

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



July 2020

Sign shares The Horsepool's history



Many residents will by now have spotted a new information board at The Horsepool. Part-funded through Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's 2019-20 Environmental Improvement Programme, the sign, which includes information from Burbage Heritage Group, features artwork by Borough Council graphic designer Julie Horton Greville and was produced and installed by Hinckley-based AM Signs.

It marks the completion of a revamp of the green space, which will be celebrated with a formal opening ceremony when public health restrictions are eased.

Farmers' Market

The next Burbage Farmers' Market will be held on the car park at Burbage Methodist Church, Windsor Street, on Saturday August 1, starting at 9am and running until about 12.30pm.

A queuing system will ensure that social distancing is observed, and hand sanitiser will be available.

New traders include a stall selling seafood, offering lobster, oysters and crab.

Nature survey sows seeds for improvement

Tilton ward Councillor Lucie Hoelmer joined Leicestershire & Rutland NatureSpot Chairman Graham Calow on a wildflower survey of Sketchley Hill Recreation Ground.

Their aim was to find out what species are currently growing on the site with a view to monitoring any changes after the Parish Council introduces a planned new mowing regime later this year.

Grounds team workers will collect grass cuttings after mowing certain parks, rather than leaving them to rot down and enrich the soil, with the aim of creating the poorer conditions in which wildflowers are more likely to thrive.

Cllr Hoelmer, who chairs the Parish Council's Open Spaces Development working party and works as a senior environmental partnerships officer with Leicestershire County Council, said:

"The park is not yet rich in wild flowers but we hope that collecting the grass, and consequently reducing the nutrients in the soil, and by sowing yellow rattle to naturally suppress vigorous grasses, wildflowers will return from the natural seedbank stored in the soil."

Along with wildflowers and grasses, including Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) the pair spotted six swifts and a cinnabar moth (pictured).

If you would like to record your own nature spots or see what other people have observed around the parish, visit www.naturespot.org.uk which has a page dedicated to Burbage.



Neighbourhood Plan gains weight

After a public hearing in March, independent examiner John Slater said that he was *"pleased to recommend to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that the Burbage Neighbourhood Plan, as modified by my recommendations, should now proceed to referendum"*.

Following discussions with the Borough Council's planning team, the amendments were agreed with the Burbage Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and the Plan passed its Regulation 18 requirements, allowing the Borough Council to issue a formal Decision Statement in May.

This means that the Plan can now go forward to public referendum – although the vote has been put on hold until May next year, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

In the meantime, as the Plan is deemed fit to proceed to referendum, it will hold "significant weight" when it comes to planning decisions.

The outcome has delighted Parish Council chairman Cllr Richard Flemming, who is also Chairman of the Burbage Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, which has dedicated the past six years to attaining the document to this stage.

The Referendum Version of the Plan (Burbage Neighbourhood Plan Referendum June 2020) is available to view at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council or can be viewed online at www.Hinckley-Bosworth.gov.uk by searching for Burbage Neighbourhood Development Plan.



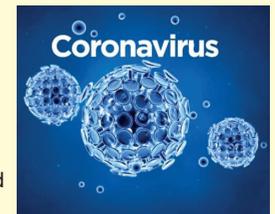
Safety comes first for playground opening

The Parish Council is working hard to safely re-open its play areas and outdoor gyms, in line with Government guidance, at the earliest opportunity.

While restrictions on such sites were lifted at the beginning of the month, Councillors felt that more time was needed to make arrangements that would best ensure the safety of both the children and young people who use them, and the wider community.

They realise this may have been disappointing for many people and have thanked residents for their patience and understanding.

Updates on which sites are to be opened and when will be posted on the Council's website and shared on social media.



Allotment interest sees new growth

Interest in taking on an allotment plot surged during the early weeks of lockdown meaning that there are now 17 people on the waiting list for Woodland Avenue and 11 on the waiting list for Blackways Meadow.

Out of consideration for people who may be affected by Covid-19, and in line with National Allotment Society advice, plot holders are being asked not to light fires on the sites as smoke can make breathing difficulties worse and can badly affect people trying to get fresh air.

Contact us...

The Parish Office is currently closed but you can still call and leave a message on 01455 637533 and use the post box inside the main sliding doors between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Post will be collected and messages picked up daily during the week. The best way to get in touch is by emailing info@burbage-council.co.uk

Meetings for the month ahead

Meetings are currently being held via Zoom video and web call software. Joining instructions will be published together with the agenda three working days ahead of the meeting date on www.burbage-council.co.uk and on the council noticeboard at the front of Millennium Hall.

Meetings currently scheduled are: Full Council, Monday 3rd August, 6.30pm.
Planning Committee, Monday 27th July, 6.30pm.