.

Parish council on line.

We live in a digital age and the Parish Council has its very own newly upgraded website for you to visit. On there you can find details of our activities, notification of events, meetings, how to contact your councillors and all other sorts of community information .

Our address is www.huggdonpc.org.uk



We are also on Facebook and it can be a good way to interact with fellow residents and councillors. You can find us on the HuggDon PC page.

Community Action

Did someone say litter pick earlier on? Yes, that is something we do

On the first Saturday of every month we meet at the Community Centre to try and keep our Parish tidy. It's not just councillors, it's an open invite to anyone with an hour or so to spare.

It's not just litter picking. Before now we have planted 3000 bulbs, something we intend to do this year.

We provide the equipment, some very fetching high vis jackets and usually a cup of tea at the end of it. There's no need to book, just turn up and join in and we would be very pleased to see you and let us know if there are areas that are in need of attention.



Conservation Area

The District Council has recently been in contact with us asking for our opinions on creating a conservation area on and around Dennis Street.

What does that mean? Conservation areas are designated areas that are theoretically offered extra protection from development to preserve its special character however it's very much a double edged sword with downsides too.

Dennis Street has some old and historic buildings, especially at the end nearest the Working Man's Club (although not that building itself). Some have suggested that our existing community Centre also could be protected however these benefits could present a burden on all householders within the area. There are greater restrictions on what can be done with properties, even those without a historical tale to tell and greater expense in any planning applications.



Van Break Ins

It will sadly not be news to some in our Parish but vans around the area have been targeted by thieves looking to steal any valuable contents that might lie within. The issue is not just limited to us as we are aware of similar cases nearby

What can you do? Be vigilant. be aware and be careful. Police are aware of the problem and are investigating but until those responsible are caught please don't leave any valuables in your vehicle. After all if their activities stop being profitable it will soon stop.

Also if you are unfortunate enough to be the victim of a break in or attempted break in please report it to the Police. Each piece of information will help in catching those responsible.



Dog Mess

It's not pleasant and it's not a new story but complaints of dog mess are staple of council life.

Thankfully it is now expected people should pick up after their pet but that doesn't mean everyone does and even then the walk to the nearest bin proves too taxing for some. Have you seen dog bags hanging from trees? Left at the side of a path or just abandoned at random places? Worst of all someone recently decided to empty a bin of dog bags and leave them strewn over Ashburton Road.

This isn't meant to be a kill joy moment, dog owning can be a real joy. However can the tiniest of minorities please embrace the minor downsides too?

STREET NAMING

It's a little known fact but developers contact the Parish Council for suggestions for street names and with such large scale house building coming to our area it's always good to have ideas in hand.

We try to have local themes to our suggestions to reflect our local history. For example we have recently nominated Arthur Newberry Choyce, former headmaster of Snibston School and First World War poet who was renowned on both sides of the Atlantic.

It doesn't have to be deceased people though; it can be any theme that we feel gives our new residents a feel for their new community. If you have any ideas about what would be a good theme by all means get in touch and perhaps one day your idea will be literally be built on.

Hugglescote & Donington le Heath Neighbourhood Plan

May 2018
Dear Resident

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Imagine Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath
In 20 years' time? - Or 10 years or 5 years? How about next year?

You may be aware we are in the process of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Hugglescote & Donington Le Heath. This must accurately reflect the views of those who live in the parish area.

We are therefore seeking your views by asking you to complete this Questionnaire. Those under the age of 18 will be given the opportunity to express their views by completing a Young People's Questionnaire which will be available; on line, or copies given to community groups, school and academies, from the clerk or at the community centre.

Your input to the process via the Questionnaire is extremely important. Clearly we need to be fully aware of your views so that we can incorporate them in the Neighbourhood Plan. Less well known, but equally important to the process, is that we have to be able to demonstrate to external assessors that the plan is based on a valid and comprehensive evidence base, which will be provided by the responses to the Questionnaire rather than a number of opinions.

I am sure that you will appreciate therefore that it is important that we have a tremendous return of completed Questionnaires. Please do help us to achieve this.

To help to have a speedy response this questionnaire can be completed on line. Alternatively, if you would rather, please complete and leave at Hugglescote Community Centre or give to any Parish Councillor.

If you would rather give a verbal response please contact any Councillor or me and we can arrange to complete this with you. [e.mail:clerk@huggdonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@huggdonpc.org.uk) : [web site huggdonpc.org.uk](http://web.site.huggdonpc.org.uk)

The Questionnaire asks how you think the Parish area should change over the next decade and beyond. If you find difficulty with this, or just want to know more of the background, we will be holding an **information session on Saturday 12th May 2018 10.30am -12noon**. Members of the working party will be present to discuss any issues connected with the Questionnaire and the plan. They are only there to clarify any factual questions you may have about the Questionnaire itself or background information. They will not attempt to help you fill in the answers, or to influence your responses. We need your independent opinions.

Yours sincerely
Simon Weaver



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May Issue

Neighbourhood Plan

With this edition is your questionnaire for our neighbourhood plan, please take a look through it and let us have your feedback.

We realise that it's very much the modern trend to consult and ask for feedback and sometimes there is a suspicion that your views are only being sought as a box filling exercise. Please be assured that is not the case here.

This questionnaire helps formulate the community's priorities and inform those policy makers on our Neighbourhood plan groups. Everything we present and propose must be backed up by evidence, what better evidence could there be than the evidence of our residents.

If you are able please fill in our questionnaire on line, however should this not be for you (and not everyone is IT savvy) then please use the paper copy.

Should you need any assistance, or have any thoughts please get in contact with either our Parish Clerk or Councillor **Will Jennings** who is heading up this aspect of the council's work.



Speedwatch

If you see a group of volunteers in the Parish wearing hi-vis jackets and brandishing the speed gun (also called the hair dryer) then it's us.



What are we doing? Monitoring speed throughout the Parish having been trained to use Constabulary approved equipment. Please be reassured the aim is not to identify marginal transgressors, more to find hard evidence of speeding traffic and to ensure those who are showing serious disregard to Speed Limits through our Parish are identified.

What happens if you are caught? Firstly and most importantly please slow down. You will also receive a letter from Leicestershire Police informing you of your speed. Unlike a speeding ticket by the Police there is no fine or points on your licence however should you get three such letters then the Police will start to take a serious interest.

Finally, a very public thank you to those who are taking part and giving their time to their community. We couldn't do it without you

The Bear Facts Village Quiz Night

and Annual Electors meeting of the Parish

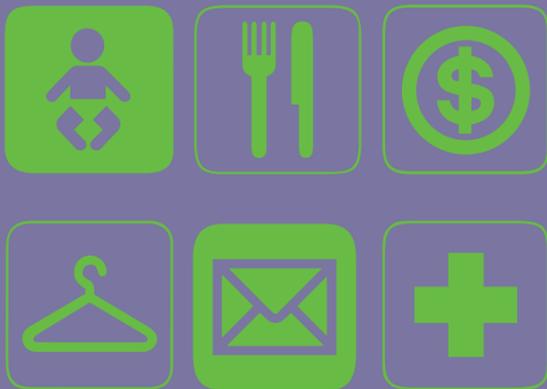


We have got a question for you, in fact we have got quite a few.

On Friday May 18th (?) the famous or perhaps infamous Bear Fact Quiz night makes another appearance, another free of charge opportunity to dazzle your team mates and the wider community on your knowledge of subjects as wide ranging as toe wrestling and popular lyrics.

On this occasion we will be holding our annual (and very short we promise) Parish meeting beforehand so you can question a parish councillor before the serious business of the bar opening and our rotund question master questioning you.

Please come along



Planning & Housing Development

The planning group met recently to discuss plans in the parish and most notably on Station Road.

The plan is question involved demolishing a house on Station Road to allow access to build on a site around the back of the former Methodist Church.

This area now forms part of the conservation area and members felt that to allow a house to be removed is contrary to the spirit of a conservation area and therefore should be resisted. There were also concerns that visibility from the site entrance makes an access onto Station Road problematic. Whilst the power to approve or decline this application is not ours we have made our point known.

There seems to be little point in having a conservation area and allowing its power to be diluted at the first challenge.



Davidsons Housing Developers

At our recent April meeting two employees of Davidsons builders came down to discuss their plans for building around 800 houses on Grange Road.

The Parish is lucky to have knowledgeable help that meant the employees were subject to more rigorous questioning that they perhaps would have expected.

Concern was expressed why all the hedgerow along the proposed site was removed and replaced by metal fencing. Signage was requested to prevent construction traffic going through Hugglescote rather than back up towards the Birch Tree island, precautions were requested to make sure that mud from the site wasn't brought back onto Grange Road and causing a potential safety hazard, requests for more bungalows as well as many other issues.

Whilst it may seem like a grilling it was good to have builders trying to positively engage with the existing community. It was also good to see that the much needed new school that forms part of the outline plans may be brought forward earlier than expected to ease envisaged overcrowding at our local school.

They have promised to be in regular contact and we welcome that approach and keep you all informed of progress.

WW1 100th Anniversary

In our last edition we advertised a meeting to co-ordinate activities surrounding the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Great War.

We are delighted to relate that 18 members of the general public turned up to that meeting and many great ideas were put forward to formulate a programme of events. We are also delighted the Llynda Baugh who has previously assisted the Council and put together our original World War One weekend is back with us to co-ordinate this effort too.

The group will be meeting monthly so please don't think that you have missed your chance to contribute if you were not able to make that first meeting. Please get in touch via our clerk should you wish to know.





Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Remembers 1918

Can you knit or crochet? We intend to line the route the soldiers will take with poppies in windows again. We would also like lots to put on the railing of the Community Centre. If you would like a pattern and could supply some for us, please email Llynda on llynda@spiralprojects.co.uk and she will send you out a pattern. We are happy for you to use your own patterns too to make poppies that are around 4"/10cm wide. Please call Gayle on 01530 815006 or 07972 022 893 and she will collect them from you or arrange for you to drop off.

Let's make those who fought proud of what we are doing. You can contact me on any aspect of the event on the email above or by calling me on 07841 480 691. We meet every second Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre at 7.00pm. Please join us.



Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

Thank you to everybody who completed the questionnaires online or paper based. In total over 250 responses were received.

The results of the survey will be used to identify; for the three working groups (Housing, Infrastructure and Environment, Historic and Present day Heritage). All the data relevant to each Working Group will be studied in detail and used to arrive at ideas and policies that might be included in the Plan.

Future Council Meetings

Thursday 20 September and 18 October 2018

Could you be a First Fifty Soldier?

On Sunday, 28th October, the Parish Council, along with Llynda Baugh, our Community Engagement Consultant, are hoping to recreate the march of the First Fifty.

We are looking for 50 volunteers between the ages of 17 and 35 (or who look that sort of age) to march from Hugglescote Church to the site of the old railway station in Coalville. We would love to have as many people from Hugglescote as possible – please let us know if you can help us create this part of history.

We are also looking for people to help organise this, and our other events taking place over the Armistice weekend. Hugglescote has a great legacy to be proud of – please help us to celebrate it.

Contact: llynda@spiralprojects.co.uk to sign up or visit our Facebook page [Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Remembers 1918](#)



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August 2018

Hello, this is your Chairman

I am Russell Johnson. A Geordie, I have lived in Hugglescote for 22 years I am a former miner who worked and lived in the Nottinghamshire Coalfield.



I chose to live here because of the friendliness of the community and the open countryside something that needs to be cherished and as such your Parish councillors thought it prudent to have a Neighbourhood Plan of which is progressing with your help.

I wrote a Policy for the parish that we should remember the famous 50 volunteers that left this community at the start of the First World War in 1914, that streets and roads would be named after them on new developments, so new residents would know who these brave men were I am very proactive in our Parish, as am very informative in letting people know what is happening around them, using our parishes Facebook page HuggdonPC it's a great way in networking.

I as Chairman do engage with developers and their agents and encourage them to come and have a chat, of what they plan for our villages to the parish council, as we all know we are going to have over four thousand new homes coming over the next 20 years

Millfield Trees

A century ago 50 brave men left Hugglescote to fight in the First World War, more than half of them would never return.

Although we may read a little of the horrors of that conflict it's doubtful we could ever truly grasp the misery and the squalor that these men, and millions like them, were forced to endure over the 4 years of the conflict. That particular war has become a metaphor for slaughter, waste and countless bloodshed. Thankfully our generation has never had to experience its like again. Our duty is not to sacrifice ourselves and our sons, our duty is to remember. To this end we marked the anniversary of beginning of this war and we will be marking its end.

On Millfield Park though there are trees. Not just the mature ones but newer ones, 50 of them.

Each one of those trees represents one of those brave men who left his community with a strong chance he would never return. A man who grow up in our neighbourhood and walked our streets. A man whose future was cruelly cut short in a greater cause.

When you think about it they are more than just trees. They are our way of remembering the sacrifices of another generation. Perhaps though it's even more than that, those saplings are a sign of growth and renewal, a symbol that perhaps some good can come out of even the greatest tragedy.

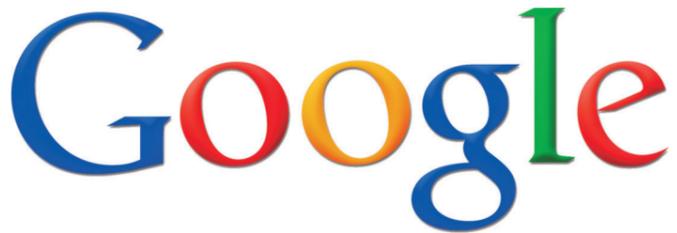
All the 50 have long since died, either at home or in a foreign field. It's our honour though to mark their names and their stories in the community they called home for their descendents and for all time. Their sacrifice won't be forgotten, we will remember them!

Check out Planning Applications online

Do you feel left in the dark? Would you like to know what's happening in the Parish regarding new housing or other planning developments?

Are you one of those people that get surprised when the hedges get ripped out and the bulldozers start? Then follow our simple and (hopefully) easy to understand guide to look at proposed planning applications for the whole of our Parish.

If you are unable to access websites planning applications are discussed at Parish Council meetings.



Open up Google, every one's go to place for information. Type in 'NWLDC Planning' and enter. The very top item should then be.... View / comment on planning applications - North West Leicestershire ... Click on this and it will take you to NWLDC view comment page. Read the terms and conditions and then click in the box then click 'Continue'

The next page to load is the search page; you will see a line of banners, Simple Advanced Weekly/Monthly Lists Property Map Click on Advanced. Part way down the page on the left hand side you will see, under 'Application Details' or 'Application Type' the word Parish: click the down arrow in the greyed out box and a list of Parish's will appear. Scroll down until you see Hugglescote and Donington Le Heath.

Click on this then go to the bottom of the page, click search in the green box and hey presto you have a list of planning applications in our Parish. Click on the top green banner of the one you want to look at and that application will open up. To investigate detail click once again on Documents you can then view the plans and all the details of the application. If you wish to comment on an application you will need to register, this can be done on the Simple Search page which you have previously passed through, the step after accepting Terms and Conditions, just before you clicked Advanced.

Enjoy your new ability to look at planning applications and being in the know

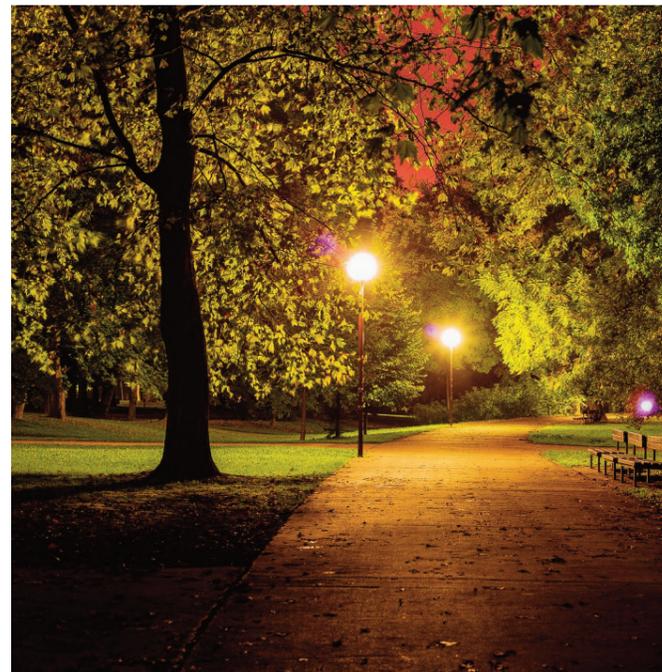
Millfield Public Safety

Residents near Millfield Park will need no reminder that this particular area of the Parish has been a magnet recently for numbers of young people, especially at weekends and late at night. Residents have made us aware and we have taken steps to assist.

There is a bollard in place which will, when appropriate signage is in situ, allow us to restrict vehicular access to the park outside of daylight hours. Please therefore don't let your vehicle on the site for reasons other than using the park.

We also have access to CCTV technology which is being installed to provide reassurance for park users and local residents.

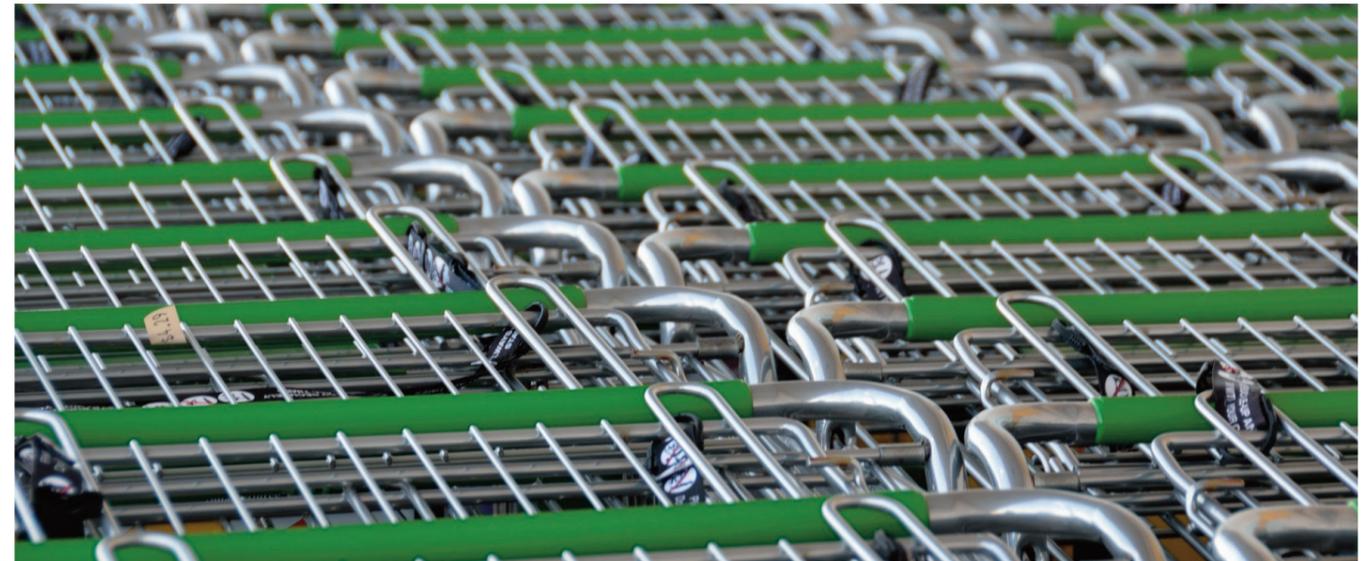
We are not trying to discourage people from using the park. It's an open space for use by the whole community. There is also no suspicion that the vast majority of users are doing anything wrong, we do though have to make sure that the provision of the space doesn't become a blight for the wider community. We hope these steps are seen therefore in a positive light.



Speedwatch

You will have seen the signs around the village and perhaps are wondering why they haven't been removed.

We fell just one volunteer short of having enough to make the campaign work so it got postponed. The plan is it will happen from mid to the end of August. Speeding drivers, be aware be very aware.



Co-op Proposed Development

As you may have heard, or been informed elsewhere, the Co-op is interested in moving into Hugglescote on the corner of Ashburton Road and Manor Road. As this is being written the current building on the site is undergoing demolition.

As with most developments there are good and bad aspects and the Parish Council have met with the Planning Agent for the scheme to put across their views.

What have we been talking about? Limiting noise on the site (no bottle banks etc), traffic concerns especially the route in and out for delivery lorries, extra traffic near the school, the worrying right turn from Ashburton Road, securing the site outside of trading hours, ensuring any lit signage is turned off when the store is closed. This list is far from exhaustive.

Will it happen? The interest is clearly strong but highway engineers from the County Council have concerns and have referred it back to the Co-op to reconsider. If and when these concerns have been allayed a formal planning application will be presented and further comments can be invited and added.

Keep your eyes peeled, this one is far from over.

Weight Restrictions

As a council we are aware there are weight restrictions in Hugglescote, and they are not always being obeyed. HGV's are allowed along Grange Road and down Station Road. Unless they are delivering to a site (or leaving a site) they should travel down Ashburton Road. We know it happens but getting the evidence to stop it is difficult. Difficult but not impossible.

Occasionally we do get 'on the ball' residents with either mobile phone or other recording equipment to capture the moment, and its evidence like that we need. Please don't put yourself in danger but if you spot an opportunity and have the equipment to hand take some proof and let us know, contraventions may be passed to the Police by [emailing rpu.tm@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:rpu.tm@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk) or by **phoning 101**



Bin somewhere?

At our July meeting we agreed to put new bins in three places around the Parish, on Tweentown (near the back entrance to Ashburton Road play area), on the Green in Donington le Heath and on Crescent Road. We hope this will see a positive result in those areas.

Get involved - In solving problems in the Parish. Everyone can make a difference

The Parish Council web site has pages to support everyone to take part in dealing with things that concern residents. The aim is to include any information, ideas or opinions that anyone has about each issue. Every relevant idea or piece of information that is submitted can be included.

The pages are on the web site at www.huggdonpc.org.uk go to "Community" on the left then click on "Interaction". This is about more than the things the Parish Council can do, which is often very little. It is about collecting information and possibilities, even outlandish ones. There may be things that each person can do. Often a lot of people doing a little, like keeping an eye out, speaking up and reporting things, can make a big difference. People may be able to coordinate actions by different organisations. Neighbours can get together to solve some things. Whatever anyone is able to do they can do.

Having this information can help people make decisions. This includes everyone.

There are many things that each person can do, which ones do they choose to do each day? It includes the parish councillors but also other councillors and elected representatives. It includes businesses and other organisations.

People are helped to make decisions by having range of possibilities and good information. This includes how other people will be affected. It also helps in solving problems, particularly finding new ways to approach problems.

So far the web site has pages on Dog mess, Lorries (Heavy Goods Vehicles on our streets) and Parking. Have a look at these pages. If you have any information or ideas that have not already been included, let us know. Also let us know if there are other issues that you would like covered.

Send your ideas or information to the Parish Clerk, email • clerk@huggdonpc.org.uk or see the contact details on the web site: www.huggdonpc.org.uk



Speedwatch

You may have seen signs up in ours or neighbouring areas for the Speedwatch scheme. This is where can influence and hopefully reduce the speeding traffic passing through the area.

Leicestershire CC supported, volunteers are given training and loaned equipment to monitor the traffic in designated locations.

Demand for the equipment is high and we have not been able to run a scheme this year; however we have been given our choice of dates for 2018 and have decided to carry out a campaign in May 2018

The scheme is reliant on volunteers and we have a small band of such people however the more people we get the more area we can cover and the more data we can collect. We are always looking for volunteers, next time why not you?

Help us to Help you

Our new web site allows for Community Groups and Organisations to upload their details and events.

Send us your details. Let them know who to contact and where / when to meet up.

email • clerk@huggdonpc.org.uk with your information and we will do our best to include your information.

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The Apple Tree

The Parish send a thank you to Mark Frost, Site Manager of Taylor Wimpey.

Mark has been very helpful in restoring the infamous Apple tree near our street furniture on the green on Grange Road. Russell Johnson Parish Chairman had asked that a mature tree be replanted in place of the one that was destroyed when the area was being developed.

The developer has also donated 500 bulbs mainly Daffodils for the Parish volunteers to plant which has been gratefully accepted.

Bulb Planting

Volunteers Sought for Bulb Planting

Last year with the help of willing volunteers we planted over 3000 daffodils and crocus bulbs around the area on verges and open spaces. This year we aim to plant another 3000, funded through the District Councils Green Shoots programme. All are welcome to help. Please contact the Clerk to register your interest, availability and also to discuss locations etc.



Planning Matters

The October planning meeting at North West Leicestershire District Council was attended by three members of the Parish Council to speak on matters affecting the Parish.

Councillor Steve Palmer spoke to successfully persuade members to reject an application in Donington Le Heath and Councillors Jennings and Johnson discussed and raised objections to the application for 800 houses on Grange Road and removing planning conditions.

Both Councillors spoke about the need for the so called 'Punch Through' onto Bardon Road to remain something the Parish has been insisting on for many years and the danger of speeding traffic along Grange Road which has significant relevance with the proposed road access to the development.

Funds for the Punch through were ring fenced so that is welcome however major concerns still remain about the safety of Grange Road and entry to and from it.



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The Bear Facts Village Quiz



On September 29th our first, Village Quiz was held in the community centre. Hugglescote's equivalent of Jeremy Paxman (alright it was Councillor Will Jennings) fired out the questions on a variety of subject ranging from history to sport to the next line of popular songs, singing was strictly prohibited.

The "wooden spooners" and winners won a box of red wine generously donated by the Chairman and were challenged to defend their crown. Perhaps next time you will be the ones to take their crown off them?

Thanks to all who came and especially Councillor Louise Ross Foden for her work behind the scenes in making it happen.



Community Governor

Would you like to sit here?

Hugglescote Primary School are currently looking for a co-opted governor to join our friendly governing body.

Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:-

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school.
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community.
- Has spare time and the energy for the role.
- Is able to work well as part of a team.
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school.
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

This volunteer position is open to people from our community. An education background is desirable. Co-opted governors are not elected but are instead appointed directly by the governing body.

Interested? The please contact Hugglescote Primary School for more information.

**Tel • 01530 832721
or Email • hugglescote@hugglescote.leics.sch.uk**



Neighbourhood Plan / Consultation

As advertised in the last issue we recently held an open morning about our wish to develop a neighbourhood plan. We were open for 3 hours and a steady stream of visitors gave us feedback and even the desire to give some input and help in developing a plan.

A plan will not be developed overnight and results of the open meeting are still to be discussed at the time of writing however we now have a better idea of the priorities of residents and their initial thoughts but please be reassured if you weren't able to come it is not a closed book.

The next step is to develop groups to concentrate on specific areas.

IF YOU HAVE A VIEW ON THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH YOU CAN STILL HAVE AN IMPACT OR WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE GROUPS

Please contact the Parish Clerk or any of your councillors. The full report from the morning's event can be found on the Councils web site.



What a Load of Rubbish

Community Tidy up

We continue to receive complaints about litter and other nasties in our parish and its down to everyone to do their bit by taking litter home clearing up dog poo but not everyone is willing to take responsibility.

To help;we designate the first Saturday of the month as a community clean up morning and for an hour and half Volunteers and the Councillors target the area.

Everyone who joins in believes this is benefits the area and we are happy to see new faces. Interested in helping then please meet at the HCC 10.00 First Saturday of the month, equipment provided.

Dog Mess

A resident of the Parish approached us recently about the piece in the last 'Bear Facts' regarding dog fouling in the area. The problem was acknowledged but the criticism was that the article was not strongly worded enough and didn't contain enough information. Challenge (partially) accepted.

There is an officer at the District Council who can help **BUT** she does need help in the form of evidence. We are not in any way suggesting curtain twitching or arguments in the street however a description and possible photographic evidence would be useful.

The District Council phone number is **01530 454545**. Truth be told though is that the best regulation is self regulation, please pick up after your pet

HUGGLESCOTE AND DONINGTON LE HEATH Neighbourhood Plan CONSULTATION OPEN DROP-IN EVENT

This is your chance to help plan the future development of YOUR Parish



Saturday 30 November 2019 • Hugglescote Community Centre • 10:30 am – 1:00pm

We are holding a drop in session to discuss the Draft Neighbourhood Plan which has been produced using your opinions and comments from the returned questionnaires, together with those of other interest groups.

This is not a finished document. It is a draft for you to read and comment on.

Are there things we have omitted? • Are there sections that are not clear?

Are there items you think may be wrong? • You are also encouraged to tell us what you like about the plan.

Share your views about the future of the Parish. Come along and discuss.
Copies of the Draft Plan and other information will be available.

Councillor Vacancy representing St Mary's ward

They do arise from time to time and the Parish Council have one at the moment. So it's goodbye and thank you to Steve Palmer and hello to, you?

There is little doubt the present lot are a knowledgeable and keen bunch but another set of ideas and direction is always welcome and we are looking for one such person. We think it's a lovely way to put something back into your community, so how about it? **Contact us (our any of our councillors) if you want to know more.**

Casual Vacancy for PARISH COUNCILLOR Would you like to join our team?



Representing St Mary's Ward

For more information please contact our clerk Simon

Application forms and further particulars are also available
on the Notice Board in the Community Centre
Tel 01530 222348 • email clerk@huggdonpc.org.uk
Website www.huggdonpc.org.uk



Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council

The Bear Facts

The Newsletter of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council

The Bear Facts

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Hugglescote and Donington le Heath Parish Council

NOVEMBER 2019

Welcome to your latest Bear Facts

The Council had a break in August but we are back in full swing now.

In this edition we can take you back to the 1940's, take you around the Parish at top speed (unfortunately our Speedwatch campaign proved how speedy that can be), we report back on our neighbourhood plan and a cheeky look back from our Bear Hunt in the Summer. *We hope you enjoy it all.*

Speedwatch

Depending on which way you look at it, this years Speedwatch campaign was either a success or a failure. For the purposes of the campaign, we were only required to record speeders driving in excess of 35mph.



Over a two week period beginning on 14th September volunteers took up positions on four roads in the Parish, Ashburton Road, Grange Road, Station Road and Forest Road, these were picked after studying the results from last years campaign. Sadly it appears that there has been little improvement in the attitudes of some motorists through our Parish with many vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit on all four roads. Grange Road saw the worst offenders with a total of 43 motorists exceeding the 30mph limit in one two hour period, the worst offender recorded at 55mph and the majority of the rest exceeding 40mph. Forest Road also saw many motorists exceeding 35mph which is worrying when one considers they were driving passed a school.

Both Ashburton Road and Station Road saw similar speeds recorded with the majority exceeding 40mph. The results of the campaign were passed to Leicestershire Police each evening and after the first nine days, I was informed that fifty-four warning letters had been sent by the Police to the registered keepers of the offending vehicles.

So, as I said at the beginning, it was either a successful campaign or a failure in that motorists ignored our volunteers in their hi-viz jackets and speed camera and continued to break the speed limit.

There is a new application for mobile phones called "what3words" Basically, the entire world has been divided into 3m x 3m areas that have each had three random words allocated to them. In times of trouble and you need to call the emergency services and are not sure of your exact location you open the app and it will show you the three words relating to where you are. For instance, the three words allocated to the Donington le Heath Manor House are 'little.rice.sweep', try it on your phone. Good eh?

Unfortunately, in Leicestershire, only the Fire and Rescue service are using it at the moment, but it is hoped the other emergency services will sign up soon. In the meantime why not download the app to your phone, you never know when you might need it? <https://what3words.com>

John Jordon

Neighbourhood Plan

Its been a long old journey but, with a fair following wind and a lot of hard work things are now moving a pace.

The final amendments have been made and a draft has been agreed. This will shortly be submitted to the District Council and it is at this point it starts carrying some weight. When it goes through the full process it will be legally viable document to start challenging unwanted development but its more than that. Its a document to positively shape our Parish.

We are planning to have an open morning on **30 November at the Community Centre** when you can come down to see the plans for our area and let us know what you think. When all the steps are complete we hold a public vote whereby you can finally state if you want this work to be approved. *See more details on the back page.*



40's Night - goes with a swing!

We'll meet again....don't know when - but know where! The remit being - to come up with an idea to remember the start of World War 2 as it was 80yrs ago this year that it began. Our team of volunteers wanted to mark the occasion, just as we had done last year with the 'March of the Famous Fifty' to remember World War 1.

I had done a 70th birthday party for my mum back in 2014 and it was in 'fabulous forties' style. There were invitations that looked like Ration Books, Ration Food cards to hand over for their choice of feast and tipples, 40's music playing from an old record player, singers and entertainers, 1940's cocktails, Poppies on the tables full of gingham tablecloths, Webbing on the marquee, jerry cans, gas lights, gas masks, and other such décor to set the scene in the back garden of my mums house and of course guests dressed in 40's garb from Land Girls to Glamorous Ladies and Gents. Army Majors and Officers too. I suggested a similar idea to this one to the group and they were all quite keen.

Over 60 guests arrived and duly handed over their ration books to enter, took to their chosen seats - many of whom had made the effort to don forties style dress. The films were ready to be played of genuine footage of the war, the singer was ready...boy were we all in for a treat! All we knew about her was that she was called 'Kerry Jean' and that she does everything, including a Shirley Bassey tribute...well in my book, you have to be good to be able to sing like her. Well, she didn't disappoint. She was absolutely brilliant. All the forties classics like We'll meet again, They'll be bluebirds over... and a load more. I even got to do some high kicks to a few of the later numbers...and I believe I have been video'd...no wonder I need a knee replacement...haha.



Printing was organised for the posters by the Heritage Society, Ration books drawn up for the tickets and handed out to various 'posts' in the village. Menu was set, which, by the end of the night Llynda Baugh was sick of hearing...she told me if I gave the choice of "Faggots, Cheese and Potato Pie and Mushy Peas" again she would scream...so I then said "or Sausages, Cheese and Potato Pie and Beans"...she virtually had to leave the room! A week before the actual date of the do, we had a meeting to discuss whether it was going ahead or not due to hardly any tickets being sold at the various 'posts' and a decision was made by the Parish Council (who our group are a subsidiary of) to offer it for free. The ones that had paid for the tickets were reimbursed and we set about sorting times out to deck the community centre for the evening. The singer was booked and paid for, the food purchased, which I set about cooking frantically in the final two days. I had never seen so many Faggots, Cheese and Potatoes, Beans and Mushy Peas in one kitchen...not to mention the 30lb of Apples I had peeled and sliced for the Crumble and Custard dessert. On the day, we set about putting out all of the tables and chairs, decorating them with sand filled enamel bowls and tealights, salt and pepper in little 'ration pots', the gingham had been cut for the tables, the stage had been collected and assembled from the church and decorated with a backdrop of Union Jacks...It was beginning to look like a genuine forties style dining room. We had a couple of forties dressed doormen to collect the ration books, we were all donned in posh frocks, tights(mine were too short and were ripped off pretty early on in the evening) and stockings with lines down the back, red lipstick and headscarves, the singer arrived to set up and we were all ready on time.

Ration cards were at the ready when the waitresses handed them out to offer the choices. Ticked and ready to order at the kitchen, the food was then delivered to their table. Feedback from the night was fantastic, and due to the event being free, a few donations were given at the same time as the raffle which have gone into our Community Engagement Fund for any further events. We were asked to remember the VJ day next year, which we will most surely oblige, and perhaps a 50's and a 60's do.. of which both are great, as I already have outfits at the ready. Can I say a huge thank you to all involved, to all who came who made it a great night. Especially Cassie, Gayle and Llynda our waitresses, Gary and Cameron Freakley our 'doormen' Andy Murby and Kay Johnson-Hinks the kitchen assistants and Clark Robinson for the bar. Please keep your eyes peeled for any events we advertise in 'Bear Facts' on notice boards on the Parish Council Website and Facebook page, because without you - the community, we cannot make it happen. Or, if any of you have any ideas then please email us through the website and we can discuss.

Louise Ross-Foden
(Parish Councillor and local resident)

Next event will be a Carol Service and Christmas Tree unveiling, Dates to be confirmed, by the Hugglescote Bear, details will be on the website, the Community Centre railings, and anywhere else we can think of to advertise it.



Bear Hunt

It seems like a long time ago now but we hope you enjoyed our 'Bear Hunt' in the Summer. If anyone tells you there is no kid left in them, well we think they might be telling you a bit of a porkie Anyway, we thought the story below is a lovely follow up.

My Name is Huggles

You may meet many bears in your life but only a special few will make a lasting impression on your heart.

Hello, my name is Huggles; Huggles for Cuddles to be exact. I've been waiting a while to find you. I visited twice when you weren't home and I was getting worried that you didn't want me!



On my first visit I was with my friends. We started out together, in a box on the back seat of the car. Grumpy was dropped off; secretly I was pleased he didn't stay with me for long; it's so difficult to keep smiling when others are grumpy like him (I do hope his family loves him then maybe he'll cheer up).

Ellie was next to find a home, life is difficult for her, she thinks she's an elephant! She said she would never forget me and trumpeted her goodbyes. Sebastian was next, his home was huge, it had beautiful gates at the end of the of a long drive, two girls ran out to collect him; he looked very smug, the "cat who got the cream" you could say. I was next, carried carefully to the front door of a bungalow, number 7. The doorbell rang but no-one answered, I thought my heart would break. Jeremy, the driver, promised we'd return and I mustn't worry, but would I be the one without a home? Back in the box I had Edward's company till we reached the general stores, as he left I noticed they sold honey, at least he wouldn't go hungry!

Left in the box I was alone. It became dark but luckily I have a fur coat and a beautiful red scarf so although I had no-one to cuddle I kept warm till morning. Katie and Tom, Jeremy's twins, argued all the way to school! I had heard that's how children are; but really! If only they'd realised what it's like to alone, unloved, that's how I felt, though Katie did give me a quick cuddle and put me on the back shelf so I could see the countryside; but inside I was silently crying. Maybe our next stop would being me the love I longed for. Oh no! Jeremy is leaving me in the car, alone again. I watch as he runs away from me. Am I really unlovable? I can hear loud noises , shouting and a shrill whistle. A huge train clatters past the car; I try to wave as I see Jeremy inside, will he come back for me? I decide I must try to be positive so whilst keeping watch for Jeremy's return I count the thrushes that fly near the car, blackberries are growing in the hedge and they gorge themselves whilst no-one is around.

A small boy notices me but his mother hurries him towards the station, I think she's worried they might miss their train but isn't love more important? It's very long day, will Jeremy ever return? I'm peering through the gloom and there he is; as he gets in the car I hear him say that he's "not forgotten to call on number 7", will they be home tonight? The bungalow is in darkness, not again! Another night in the car? Jeremy is back driving early next day and the first stop is number 7. A car is on the drive, the blinds are up, and as the door opens I think my heart might explode, I'm in love! I get such a warm welcome, you'd think I was a celebrity, Paddington or even Pooh!

I've had a wonderful time, I've even met my hero, Pooh, such a happy little fellow. There was no marmalade for my sandwiches but I tried Marmite, not quite the same, do I love it or hate it? I'm not really sure. Now I've got the comfiest of seats, on the windowsill, in the sunshine; ready to be seen by the passers by who are on a bear hunt this afternoon. I've had my photo taken so I may become as famous as Pooh one day! I'll be sad to leave number 7 later but I know Jeremy will look after me during my long sleep, I think you call it hibernation.

I'd love to come back next year but maybe I should give another bear the chance of so much love here and I can find a child who needs me next time.

Caroline Chapman