NORTON NEWS

March 2024 Edition

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

MEETING WITH TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL TO DISCUSS PLANNING CONCERNS

The Parish Council's chairman, Richard Page, has requested an urgent meeting with senior Borough Council officials to discuss the parish council's concerns about the recent spate of planning applications for residential development in the village. The following is an extract from Richard's letter.

"In the space of a few months the parish council has been asked to comment on applications for up to 35 houses on land at Cold Elm, 42 houses on land between Walnut Gardens and Lock's Paddock, with an application from Centaur Homes for up to 46 new houses on their Lime Close development about to be submitted. I am also aware of a further two housing schemes in the pipeline. As a result, the community feels as if it's under siege from speculative developers keen to take advantage of the Borough Council's lack of a five-year housing land supply.

If permitted, these developments will radically alter the character and integrity of the parish, particularly as there doesn't appear to be any coherent plan to improve local infrastructure at the same time.

Consequently, I want to discuss with the Borough Council whether there's a way - and the will - to address Norton's concerns. I'm not against development, there's clearly a need for local housing, but it needs to be structured and sustainable, not haphazard and at the whim of developers as it seems to be now. I understand the principle of "tilted balance" and the need to consider each application on its individual merits, but the cumulative effect of these developments will not only distort Norton's identity, but will also exacerbate the existing issues of highway safety on the A38 and stormwater flooding in the centre of the village.

I believe that the parishioners I represent have a right to know what the Borough Council is doing to deal with these issues."

Richard has invited Norton's Borough Councillor, Mark Williams, to accompany him to the meeting.

EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council is holding an Extraordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 29 February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider the Council's response to several planning applications, including an outline application to build 42 houses on land between Walnut Gardens and Lock's Paddock. This application could have significant implications for the parish - particularly for highway safety - as the proposed vehicular access onto the A38 for these houses will be via Walnut Gardens. Come along to the meeting and have your say on these applications.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PHASE 2 OF THE LIME CLOSE DEVELOPMENT

Bayhill Property and Centaur Homes will shortly be submitting a planning application to Tewkesbury Borough Council for phase 2 of their Lime Close development off Wainlode Lane. This will comprise mixed housing of perhaps 44 properties, with public open space and all mains services.

Before submitting the application, the developers will be holding a public consultation and an exhibition showing their proposals, including a site plan, for parishioners to inspect. This consultation will be held in the Village Hall's Committee Room on Thursday 29th February between 3pm and 6.45pm. Representatives from the developers will be present to answer parishioner's questions.

This is an important development in the centre of the village and all interested residents are encouraged to attend and inspect the proposals.

Why not go to this public consultation, quiz the developers, and then attend the Parish Council meeting afterwards?

SAVE THE PLANET!



Well, at least help save a bit of it. Plant a tree!

If you don't have a big enough garden to plant a wood or forest then why not consider a fruit tree such as a dwarf/semi dwarf variety pear or apple tree? They don't grow too big, are easy to maintain and there are multiple benefits to biodiversity. Plus, a big bonus, in the autumn you get to eat the fruit!

Also, fruit trees in spring produce blossom, which look lovely and enables bees and other insects to thrive. In the summer you have the shade and colours of the leaf canopy to enjoy and in winter the tree will make interesting shapes with its branches, is a useful winter home to insects and would be a good place to hang a bird feeder from.

Even better, why not then plant a wild flower or spring bulb patch around the base of the tree and help nature thrive even more. It can look so pretty and every little helps!

Martin Griffiths also has an article on planting an Apple Tree here :

https://westenglandbylines.co.uk/features/climateemergency/help-save-the-planet-plant-an-apple-tree/

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

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