

Neighbourhood Plan helps quash appeal and saves historic site

A Planning inspector has dismissed an appeal by Persimmon Homes against Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's decision to refuse plans for up to 80 homes to be built on historic pastureland at Sketchley Farm.

The Parish Council had objected to the proposals, and policies in the recently published Burbage Neighbourhood Plan, which aims to protect the parish from damaging development, were cited in the Inspector's report as adding weight to the argument to dismiss the developer's case.

The Inspector said *"The value of the appeal site and surrounding open land is reflected in its*

designation as part of a Green Corridor under Neighbourhood Plan Policy 9.

"The development would be significantly harmful to the character and appearance of the area and significantly harmful to the spatial and visual extent of the Green Corridor.

He said the development would also be *"in conflict with"* Policy 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Parish Councillors had objected to the proposed development being outside the identified settlement boundary and felt that the parish infrastructure and services would not be able to sustain the extra households proposed.

Farmers' Market

The first Farmers' Market of the year is to be held on Saturday February 5 on the Methodist Church car park on Windsor Street from 9.30am.

School pins hopes on safety badges

Pupils at Sketchley Hill Primary School have designed and produced pin-on badges promoting safe parking outside their school, with the help of a £300 donation



from the Parish Council. The scheme was highlighted by the Council's Traffic Issues Working Party and supported by all Members.

Parish freezes Council Tax charge for third year running

For the third year running, the Parish Council has agreed to freeze the amount it will ask households to pay towards its share of their next Council Tax bills.

Councillors have approved a zero-increase precept which will see households of Band D properties continue to pay £71.11 for the year – the same amount that they were charged last year and the two years before that.

Households of all other bands will also continue to pay the same as last year.

The parish precept will generate £430,229 to help cover the costs of facilities and services provided by the parish council, which include community buildings, public open spaces, recreation grounds and sports pitches.

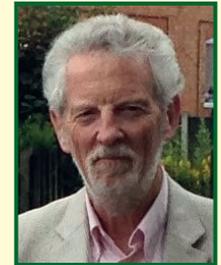
Fees charged by the parish council for use of its facilities and services, including Burbage Cemetery and allotments at Woodland Avenue and Blackways

Meadow, but excluding charges for cremation casket vaults and the old water feature memorial plaques, will increase by 2% from 1st April 2022.

Charges for hiring Millennium Hall will increase by 5%, in line with the facility's business plan.

The parish precept forms just one part of the Council Tax bill received by every household, which also includes charges from Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and Leicestershire Police.

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Keith Lynch said: *"The Parish Council is pleased to be able to freeze the parish precept for the third year in a row whilst still being able to provide a high level of services and facilities."*



Rail hub consultation continues

A public consultation into proposals by Tritax Symmetry Ltd to develop a National Rail Freight Interchange at Junction 2 of the M69 near Burbage is ongoing and runs until March 9.

For full information and to submit comments, please visit Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange | DB Formal Consultation (hinckleynrfi.co.uk) or click the link via the homepage slide on the Parish Council website to find out where consultation events are taking place.

Defibrillators

Two new defibrillators available for public use have been provided by the Council.

Western Power Distribution has permitted one to be fixed to the outside wall of its substation on Hinckley Road, near Hinckley Road Recreation Ground, and the other has been put up outside Burbage Community Library.

These are in addition to the public access defibrillators which continue to be available at Millennium Hall and Castle Court.

Plans to provide a fifth defibrillator, to serve the Three Pots area, are ongoing.

New face for Lash Hill ward

Liberal Democrat Russell Turner has been elected to represent Lash Hill ward on the Parish Council.

Polling for the by-election was held on January 20 to find a successor to the Independent Cllr Mrs Michelle Mottram, who resigned last year.

Meetings for the months ahead

Council meetings are held on Mondays at Burbage Millennium Hall on Britannia Road, with procedures in place to ensure Covid safety. An agenda confirming date and start time will be published 3 working days ahead of each meeting on www.burbage-council.co.uk

At the time of printing, meetings were scheduled as follows:

- **Parish Council**
February 7
- **Finance & General Purposes Committee**
February 21
- **Planning Committee**
January 31, February 14 & 28

Contact us. The Parish Office remains open for business but temporarily closed to visitors, as a Coronavirus precaution. The best way to make contact is to email info@burbage-council.co.uk Alternatively, call **01455 637533** between 9am and midday Monday to Friday, or use the post box inside the front sliding door between 9am and 4pm on weekdays.

The next Parish Council newsletter will be published on February 28. For more news, updates, and links to useful sites, please visit our website www.burbage-council.co.uk