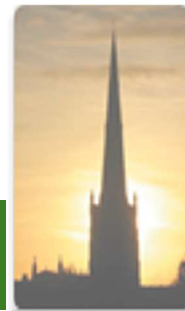


BOTTESFORD PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, OCTOBER



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THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES

The Parish Council is responsible for a number of trees on various pieces of land throughout the parish. The Council ensures its tree stock is regularly inspected and well managed. This is not only to ensure public safety but also because it recognises the positive contribution made by trees to open spaces, for biodiversity and climate mitigation.

Recognising the importance of trees the Parish Council adopted a Tree Charter in February 2021. The Charter seeks to ensure effective conservation of existing trees and hedgerows, and to plan the planting of new trees of the right species in the right places. It also encourages the public, local organisations, landowners and public bodies to participate in meeting the Charter goals.

Over the past 2 years the Parish Council, supported by Leicestershire County Council, have been able to plant 20 orchard trees at the eastern end of the Village Hall Playing Field, 10 specimen trees on Jubilee Green and 3 oak trees at the western end of the Village Hall Playing Field. Unfortunately some of the orchard trees did not survive their first year but we hope to replace the trees that failed over the 2024/5 planting season.

We are also pleased have heard that local residents the Goodson family have been successful in their application to the Woodland Trust for support with plans to create a small woodland on land adjacent to Normanton Lane. The proposed planting area is approximately 0.60 hectares in size and the goal is to create a woodland that reflects the design of Avro Lancaster and Douglas C-47 wings in homage to those who served at, and those who were lost, operating out of former RAF Bottesford which is close to the site.

The family may be looking for volunteers to help with their goal to plant a bit of history in our community as the plans include 725 trees and 225 shrubs! Please keep an eye out on the Vale of Belvoir Natural Burial Ground social media platforms' for more information or send your contact information to the Parish Council using the contact details above and we can keep you informed as plans progress.



Purple4Polio

For over 35 years, Rotary and its members have been committed to the fight to eradicate polio across the world. The Purple4Polio campaign raises funds and awareness for this project, it is named after the purple dye painted on each child's finger to show they have been vaccinated.

The Vale of Belvoir Rotary Club has asked to plant a 6m circle of purple crocuses on the Jubilee Green to raise awareness of this project and to recognise the support given by our parish to their activities. Keep your eyes out for these lovely flowers in late winter and early spring!



The Role of Parish Councils in the Planning Process

The Parish Council (PC) is aware that the building of new houses and infrastructure in and around the parish has a real impact on the day to day lives of residents and it takes very seriously its role in the planning system.

It is important to note that the PC has no power to permit or refuse an application for planning, this power lies with Melton Borough Council which is the Lead Planning Authority (LPA) in our area. The PC is a statutory consultee for planning applications in the parish, this means that the council is informed of applications and invited to submit its observations to the LPA.

In determining planning applications the LPA must consider the Local Development Plan. The Development Plan for our area is made up of the Melton Local Plan (MLP) and the Bottesford Neighbourhood Plan (BNP). The MLP determined the location and minimum number of houses to be built in the Parish and the BNP seeks to influence the design and layout of development.

The PC seeks to use its local knowledge to scrutinise applications and represent the views and interests of the community. The PC's observations on a planning application should be based on material planning matters and must be agreed during a properly called public meeting of the PC. Prior to such meeting councillors will study the planning applications and supporting documents carefully noting the views of the statutory bodies such as the Highway Authority, English Heritage, Environment Agency etc.

You can find out what planning applications have been submitted in the parish on the PC website at <https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk/planning-apps> . The agenda for a PC meeting will show which applications the council is considering during an upcoming meeting, agendas are available on notice boards around the parish and on the website at <https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings> .

Each monthly meeting of the PC begins with a period of public participation. All residents are welcome to attend meetings and can comment, speak in support or object to any planning application during this public session. Councillors may take views expressed into account when considering an application later in the meeting, during this consideration members of the public may observe the debate but cannot take part. Although the BNP has weight in planning decisions the PC is only a consultee and it counts as one opinion. We would always encourage residents to submit their own observations to the LPA as these will all be viewed by the relevant planning officer. You can find details of planning applications and the page to submit a comment at <https://pa.melton.gov.uk/online-applications/> .

If you are unable to find the information you are looking for regarding a planning application or the planning process please contact the Clerk using the details on the front of this newsletter.

The Old School

Grantham Road



The Old School building on Grantham Road is owned by the charity The Bottesford Institute. One half of the building is rented by Leicestershire County Council for use by the Bottesford Community Library, a facility run by fabulous local volunteers providing a number of services in addition to book lending. The other half of The Old School is rented by Bottesford Parish Council for use as a Parish Office and rooms for rent by community groups and individuals.

A number of the groups using the Old School run sessions that are open to Bottesford residents. Below is a timetable of regular events and details of who to contact to find out more.

Monday 4– 7pm The Parish Room Weekly – term time	Orston and Bottesford School of Dance	Ballet, tap and modern classes.	Lisa Murray 07940 891312
Monday 7– 9pm The Fuller Room Every 3 rd Monday	Writing in the Vale	A friendly and supportive writing group.	https://writinginthevale.wordpress.com/2024/05/21/welcome-to-writing-in-the-vale/
Tuesday 10am - 12noon The Parish & Fuller Room Weekly	U3A Table tennis	A group that meets to play table tennis for enjoyment, exercise and a chinwag.	https://valeofbelvoir.u3asite.uk/
Tuesday 7 – 9pm The Fuller Room Weekly	Vale of Belvoir Art Society	Art for everyone in the Vale of Belvoir	valeofbelvoirartsociety@gmail.com
Tuesday 8 – 9.30pm The Parish Room Every 2 nd Tuesday	Vale of Belvoir Writing Group	A group of writers from over the Vale and beyond.	words@belvoirwriting.co.uk
Wednesday and Saturday 9.30am – 12noon The Fuller Room Weekly	Bottesford Community Hub	A charity shop with plenty of pre loved items and the opportunity to sit down for a drink and some cake.	https://www.facebook.com/mustonbottesfordcharityshop/
Wednesday 10am The Parish Room Weekly	Rural Food Hub	A foodbank service for local residents who are eligible for a voucher.	To request a voucher contact the Community Support Hub: 01664 502342 Here4Melton@melton.gov.uk
Wednesday 7 – 9.30pm The Fuller Room Weekly	Bottesford Whist	A group that meets to play whist and socialise.	Open to all who wish to play whist. Come along and join a session.
Thursday 9.15-10.15am The Fuller Room Weekly	Jan's PT	Circuit training class	Jan 07950 977029
Thursday 2-4pm The Fuller Room Weekly	U3A Whist and Board Games	Friendly afternoon of cards/games with tea and chat.	https://valeofbelvoir.u3asite.uk/
Thursday 7pm The Parish Room Weekly	Slimming World	A weekly group offering support to members.	Dianne 07833 131169

The rooms at The Old School are also available to hire and may be suitable for parties, meetings, societies and clubs. To find out more visit <https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk/room-hire> .

Skate Park News

The large half pipe ramp at the Skate Park was closed on Monday 14th October due to considerable damage to the top of the ramp which made it too dangerous to use. Cllrs took immediate action meeting a contractor on site and approving necessary repairs. We hope that by the time you are reading this the park is in full use again.

The Parish Council is aware that the wooden ramps at the Park have a limited life and is looking into the process of inviting contractors to submit proposals to replace the ramps. We would love to hear from anyone who may have skills to aid in any way, including views on design or fundraising ideas. This process will take a while but we will provide regular updates.

Bottesford Christmas Lights Friday 6th December From 4.15pm

Join us at The Market Square for refreshments, carol singing, a visit from Santa & the switching on of the Christmas Lights.



Parish Council Meetings

If you are interested in finding out more about the work of the Parish Council, we would encourage you to attend one of our monthly meetings.

Full Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, these sessions start at 7.15pm with a 15 minute session for public participation.

The Parish Council Road Safety Advisory Committee usually meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Details of all meetings, including agendas and other supporting documents, can be found on the Parish Council website.

Play Area Updates

The Village Hall Field

The Council is very pleased that a successful application for a £20,000 grant has meant that work can begin on plans to develop the play area at The Village Hall field.

A new multi play unit, accessible from 5 years and able to accommodate a number of users, has been installed close to the swings. We hope to add further equipment in the future.



PLANNING NEWS

The outline application for a residential development of up to 215 dwellings off Normanton Lane (commonly known as the **Rectory Farm** site - planning reference 20/00388/OUT) was approved subject to conditions at the Melton Borough Council Planning Committee meeting on 29th August 2024.

Following an appeal hearing the Secretary of State made the decision to determine the appeal into the proposed **Muston Solar Farm** herself. This decision was made as the appeal is considered to be of major significance for the delivery of the Government's climate change programme and energy policies.

More details regarding planning applications in the parish can be found at <https://www.bottesford-pc.gov.uk/planning-apps>