



# LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (Issue 33 - February, 2013)



The Northumberland Estates

**Proposed development, Lesbury Main Road-** As a courtesy, Northumberland Estates have informed the Parish Council of their intention to re-submit plans for "the development of land between the Post Office and Down House." The revised plan will be for 8 single story dwellings to be built on land behind the cottages on Lesbury Main Road. Affordable housing will be provided as part of the proposals in line with current planning policy. The existing houses and Post Office will remain

but the plan is to put an access road between two of the cottages which will entail the demolition of an outhouse. The revision does not include any changes or improvement to the PO building. Northumberland Estates have been in discussions with the NCC Planning Department but NO FORMAL APPLICATION has been made to NCC at the time of the Newsletter going to press. Consequently, no official planning application has been received by the Parish Council.

**Main Street road works-** NCC has completed works to alleviate flooding on the road through Lesbury in the area of Alside Court, the Coach Inn and the park at the corner of Lealands. At some stage in the past, probably when gas was brought into the village, the pipework connecting the road gully to the sewer was broken resulting in the flooding problem. Gulleys can no longer be connected to sewers so a new pipe is being laid across the road which will empty into the storm drain at the top of Alside Court. The work proved quite difficult as all the utilities (gas, electricity, water and sewerage) pass along the road in this area therefore much of the digging had to be done by hand to avoid damage.



**Pond Field-** As we have stressed before the Pond Field Committee is in urgent need of new committee members and volunteers to help with various activities. The PC is committed to supporting this facility and has given assistance on drainage issues, RoSPA safety inspections and upkeep of the site. In the coming months the PC will have to pay for the significant mole damage to be fixed. If you can give some of your time to the Pond Field group please contact Catherine Neil on 07796 170441.

**News from the Parish Council-** A planning application by NCC to place advertising hoardings on the Lesbury and Hipsburn roundabouts was opposed by PC on the grounds that it was against NCC policy on banners, posters and street clutter; such advertising on roundabouts can be a distraction to drivers. The NCC Planning Committee has rejected the application on similar grounds; our opinions are heard!

- Our request to have the High Path re-aligned into Curly Lane and to have the remainder resurfaced has been reviewed by NCC and placed on the budget list for 2013 - 2014.
- The PC intend to have some repointing work carried out on the Old Mill wall and on parts of the wall around the park near Lealands to make these structures safer.

**Reporting faults / complaints to NCC-** The PC would like to stress again that if you see problems with street lights, road maintenance, grit bin refilling or dog fouling, contact the County Council directly and not the PC. NCC

is also responsible for the maintenance of the Churchyard (not the Parochial Church Council nor the Vicar nor the Parish Council or Northumberland Estate.)



To make a report;-

1. Make a note of the problem, exact location, together with any useful reference numbers e.g. on street lights or grit bins.
2. Call NCC on 0845 600 6400 or send an e mail to [ask@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ask@northumberland.gov.uk) or use the links on their web site.
3. Make the report and give them your name, address and postcode. You will be given a job number when your report is logged-in. If you need to follow up with NCC you can use this number as reference.

**Snow time-** this is fun for some but not for others. The PC would like to thank NCC for generally keeping the roads open and for keeping the grit bins topped up. The Coppicers have done it again and were the first in the area to get their road clear. The PC would also like to thank the mystery snow shoveller who cleared a path from the Church and up the road to Townfoot.



**Nature Note-** An unexpected visitor came to the bird feeders in a Hipsburn garden during the recent cold spell, a male Reed Bunting, usually found in marshy areas. Looking not unlike a Sparrow, it has a black head and throat with a white collar and white moustachioed stripes. Add this to a list of species already feeding and it could take the tally to well over twenty, from Woodpigeon to Robin, Fieldfare and Redwing, House and Tree Sparrow, Brambling and Waxwing; but where were other common species like Song Thrush, Greenfinch, and Goldfinch? Perhaps they were sampling a tastier menu in your garden. Returning to the Reed Bunting, over 50% of Reed Bunting chicks are not fathered by the pair male but as a result of an adulterous liaison, so with Valentine's day approaching he had better get back to his wife!

**Lesbury B C-** Did you know that tucked behind the Village Hall is one of the best bowling

greens in the County? The bowling season runs from mid-April until September. The season usually begins with a Coffee Morning held in the clubhouse which gives us all a chance to catch up with one another after the winter. You are very welcome to come along, have a coffee and talk to members about the club and the game. The Coffee

Morning will be advertised on the noticeboards of the Village Hall and in the Post Office. Our members are very friendly and welcoming and we would be delighted to hear from anyone who is interested in joining us including juniors (9 years - 18 years). For further information please contact the Secretary, Dave Crump on 01665 710133.



**OilCAN-** Community Action Northumberland has started a county-wide community heating-oil-buying consortium to use customer's collective buying power to get the best deal for heating oil. Typical savings are expected to be £45 to £120 on 1,000 litres of oil. Interested? Contact [oilcan@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:oilcan@ca-north.org.uk) or ring 01670 500812 or read more at <http://www.ca-north.org.uk/oil>.

**Parish Clerk**

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**Parish Council meetings** are held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. All residents are welcome to attend. A full list of Parish Councillors can be found at [www.lesbury-pc.org.uk](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk)