NORTON NEWS

February 2024 Edition

Please email nneditor@nortonparish.com if you have anything you wish to be included in the Norton News

PLANNING APPLICATION TO BUILD UP TO 35 HOUSES ON LAND AT COLD ELM - UPDATE

The Parish Council has submitted a detailed response to Tewkesbury Borough Council regarding this application to build 35 houses on land at Cold Elm with direct vehicular access onto the A38. A copy of the response may be inspected on the parish council's website.

The Chairman of the Parish Council will be attending the Planning Committee when this application is discussed to fully explain why the proposal is inappropriate for the village.

Any resident who wishes to speak at the Planning Committee meeting when this application is debated should contact Tewkesbury Borough Council before the meeting to register to attend. The date of this meeting hasn't been fixed yet, but the Parish Council will publish the date on its website, and on social media, as soon as it is known.

Thank you to the 29 local residents who have submitted written objections to this application. But can we make that 30 objections? It's not too late! Anyone wishing to object should go onto the Planning section of Tewkesbury Borough Council's website and follow the instructions on "Commenting on a planning application".

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Down Hatherley, Norton and Twigworth Neighbourhood Development Plan came into force in 2019 and now needs updating. The Parish Council has agreed to discuss this with the other two parishes and look into the review process, including the availability of grants to cover the cost of a review, so that a final decision can be made.

PLAY SPACE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

As part of the maintenance of the Play Space there is a requirement for regular inspections to be completed.

The first training session was held this week and the council would like to thank the 2 parishioners who have stepped forward to support the council with this.

The inspections themselves take approximately 20 minutes to completed, and are an "eyes on" inspection, which could be completed by anyone who would be able to give their time to help. There is no need for the volunteers to make any adjustments as these can simply be reported to the council.

If you would like more information please contact the council - nortoncouncil@gmail.com

ALLOTMENTS

Are you interested in growing your own vegetables?

Norton Court Farm are considering setting up an allotment site for the community. It's very much in the planning stages at the moment and so we are looking to gauge how keen local people would be. Please email office@nortoncourtfarm.co.uk if you are interested.

HEDGE CUTTING

We've reached the time when residents should think about trimming any overhanging roadside hedges so that twigs and brambles don't scratch passing vehicles on our narrow lanes. If you didn't cut your hedge back in the autumn, it should be done soon - before birds start nesting.

BIODIVERSITY PLAN FOR NORTON

As required by environment legislation, the Parish Council has approved a comprehensive Biodiversity Plan containing its biodiversity policies for Norton. A copy of this Biodiversity Plan has been posted on the parish council's website for residents' information.

BIODIVERSITY IN NORTON

We are of course fortunate to live in Norton and be surrounded by so much agricultural land, natural native hedgerows and wildlife but of course we can always do more to encourage biodiversity in our own gardens by offering bird food in the form of natural fruits, flowers and seeds and habitat for everything from birds, butterflies and all sorts of insects, which are such an essential part of biodiversity. Characterless grass lawns are so much better than concrete slabs and are a wonderful surface to play cricket and bowls on but spare a thought for the daisies and dandelions, which shouldn't be regarded as weeds as they are wonderful plants and pollinators in their own right.

Creating healthy habitats is something we can all do by planting native wildflower areas, leaving a pile of rotten logs in a corner as insect hotels to even simply leaving Autumn's fallen leaves in a pile to naturally rot down and provide insect homes which blackbirds love to scratch around in.



USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

https://nortonparish.com
https://seventowers.org.uk
nortoncouncil@gmail.com
Norton History
NHS 111
Police Non-Emergency number : 101
Norton Village Hall Website

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to everyone who responded to the public consultation on improvement works for the Village Hall. The results are now in, and the top three priorities voted for by you were:

1st - Improve the external appearance of the building.

2nd - Extensive renovation of the main hall.

3rd - Upgrade the heating and hot water system.

The Village Hall Committee is now drawing up plans to action these priorities.

As part of the external improvement works, new fencing with be erected across the old entrance to the car park and the front of the building next week. The fencing will incorporate pedestrian gates for ease of access.

HISTORY GROUP

Norton and The Leigh Local History Group

Our next meeting is on Monday 26th February

"Farmsteads and buildings: researching and recording the past for the future" with Dr Alan Wadsworth, Norton Village Hall Committee room, Doors open 7.15pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm, £3 entrance, everyone is welcome

Monday 25th March

H. H. Martyn and Son: Gloucestershire's fabulous industrialists, with James Renddell.

Monday 22nd April

Lordship and the landscape: history and archaeology of the manor, with Dr Simon Draper

Contact : Sue Phelps : 07754 668898

There is a Regular Collection of donations for the Gloucester Food Bank at St Mary's in Priors Norton. Please drop any food or toiletry items every other Wednesday morning.

Did you know there is a Norton branch of Neighbourhood Watch?

With over 100 villagers in the group, it's a great way to keep in contact. Please email to join: christine1williams@btinternet.com