



Harbury Parish Council News Spring & Summer 2022

Welcome to our latest round-up of parish council news.

Planning & Development

The **Eastfields Solar Farm** development company has gifted £50k to the parish council for use on environmental projects of the council's choosing. This money will be paid to the parish council on commencement of the construction of the solar farm. The council has already pledged £25k towards the Harbury Future Energy Project which will provide public electric vehicle charging points at the playing field car park. There is still £25k in the community fund which can be used for other worthy projects so if you have any ideas on how this money could be spent, please contact us.

The planning application for a solar farm on **land off Middle Road** is still under consideration by SDC.

As most of you will already have heard, the proposal to merge Stratford and Warwick District Councils is not going ahead after all. However, they are still working together on producing a new local plan which will form the basis of local planning policy when the current plan expires in 2031. About 12 months ago, the district councils ran a call for sites exercise which invited landowners and developers to put forward their suggestions for possible sites for development. These have now been collated and a map prepared and a new consultation will run from 16 June to 29 July 2022 on the preferred options site allocations plan. This is where the parish councils and the public get their chance to say what they think about the proposals. No decisions have yet been made by the district councils; they will review the results of the consultation before deciding on their next steps.

Village Tree Planting

In May 2021, the parish council agreed to support a village tree planting scheme. After months of planning, the scouts spent a whole Saturday in March planting new trees on the playing field in Harbury. We are very grateful to the scouts for all their hard work and also to Paul Quinney, for his detailed planning of the event, Colin Sheasby for his help and advice, and Oblong Trees for supplying the trees. At the carnival, we consulted with residents about possible locations for the next



phase of tree planting which we hope to carry out next autumn/winter. This time we are thinking about planting larger, but fewer, specimens. There will be plenty of opportunity for residents to help with this, so please look out for more information over the next few months.

Play Area & Playing Fields

New wetpour safety surfacing has been installed underneath the junior swings. We are currently waiting for repairs to be carried out at the skate park. We are aware that this facility, along with the BMX track, is now very old and we have started to build a fund for their eventual replacement with a brand new combined skate and BMX park.

Bush Heath Road/Butt Lane Traffic

Following further discussion with WCC Highways and local residents, the parish council has agreed to support a scheme to extend the 40mph speed limit. WCC has advised that they do not consider this road to be suitable for a 30mph limit but would consider extending the 40mph limit. We have therefore asked WCC to provide a fully costed proposal, to include improved signage, and we are waiting to hear back from them but we have already been told that it will cost somewhere in the region of £3,000.

Harbury Lane/Fosse Way Junction

There is still no sign of these long promised improvements. Both our district and county councillors have been working hard on our behalf and the chairman of the parish council recently wrote to Izzy Seccombe, the leader of WCC, to express the parish council's frustration at the lack of action. The latest information that we have is that the scheme was out for tender in May of this year and it is anticipated that work will start on site this summer. We were also advised that the scheme is developer led and therefore externally designed and funded which means the delivery timescales are largely dependent on the developer.

Allotments – Well-being Project

Over the last couple of months, a transformation has slowly taken place as the plot has been cleared, levelled, and new raised beds and gravel paths installed. We hope it won't be long before our first gardeners are able to use the space. We are very grateful to Heart of England Co-op and County Cllr Chris Kettle who awarded grants of £500 and £1000 respectively towards this project, and to local company Stratford Landscapes who built the planters. Please look out for more information coming soon.



Deppers Bridge

We have installed a public defibrillator in the old phone box at Deppers Bridge and there are two new benches on order for the playing field. One of these is a fully accessible picnic bench.

Cemetery

We have planted an avenue of new flowering trees in the cemetery to replace the old and misshapen Chamaecyparis. We had to reduce a very large lime tree to a monolith because it was diseased and becoming unsafe. We have left the trunk because it will provide a home to lots of insects and will benefit the environment.

We have recently completed an inspection of all the memorials. Those that have been found to be unsafe have been temporarily cordoned off while we try to make contact with the owners. A full list of the affected memorials will be placed on the cemetery gates and on our website as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you visit the cemetery, please keep clear of these memorials.

Platinum Jubilee

We hope everyone enjoyed the extended bank holiday. Many thanks to everyone who helped put up the bunting and those householders who allowed us to use their property for the installation. Cllr Jess Dominick came up with the idea of making bunting with the children at Harbury Primary School. They had great fun adding their handprints and names and we're sure everyone has enjoyed seeing their efforts displayed on the school railings. This is a heritage project with the intention that more bunting is added for future Royal celebrations.

Councillor News

Alex Potter was co-opted in January 2022 to fill the vacancy left by Chris Gibb who resigned just before Christmas. We are very pleased to have Alex join us and we hope he enjoys his time as councillor. Alex, along with another relatively new councillor, Jess Dominick, recently attended a play area inspection training course as they have both joined the weekly inspection team which checks all the equipment on the playing fields in both Harbury and Deppers Bridge.

Our chairman, Cllr Tim Lockley, recently went to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE which was awarded last year for service to the community, especially during the pandemic. Tim was also instrumental in the setting up of the community run Harbury Library following WCC's decision to close it. Now celebrating its 10th anniversary, this has proved to be a real asset to the community.

Grants

The parish council has a community grants fund which is available to all village clubs and organisations subject to a very few basic conditions. Full information is on our website or an application form can be obtained from the parish council office. Recent grants include:

Harbury School PTA – Platinum Jubilee Arts Project 'Bridging the Gap' £1,773

Harbury Local Market – for village hall hire £512

Harbury Show – for village hall hire £200

Contacting the Parish Council

The office is usually open between 10.00am and 12 noon Monday to Thursday. Tel 01926 614646 or clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk Casual callers are welcome, but if you are making a special trip, please phone first to make sure the parish clerk is available to see you, just in case she has another appointment, or has had to go out somewhere.