CALM Housing Development Update

The Government has produced a new standard methodology for computing the number of houses to be built in each area. This still means that Purbeck has to build a lot more houses than the last Local Plan envisaged.

However our local PDC planners are still insisting that they can summarily “release” Green Belt land for development circumventing Para 89 of the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) “A Local Planning Authority should regard the construction of new buildings as inappropriate in the Green Belt”.

Bere Farm (one field away from our village) is to be included in the next Strategic Housing Land Assessment Availability (SHLAA). At present large areas of land in the following Green Belt areas (in addition to the Huntick Rd site which was originally Green Belt) have been deemed suitable for development: Wareham Road, Foxhills, Blaneys Corner, Middle Road. More could be included in the new SHLAA.

Be aware that the new Local Plan is due to appear at the end of this year, hopefully everyone will have their chance to have a say on it.

CALM will continue its efforts to make PDC use unconstrained land rather than our greenbelt.

Neighbourhood Plan Implementation – We Need Volunteers

Having achieved such a successful result in the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum (93% in favour), it is now time to start to implement those ideas.

The Parish Council has been in discussion with the Scout Group for some time with a view to them moving out of the current Scout Hall and moving to the Youth Club (Lymat) building, next to the Army Cadet building almost opposite the garage. The Scouts aspire to build a new hall for all the various scouting groups, both boys and girls. Dorset County Council is moving ahead to transfer the property ownership to the Parish Council so that the Scout Group can start their fundraising.

The Parish Council is also in preliminary discussions with Dorset County Council regarding an expansion of the library building. It could then become a venue for smaller group activities and meetings. The library would stay as it is today, but the space would be bigger and more flexible.

The Parish Council also plans to look at building the ‘green route’ through the village from Purbeck Road to Eldons Drove and to the school. This would be a safe walking route through the village linking the village centre to the school area. Possible access to the school from Eldons Drove would also improve the walk-to-school options.

We continue to be in discussions with Dorset County Council and local landowners regarding the cycleway along Huntick Road to join up with the Lytchett Minster scheme.

The CALM group (Community Action for Lytchett Matravers) continues to monitor the progress of the revision of the Purbeck District Council local plan. The first version had plans to build more than 300 houses in Lytchett Matravers and another 650 in Lytchett Minster. We are still working to see what we can do to reduce those numbers and the impact of any new developments in general.

The Parish Council needs your help. All the above projects need village input and support. Please get in touch with us to talk about any of the above or any other ideas you have for improving village facilities or community activities. Everyone is welcome.

Cllr Alf Bush

Please visit our website communityaction.lytchettmatravers.org.uk and join the campaign.
Fly-tipping on the increase

Fly-tipping in and around our village is on the increase, but how can you help stop it and not be fined for letting a rogue waste contractor take your waste?

Most fly-tipped waste is from rogue waste contractors, who are happy to collect your waste for a fee - they will tell you that they will dispose of it properly… but how can you check that they aren’t one of the bad guys just dumping your stuff down the lane? — Well, ALL waste contractors must be registered with the Environment Agency and will have a certificate to show that they are a reputable contractor. If they can’t show you their certificate then don’t use them.

You could be fined £400 if your rubbish gets fly-tipped – Purbeck District Council have already fined people and have stepped up their campaign to beat fly-tipping. We can all do our bit by only using reputable waste contractors.

Cllr Rob Carswell

You could be fined £400 if your rubbish is fly-tipped.

If you have shopped at Tesco in the village recently you would have noticed a brand new yellow box on the external wall. This bright yellow box is in fact a Defibrillator cabinet. The cabinet is alarmed and heated to protect the life saving equipment housed inside. The parish council supplied the cabinet and Tesco have supplied the Automated External Defibrillator or AED.

So what is a AED and what does it do?

A defibrillator is a device used to give an electric shock to help restart a patient’s heart when they are in cardiac arrest.

For every minute that passes once in cardiac arrest, a person loses a further 10% chance of survival. With this dramatic loss in chance of survival there is a need for more defibrillators spread around the village. The Parish Council are embarking along with South Western Ambulance Service to identify more sites around the village and supply and fit these life saving devices.

The AED has been registered with South Western Ambulance Service. When you dial 999 the control room will talk you through the process of accessing the AED.

There are currently two green charity collection boxes in both our local pubs so please drop any spare change to raise more money to buy more of these life devices.

Cllr Alan Cottman

Council Meetings Move

As of the 20th of November, the Parish Council meetings will be moving from the Methodist Church to the Blanchard Room in the village hall. All other Parish Council meetings will also be held in the village hall and all meetings will start at 7.00 pm.

For up-to-date details please see the website: www.parishcouncil.lytchettmatravers.org.uk/
Chairman’s Update

With an early warm Spring and a late warm Autumn, we’ve certainly had loads of mellow fruitfulness in Lytchett Matravers this year. This brings bushier bushes and grassier verges. There are 5 different authorities responsible for maintaining hedges and verges in the village and the parish council gets the blame when any of them falls short. We probably spend more time chasing other authorities than cutting our own patches! Sometimes a councillor will take a scythe or shears to a problem in frustration. Upton, who are much bigger, employ groundsmen and can direct their efforts to maximum effect. We are still searching for the magic formula of cost versus effectiveness for our size of operation.

The bunds around the recreation field are another example of where the vines have run. There’s been no incursion by travellers of our precious field but was that because of the new bunds? It’s hard to prove a negative. We’re experimenting with seeding to use them visually and we’re pleased to see that people are adopting them for their own propagation schemes. Bear with us while this plays out.

Most will know we made a Neighbourhood Plan in the early Summer and some may be wondering what the fruits of that are. Well, it’s early days and some projects will take years to evolve. To begin with we have started talks with Dorset County Council to acquire property they own in the village where it’s necessary for our plans. We have also set up several work groups to spread the load and we still need residents to come forward where they have ideas and/or expertise to help with these.

One of the existing knotty problems is car traffic around the primary school during term time. There’s no magic wand for this either but we are taking small steps to lessen the impact. DCC finally helped us out by replacing and moving the falling down bus shelter. This and the associated street furniture was causing a dangerous constriction where children were wanting to cross the road. I hope you think it’s improved. As I write, DCC have not been able to find a replacement crossing person so it’s still a bun fight there. They have responded to our plea for bollards around the end of Deans Drive, this should improve the visibility, or ‘play’, as vehicles exit Deans Drive. They are not as keen on our idea to incorporate a car park at the entrance to the Lytchett Astro, to the South of the school. It’s against their policy of not encouraging the use of cars, good luck with that!

We’ve taken some other small, but I find that people with cars will use them. Unfortunately, we lost one of our number when cllr Liz Wilson recently resigned, she had worked hard for the Council these last seven years and will be greatly missed. Another volunteer has come forward to take her place and we welcome Ralph Watts who will replace Liz on the Planning and Policy committees. These days many councils struggle to fill their roster but I’m pleased to say that in Lytchett we can normally summon a full house. I believe that’s the sign of a thriving village.

Cllr Martyn Colvey