



June 2014 Newsletter

South Wootton Parish
Council
24 Church Lane
South Wootton
PE30 3LJ

Dear Parishioner

I am pleased to report on matters involving the Parish Council.

Parish Assembly

This year the Parish Assembly, held on Friday, 11th April 2014, was very well attended, probably as residents were concerned about the proposed closure and transfer of South Wootton Post Office to the Grange Stores in Dawnay Avenue (see separate report below). In addition to the briefings on the work carried out by the Assets, Finance, Policy and Planning Committees, an update was provided on the status of the LDF (new housing developments), Post Office, Neighbourhood Plan and the Village Fete. There was also a separate presentation by Gemma Walker from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. She explained that she works in this area, referred to as the Gaywood Valley. Norfolk Wildlife Trust had secured funding from Heritage Lottery to look at habitats under threat and she hoped that South Wootton would be one of two parishes prepared to help 'map' the area to establish the different habitats and species within the village. To do this she asked for volunteers prepared to walk the footpaths and roads around the village to document the data. I am pleased to report that quite a number of residents agreed to help under her guidance.

The Post Office

Firstly, I should like to thank all those residents who wrote to the Post Office to voice their objections to the proposed move. Apparently, over 400 responses to the consultation had been received. I am pleased to say that our efforts have been successful as the Post Office has decided not to proceed with the transfer to Dawnay Avenue and the current premises on Nursery Lane will remain open for the time being. However, it will eventually close as the Sub-Postmaster, Mr Peter Lee, intends to retire.

At a meeting on 27th May 2014, Mr Gary Herbert from the Post Office explained the reasons for not proceeding with the transfer to Dawnay Avenue (distance, outside South Wootton Parish, busy road to cross, not on bus route, poor parking and lack of space in the store) but stated that they still needed to find a suitable alternative. Post Office Ltd will now quickly re-advertise. They know that the owner of Talking Heads is still very interested but will have to send in a new application and present a business plan for approval and be interviewed. This will apply to any other interested parties who may come forward. The Parish Council still considers Talking Heads as the preferred option. As before, the Post Office will hold a six week consultation period for residents to consider the option(s) being proposed. Hopefully, the premises chosen will be opened (possibly in September, 2014) before the Nursery Lane Post Office closes.

Parish Office Tel:

01553 671692

Opening Times:

Each weekday
morning between

9am—11am

Except Wednesday

Email address:

swpc@hotmail.co.uk

Website:

Southwootton.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Mr D Price 675807

Mr D Steward-Brown
675340

Mr J P Smallwood 675684

Mr M Narborough 673660

Rev D Tate 672474

Mrs M Albinson 670241

Mr D Gerrard 674665

Mr H Hofmeister 673120

Mrs D Gotts 676043

Mr I Jordan 670228

Mr A Evans 673367

Mrs T Banks 672303

Mr B Clapham 675773

Mr R Williamson 671486

Clerk to the Parish

Council

Mrs T Cornwell

Assistant Clerk

Mrs M Kirby

Borough Councillors

Mrs E Nockolds 670264

Mr N Daubney 630479

County Councillor

Jason Law 01485 524217

Local Development Framework – Proposed New Houses

As was reported in last November's Newsletter, the Borough Council has reduced the number of new houses for South Wootton to 300 West of Hall Lane and 600 at Knight's Hill. Afterwards, the Parish Council submitted a 'Statement of Objection' outlining our case for further reductions in numbers. We do not expect to hear any decision on the final figures from the Borough Council until later in the year.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council have been very fortunate to obtain a grant from the Community Development Foundation to help with the publication of our Neighbourhood Plan. We distributed 1780 copies of the first draft to every household in the Parish for consultation and when complete, the final document will be distributed once again. This is obviously a very large outlay for printing to which our grant of £2671.00 has managed to cover. If anyone knows anyone who is thinking of producing a Neighbourhood Plan, help is available on the Community Development Foundation website, or you can email np@cdf.org.uk.

Following the publication of our draft document and after the six week consultation period, the Parish Council received a disappointingly small number of responses. I should like to thank all those who did reply. The Project Group is now examining your comments and will incorporate relevant suggestions into the next draft, which should be ready by the end of July.

We have agreed with the Borough Council that a pre-submission examination of the document should be carried out by an independent examiner (cost to be shared, 75% Borough Council and 25% Parish Council) in order to correct any errors and make the document more acceptable. The Borough Council (with agreement from the Parish Council) will then appoint an independent Inspector to approve the document.

When accepted the final document will be distributed to all residents in South Wootton and the Borough Council will hold a referendum at which residents will be asked a simple 'yes' or 'no' question – Do you agree with the South Wootton Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan? If at least 51% of those who vote are in favour then the Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted by the Borough Council and incorporated into its own Local Plan. This will mean that any proposed future development in South Wootton up to 2026 will only be allowed if it fits the conditions of the Neighbourhood Plan. If we do not get the required majority then the Plan falls and any future developments will be governed by the Borough Council's own Plan. This could lead to unsuitable developments in the village as has happened in the past. Please make sure you vote when the time comes.

Yours sincerely

David Price

Chairman of the Parish Council