

Snettisham Parish Council

Open Days

As in previous years Council will be running two "Open Days" for residents. These are to present what Council has been doing, what it is proposing to do, to seek the feedback of those living here, and take suggestions on what might be needed in the future.

Councillors will be present to answer questions. There will be information about, and opportunities to have input on, the following: Play Areas, Lodge Walk plans, the Common, Beach Road footpath, the Neighbourhood Plan (details overleaf), the Fete, Village drainage, seats/benches, street lighting, speeding, flowerbeds/planting, dogs, parking, Parish accounts, sea defences etc. In addition, other organisations have been invited to attend, such as the Vet, RSPB, Sailing Club, and the Heritage Committee. The meetings will be in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 13th April from 5.30-8.30pm and Friday 15th April from 2-5pm; the WI will be providing refreshments.

Village Fete

We would like to thank the Trustees of the Memorial Hall for their hard work in recent years running the Village Fete. Unfortunately they have found it increasingly difficult with their other commitments, and Council has agreed to step in this year. We have appointed Helen Scott to act as co-ordinator for the event. She has asked for the following to be included in our notes for this issue:

Snettisham Village Fete - Save the Date ... Saturday, 9th July 2016 12.00 - 5.00 p.m.

There will be many fun activities this year; here's a taster to start you off...

- *To be opened by a special guest*
- *Second Annual Dog Show (most pretty, most handsome, most waggy, best in show etc.)*
- *Tug of War (come on Dads - form a team!!)*
- *Magic and live music*
- *Beer and Pimm's Tent*
- *Lots of side stalls of games and crafts*

A programme will be released closer to the date and circulated on the day. Would you like a stall at the event? Would you like to entertain at the Fete? Are you willing to volunteer your time? Please contact Helen or the Parish Council if you are able to lend a gazebo for use on the day.

Contact Helen Scott (07824 881931; snettishamfete@gmail.com) or the Parish Council for further info.

In Brief

You may have seen information about a major project to improve Lodge Walk in time for the 65th Anniversary of the Queen's Accession in 2017. For more details please attend the Open Days as above; we are looking to get as much input as possible before starting work.

We have had requests that people keep an eye on gravel from their drives encroaching onto pavements (Alma Road in particular) – this causes problems for wheelchair users and those who are less steady on their legs; please sweep back regularly. On the inevitable subject of dogs, please do not bag waste and then leave it in hedges or on the side of paths – there are many bins in the Village. Some notices have been removed – please let me know if any need replacing due to being tatty etc. Parking in Lodge Lane has also been raised, but it applies everywhere – please be considerate and allow room for other residents to exit their properties, and allow space at dropped kerbs and for visibility when crossing. Apologies for the brevity due to space here!

Regards, and best wishes for a good Spring and Summer,
Simon



The Future of the Village

Everyone has an opinion on where they live. How do you see the Village in five years, or in ten years, or beyond? It can be all too easy to be fatalistic about this and say that one has no chance to influence things: decisions are taken far from the Village; local views are not taken into account; money talks; the rules are always changing to allow more and more development etc. etc.

We do however have a chance to control these things locally through a Neighbourhood Plan. This does not stop change, but allows you to have an influence over what that change should be like. The plan would be a guide to all such decisions in the Village over the coming decade, and would be binding on the Borough Council which decides on planning matters.

Legally this has to be driven by the Parish Council, but in consultation at every stage with the public, eventually being put to the Village in a referendum – you may recall reading of these at Brancaster and South Wootton.

To explain why Council considers this important, please see the alternatives with and without a plan in place:

With a Plan	Without a Plan
The Village has control over many aspects of its future.	All major decisions are taken elsewhere. While local views are sought, they can be ignored.
Required infrastructure can be included from the planning stage.	Infrastructure improvements only come after development, if at all.
Money from developers has to be given to the Village. How it is spent is decided here.	Such spending is decided at Borough and County level, and not necessarily on local priorities.
Planning matters – types and mix of homes etc. - are decided in advance by the Village, and future development has to fit with that.	Each planning application is considered in isolation rather than as part of an overall plan. Such matters are decided in King's Lynn.
We have a chance to develop a coherent view of the future of Snettisham, and involve everyone in this process.	All changes are piecemeal and there is no forward planning. Development is driven by short term considerations.
The views of residents are paramount, and legally enforceable.	The future of the Village is in the hands of people who may not live here.
The Plan looks at the whole Village.	Areas of the Village may get left behind.
We have an opportunity to include other matters – parking, commercial needs, open spaces etc.	These matters are only considered after pressure from interested parties. Even then there may not be the power to act locally.

There is time pressure on this; it can take over a year to get a Plan through the whole process, and at the moment they expire in 2026, so we need to get the process started sooner rather than later. In addition the pressure on development is happening now, and we wish to avoid being too late.

We need to have a few more volunteers who are interested to be on the Plan Group – a total of around ten split roughly 50/50 between councillors and other residents. It is not a short or simple process, and would require a real commitment. However, the rewards for everyone in Snettisham could be considerable.

There will be a detailed presentation at the Open Days (see over) and an opportunity to ask questions and express an interest. In the meantime, as ever, please contact me for further info if you wish.

