

Cawston Parish Council

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Cawston Parish News

The Magazine of Cawston Parish Council
Issue 24 – September 2013

Community Hall: Planning permission granted

Find out on page 6 what happens next and a snippet from the local newspaper about the new plans passed in July.

Being a good neighbour

We follow up the articles in the last edition with updates on dog fouling, fly tipping and overgrown hedges.

A call to action: Road adoption

Can your experiences of the roads and verges around the estate influence the various bodies who have still not agreed to adoption? We think they can.....
See page 4

Breaking News: Play Area Vandalised before it is open!

And sadly the police do not believe children are responsible. There has also been correspondence with a number of stakeholders which is reported in this edition. Look at pages 3 and 10.

Other items in this issue

Help deliver the Parish News, Parish Boundary Petition, Cawston Greenway, Cawston Foodbank, Litter Picking and the Cawston Blog

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The Inclusion of advertisements does not imply any form of endorsement by the Parish Council, and any views expressed in the Parish News are not necessarily those of Cawston Parish Council.

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Orbit Housing Association: (08458) 500500

Rugby Police Station: (01788) 541111

Stuart Powell West Town SNT Sergeant (01788) 853813

Craig Holland PCSO (01788) 541111

RBC Community Safety Wardens: (0800) 0968800



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Chairman's Message

Hi,
We've had great news regarding the Community Hall planning application and as a Council we now move eagerly into the next phase of fund raising to turn the plans into a reality. I'd like to extend my gratitude to all of the Councillors who have worked hard to get the project through this very important milestone, but particular thanks go out to Cllr Matt Emery who has led the 'Design and Build' element on behalf of the Parish Council

It is with a sense of disbelief that I have to report that the new play area is already under physical attack. BUT before some of you say "I told you so" **I have to report that both the Borough Council and the Police do not believe that it is children or youths causing the damage.**

We would ask all Parishioners to be vigilant and report any acts of vandalism or criminal damage to the Police or the Community Safety Wardens, numbers on P15.

Also I would like to point out that the Council have been in receipt of some pretty unsavoury emails regarding the play area, some of which have caused your VOLUNTEER Councillors to question their on-going participation and service. I know that we will never satisfy those that have strong objections to the play area but I would like to remind you all that your Councillors are just volunteers trying to do the right thing for the whole of the estate, what we don't deserve is the vitriol and the insults that have been levelled at us. We would also ask that those of you who want the services that we are trying to provide to **come out and support** the council at the **official opening of the play area on the 12th October at 10am.**

As a Parish Council we continue to focus our efforts on the key issues on the estate that we have the opportunity to affect, namely the adoption of roads and estate and the planning and building of the community hall.

Thank You,
Pete Venner,
Chair Cawston Parish Council

Help in Delivering the Parish News

Magazine deliveries – help needed
Are any of you able to help us with delivering the Parish Magazine? Some of our deliverers are moving away, and we need your help.

We deliver four times a year, and would try to give you an area near where you live.

If you are able to help, please contact margaret.brett@cawstonpc.org or ring 813215.

Road Adoption – Help Required

I am afraid that I have to report that very little seems to have moved on since my last report.

Despite continued emails and phone calls and the promise that we would see progress by September the latest email I have reads **“We are on with the inspections at the moment”**.

I have continually asked for a plan to understand the next steps and the timescale through to complete adoption and all I continue to get is one liners or radio silence.

I feel the time is now here where I need to engage your help, I would ask that you email;
Jack McCallum at Severn Trent Water & Rob McGuinn and Adrian McInnes of the Consortium to urge them to step up their efforts.

Jack.McCallum@severntrent.co.uk

RMcGuinn@mdaconsulting.co.uk

adrian.mcinnnes@williamdavis.co.uk

Breaking News – at the last Parish Council meeting it was agreed to form a working party comprising Parish and Borough Councillors to work out how we are going to escalate this issue.

Neighbourly Request - Overgrown Hedges

Since the last issue of the Parish News went out I am pleased to see and report that many residents have taken our plea to heart and have cut back their over grown hedges to allow easy and free access.

However there are one or two people that have not been able to comply with the request and we still have key areas where the hedges are still over grown and obstructing footpaths, pavements and roads.

The Parish Council respectfully advises that it is the responsibility of all property owners to cut back any overgrown hedges and plant growth on their boundaries.

Obstructing a public right of way is a matter of great concern and causes inconvenience to many, especially people with sight impairment, or with mobility problems, walkers with pushchairs and small children. It also reduces the line of vision for motor vehicles and bicycles as well as other road users.

Be a considerate citizen and cut your hedges please

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Parish Boundary Petition

In our March edition, we explained that we were planning to ask Rugby Borough Council to review the boundaries of our parish, with a view to incorporating the Cawston Extension site at the end of Trussell Way (presently in Dunchurch Parish) and part of the William Davis site off Whitefriars Drive (presently in Rugby Borough).

We have now collected the signatures necessary for this application, and the petition has been presented to the Borough Council and declared valid. It now has to be considered by the council, and views will be sought from other interested parties. It will be some months before we know the result, but we will keep you informed of progress.

Meet the Councillors



Hi, my name is Paul Hayden-Hart and I am one of your parish councillors. I have been on the parish council for a number of years and really enjoy the community aspect of the council.

I have lived in Cawston for over ten years and been involved with a variety of community projects and groups. These include Cawston Greenway, Cawston Wood, community litter picks and Cawston Runners.

I look forward to serving the parishioners of Cawston in the future.

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Cawston Greenway

The cutting back of the greenway starts again in September. This has been an on-going project over the last four years.

The goal this year is to do a lot of work on the section between Potford's Dam and the A45, which is relatively easy and just requires cutting back the trees and the scrub. And then the section between the A45 and Draycote village. This section is very water-logged and will take a lot of work to get it clear and dry.

We also need to work backwards to the start of the greenway in Admirals to clear any growth over the summer.

When we eventually push through we will have an off-road route all the way to Draycote Water. This will be an incredible amenity for all who live in Cawston and Admirals.

We need volunteers to come along and get involved. We are a friendly group and the work can be as heavy or light as you want it to be. All you need is good gardening gloves and suitable footwear. All other equipment is provided.

Keep your eye on www.cawstongreenway.wordpress.com for details of workdays, or email me at paul.hayden-hart@cawstonpc.org

Cawston Foodbank Collection Point

With the help of Cawston Brownies and Guides, we have set up a foodbank collection point for the main Rugby foodbank.

Food poverty is an issue in Rugby and if we all help in a small way, then hopefully we can keep the supplies at the foodbank fully stocked up.

We will be collecting on Thursday 26th September at Cawston Grange Primary School between 6:15 and 8:00pm when the Brownies and Guides meet.

If you would like to donate, just pop along. The types of food that the foodbank need are: instant mash potato, sugar, tinned vegetables, breakfast cereal, tinned tomatoes, long life fruit juice, coffee, tinned fish or meat, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, UHT milk, jam, biscuits and rice.

Please do not donate baked beans, pasta, soup, chickpeas or kidney beans.

If you want to donate some food but cannot get to the collection, please email me at paul.hayden-hart@cawstonpc.org and I will pick up your donation.

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Community Hall Project

Planning Permission Granted!

At long last planning permission has been granted for our Community Hall. Permission was granted by Rugby Borough Council planning Committee on 3rd July. It was particularly heartening to hear comments from the committee members that the hall looked very attractive, would serve the community well and they would all be proud to have such a facility in their wards. The plans were passed with a unanimous vote. None of the members could understand why someone had called the application to committee in the first place.

This leap forward in the project now opens the way for fund raising and grant applications to take place. The business planner that we appointed back in July has now concluded her investigations into fund raising, the formulation of the business plan and her recommendations on governance. She is now in the process of putting together our first bid for grant money.

HB Architects have been busily working away over the summer completing the detailed design so once we have funding in place we can put the project out to tender to appoint a suitably experienced building contractor.



Copy of the News from Rugby Advertiser 11th July 2013.

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Dog Fouling Again

I have had several conversations around the Parish with regards to dog owners who do not pick up after their dogs, with particular reference to the main bridleway and footpaths that run through the centre of the estate and close to the school.

A concerned Parishioner writes "I wish to express my disgust at the amount of dog fouling that is taking place and not being cleared up by the irresponsible owners as they walk their dogs through Cawston Greenway. As a responsible owner one consideration was the availability of fouling bins to dispose responsibly of any waste created by my dogs whilst walking. I was pleased to see there are plenty of bins so there is no excuse. On 3 separate occasions I have asked owners to 'pick up' after their dogs and they have refused, I cannot understand why owners want to leave their mess for children and dogs to walk through as they enjoy their country walk".

In terms of dog mess there is a link from the RBC website where owners can be reported; - <http://www.rugby.gov.uk/>

or call 01788 533857

We would like to remind all owners that they can be fined up to £1000 for not clearing up after their animals.

Please can we all think about other 'green space' and footpath users when taking dogs for a walk?

Fly Tipping

We would just like to bring to your attention a recent occurrence of fly tipping on the estate, not only is it antisocial but it is also an illegal activity.

If you see instances of fly tipping we would be grateful if you could report them to Rugby Borough Council, who will remove items from adopted open spaces.

Rugby Borough Council will remove the offending item you can report it at:

<http://www.rugby.gov.uk/>

alternatively you can could call them with the details on **01788 533332**.

As a Parish Council we do not have the resource to investigate incidents, we can only ask that everyone be vigilant and report sightings of this kind of activity to the police with details of the people committing the act along with vehicle registrations if you can gather them.

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Community Play Area - Vandalism and Arson

It is with a sense of disbelief that I have to report that the new play area is already under physical attack. BUT before some of you say "I told you so" I have to report that **both the Borough Council and the Police do not believe that it is children or youths causing the damage.** Please see email content from RBC below.

"Good afternoon

Some may be aware, but a few panels to the rear of the embankment slide were pulled over at the weekend, but last night 3 panels toward the site entrance were pulled over and the supporting posts for the climbing wall poles while the concrete set were removed (removed completely from site, as in stolen), along with several other pieces of wood also completely removed from site.

They also they tried to set fire to the poles being used to create the climbing wall by bringing rope to site and burning it underneath the poles that hadn't been concreted in. Only superficial damage as appears either went out in the wet or burned out very quickly, and the poles were used ok with the scorch appearance below ground level. Unfortunately it seems those responsible seem happy to add arson to the criminal damage to the building of an eagerly awaited community facility for children and young people.

In case of any continued claims it was 'kids' despite all evidence to the contrary, the slide didn't have a single footprint on it, or in the soil and seed around the play items, which is the normal signs of over enthusiastic kids entering a play area build."

At the Parish Council meeting on the 17th September, members of RBC and the Police were keen to stress that in their history of putting in play areas they have not seen this level of targeted vandalism before. Therefore the Police are looking to make the play area a priority for the next 3 months whilst this issue settles down.

Also the Police and members of RBC stressed the point that all acts of vandalism and criminal damage, **wherever they are on the estate, should be reported.** The Police have briefed the call handlers to listen to all reports from residents of Cawston with particular reference to the areas around the shops and the play area.

What's going on in Cawston

We have a very active blog that tells everyone what is going on in Cawston. These range from topical issues, events at the local school and updates on the progression of the shops, play area and community hall.

So far the blog has been viewed 7,300 times and its popularity is growing every month.

Take a look at www.cawstonparish.wordpress.com

If you have a community event or club that you would like to advertise on the blog please contact me at paul.hayden-hart@cawstonpc.org

Or check out the Parish Website at www.cawstonpc.org

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Cawston Community Litter Picks

On the first Sunday of each month a growing number of us meet outside Budgens at 3pm and spend an hour or so picking up litter from around the shops and in the green areas.

It's a great way to meet other people in Cawston and quite good exercise.

Litter pickers and bags are provided, you just need gloves.

Why not come along and help out. As the saying goes, many hands make light work. For more information contact paul.hayden-hart@cawstonpc.org

Cawston Runners

Friendly group of casual runners who do a 5k loop around Cawston every Wednesday at 6:30pm

We meet at the play area in Turchil Road. All levels catered for and there are points where you can loop back if you don't want to do a full 5k.

It's a great way to start running, or improve your current running or just want to do some regular exercise.

Contact paul.hayden-hart@cawstonpc.org for details or just turn up on the night.



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Community Play Area – Police Response

There has been a lot of negative commentary (and some unsavoury threats) aimed at the Parish Council regarding the new play area that is currently being erected. Some of this commentary centres on what the Police have supposedly said about the positioning of the play area. Below I have copied the contents of an email from Ian King the Police's Crime Prevention Design Advisor.

I would like to draw everyone's attention to Ian's last paragraph and his opinion that the play area is sited in the correct place.

"Good morning all.

As you are aware I visited the site of the new play area again yesterday and met with Jane Thatcher the local PCSO and Michael Stokes.

We discussed a number of issues including local residents concerns, in particular a possible rise in the number of incidents of antisocial behaviour. What did become apparent was there was a clear discrepancy between the alleged number of incidents of ASB reported to Mr Stokes by local residents and those actually reported to the police. The recorded number of incidents is overall very low and the main area for the incidents that have been recorded is the car park outside the new Budgens store in Gerard Road. I explained to Mr Stokes that I would be far happier if the youths who gathered outside the shop were displaced to the park as this would have less of an impact on the residents and that their behaviour could be monitored better. **Jane gave her reassurance that she would be making regular patrols around the play area.** I advised Mr Stokes that the residents should be encouraged to report all incidents of ASB and crime to the police in order that we are able to get a true picture of what is happening in an area and therefore be able to direct resources where they are needed and create tasking's to ensure that the best service is delivered. We also discussed the future use of CCTV at the location be it the positioning of a domehawks or similar cameras around the site or the extension of the town centre CCTV as used in other rural locations such as Wolston and Ryton Upon Dunsmore. It was agreed that this would be a final resort if ASB became serious problem.

We discussed at length the natural surveillance of the whole site and I suggested that all of the hedgerows between the houses and the site should be pruned back to a height of 1.5m and that all of the trees should have their lower canopies raised to over 2m. Mr Stokes explained that the local resident had originally kept the hedgerows pruned back but were now letting them grow to create a natural visual and sound barrier I believe there are also issues regarding the adoption of these areas yet to be finalised. There are small copse of trees on the site which have become overgrown and are used by young children to create den area.

Mr Stokes stated that at this time this was not an issue and therefore he did not feel that there was a need for these areas to be pruned back as I suggested. He did however agree that should these areas later be used by older youths to gather and drink alcohol etc that it would be readdressed. This also applied to the wooded area around the pond.

Community Play Area – Police Response

I am still of the opinion that this is the right location for the play area. There will be a need for constant monitoring of the behaviour of those using the area particularly in the evening and during the darker nights. The street lighting around the site should be well maintained.

Should you need to speak to me again re this matter please feel free to make contact.

Regards Ian King

Ian King
Crime Prevention Design Advisor
Leamington Spa Police Station
Newbold Terrace,
Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire. CV32 4EL"

I can only stress that at the Parish Council meeting on the 17th September the Police and members of RBC stressed the point that **all acts of vandalism and criminal damage**, wherever they are on the estate, **should be reported.**

Community Play Area – Official Opening

As many of you will have noticed the play area is now well into its construction phase and should be completed within the next few weeks.

The official opening will be at 10am on Saturday 12th October

Proludic (the builders) will organise a cake for 'cutting' to mark the opening and bubbles and balloons to give out for the day, and will provide either a juggler or face painter. RBC will look to bring along some of their play rangers to compliment what is on offer, and also try to get some of the climbing coaches from the new Leisure Centre to "teach" climbing.

So please come along, enjoy the opening and support your Council in providing superb play facilities for the children who live on the estate.