**November Newsletter 2016**

Dear Parishioners

**Newsletter deliveries**

For many years, your quarterly newsletter has been delivered, by hand, to all the households in South Wootton by your parish councillors and a small number of volunteers. However, some of our elderly councillors have begun to find the task more difficult to carry out. It has, therefore, been decided that this newsletter will be the last to be delivered by hand. In future, the newsletters will be posted on our website: **southwootton.norfolkparishes.gov.uk**. Paper copies will be available for viewing at the Parish Office, on the notice boards as well as at other locations around the village – St Marys Church, Village Hall, South Wootton Post Office, the Swan Public House and Asda Supermarket.

**Inspector’s Report**

The report by the Inspector regarding the Borough Council’s ‘Sites Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan ‘ was published in August as well as a separate document outlining his main modifications in order to make the Borough’s Plan acceptable. The main effect of these changes on South Wootton is with regard to the number of new properties proposed for the two locations. For the West of Hall Lane site, instead of there being no more than 300 dwellings the Inspector has indicated that the development should be for at least 300 dwellings. Similarly, at Knight’s Hill, the change is from no more than 600 dwellings to at least 600 dwellings. At Knight’s Hill, the developers are proposing over 700 properties and at Hall Lane developers are indicating 500 properties. The Inspectors reports and the Adoption Statement can be found on the Borough Councils website

<http://consult.west-norfolk.gov.uk/portal/sad_mod2016/saddpdmod_doc/mod_readonly?pointId=s1459761691851#section-s1459761691851>

However, in future discussions with the developers, the Parish Council will continue to argue the case for limiting the numbers but we are not certain how successful we can be.

**Devolution**

The government’s proposals for the Devolution of powers to a combined authority of Norfolk and Suffolk headed by an elected Mayor were opened for public consultation during July and August. As this was not well publicised, there was only a small response from residents of Norfolk. At the present time, the Borough Council is continuing to support the plan. Our MP, Sir Henry Bellingham, who has criticised the proposals, asked for the views of the Parish Council. After a full discussion of the issues involved, the Parish Council decided to write to Andrew Percy MP, Minister for Devolution in the Dept for Communities and Local Government to express our opposition to devolution in its present form. Copies of the letter were sent to Sir Henry and to our County and Borough Councillors. The main reasons for our opposition were concerning the poor public consultation, doubts about the need for an extra layer of local government and the consequent costs involved including those to fund an election for a mayor. We questioned why the new proposed responsibilities from the Government cannot be devolved to the existing local representatives, i.e. County, Borough and Parish Councils and the recently elected Police and Crime Commissioner. We were also concerned whether our Neighbourhood Plan could be overruled by decisions taken by the proposed new authority. Many people feel that West Norfolk has been poorly served with most of the new infrastructure developments occurring in the east of the county. Suffolk is even more remote and there is a danger that West Norfolk will receive less attention than we deserve if responsibilities for Norfolk and Suffolk are combined.

The full letter to Mr Percy can be viewed on our website under PC Documents.

**Gas Leak at Grimston Rd/Castle Rising**

Following the temporary repairs carried out previously, a more thorough repair, involving replacement of pipe work, is planned to start in the New Year. The most disruptive element will take place at the South Wootton A148/A1078 junction between 13th and 26th March 2017.

**Private Pumping Stations**

Currently, homeowners have to spend hundreds of pounds every year for electricity running costs, maintenance and repairs to look after these private pumping stations. From October 2016, many of these private pumping stations will transfer over to Anglian Water and become their responsibility. If you think you currently have a private pumping station, you can report this easily to Anglian Water on a specialist website www.spotapumpingstation.co.uk

**National Power Cut phone line**

UK Power Networks have launched a new national power cut phone line **105** to help people contact the company that looks after their electricity network. This number will enable people to report or get information about power cuts as well as report damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put people in danger. 105 is funded and delivered by the electricity network operators, and is a first for the UK’s energy industry.

**Wootton Park 200 Club**

As mentioned in the Contact article, the Wootton Park Committee have organised a 200 Club to raise funds for work to be carried out on the park. Members are asked to contribute £24 a year to be paid by cheque or standing order. A draw will take place at each Wootton Park meeting with the opportunity to win a proportion of the money raised. The prize money will be 45% of the membership fee taken in the month, with a proportion for 2nd and 3rd place and an allocation for the park to help fund equipment etc. Please see enclosed Application Form.

**Hall Lane Development Public Exhibition**

**Please note, the developers of the site will be holding a Pubic Exhibition to view their plans on Wednesday 30th November 2016, in South Wootton Village Hall, between 2pm and 6.30pm.**

Yours sincerely, David Price

Website: **Southwootton.norfolkparishes.gov.uk**