



# LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Issue 52 - Feb 2017)

The Parish web site is [www.lesbury-pc.org.uk](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk)

**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)** - In the last edition of the Newsletter we enclosed a questionnaire to be able to collect your thoughts on how the parish should develop with a view to putting together a NDP. The rationale was explained as follows; *"Previously we made a Parish Plan which, unfortunately, has no legal standing so your Parish Councillors have been considering the feasibility of adopting a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Lesbury Parish (Lesbury, Hipsburn and Bilton.) An NDP is a legal document and must be taken into*



*consideration by the government at local and national level whenever development is being considered for an area. Without an NDP residents will have little influence over developments in the area."*

At the last Parish Council meeting it was reported that 24 responses had been received to the questionnaire (24 out of 400+ questionnaires) which may suggest that residents have little interest in how the Parish is developed. The majority of responses were along the lines of maintaining the status quo but with modernisation and improvement of the infrastructure. Letters in the Telegraph recently (including one regarding the County Hall site in Morpeth) raised concerns regarding County Councils ignoring NDPs. In defence Councillor Cairns advised that NDPs are used to defend smaller scale developments not huge strategic planning as on the County Hall site. Both our County Councillors are urging the PC to progress with plans to develop an NDP.

It was proposed to begin the process of developing an NDP by setting up a working party comprising 5 Parish Councillors plus 3 volunteers from the parish. The favoured idea is to use the existing Parish Plan as a basis for environmental, descriptions and detail and to keep the NDP to a remit of 3 objectives: a) identifying areas for small scale development; b) identifying areas to be ring-fenced for green space with public access; c) identifying ways to preserve and improve the existing infrastructure (Post Office, shop, pub, village hall, amenities, etc.) The PC voted on whether to pursue further ideas for a NDP. 8 voted in favour with 1 Councillor against. It was agreed that the working party should meet to determine the next steps and then make recommendations to the PC. In the future it will be necessary to have a public meeting in the village hall once the working group has determined the parameters for the Parish NDP. Community Action Northumberland is able to offer a Housing Needs Assessment which could be a good starting point on which to base our NDP. **If you would like to get involved please contact the Parish Clerk.**



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**The Precept** - Residents will be pleased to learn that the PC voted to keep the precept at the 2016 / 17 level although it looks like the NCC Council Tax will rise.

**Council elections** - The 2017 County Council elections, to be held on Thursday, 4 May 2017, will be combined with local elections in all Parishes across the County, including Lesbury. Not all of these Parish elections will need to be contested. Where candidates do not exceed available council seats, 10

in our case, then new councillors will be co-opted without the need for a poll. If more than 10 candidates wish to be considered as Parish Councillors then a full election will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. Anyone who wishes to be a candidate should contact the Parish Clerk who will explain the process and how to obtain nomination forms; the nomination period will begin on the 20th March and last until Wednesday 4 April.

**Things that are going missing and other anti-social behaviour!** - Who pinched the "Speedwatch" sign along



Longhoughton Road? Even worse who has taken the Christmas tree lights from the very small tree on the grass bank at the Lesbury roundabout? These were on loan to us from Roger Styring.

The PC has been advised by the Hipsburn School Governors of anti-social behavior in the car park next to the school. One aspect is people parking up and letting their dogs loose over the football pitch which results in dog poo over the pitch and car park. The last thing players need is to have to contend with dog mess which is dangerous and unhealthy. The second issue is night time activity of

couples in cars who are, unfortunately, leaving evidence behind. The car park is a dropping off point for the children at school and parents are concerned with what is being found. The car park isn't owned by the PC but they will organise a meeting with the Governors and Football Club, probably also informing the police to see what can be done to resolve the problem.

**Speedwatch** - our newly qualified Speedwatchers have been out and about, most recently along the A1068 between the Millennium Bridge and Curly Lane on 24 January checking southbound traffic - of the 47 vehicles monitored 15 were speeding excessively and will receive a warning letter from the police. Of these 5 vehicles were travelling at 42 mph and the other 10 at 37-39 mph in the 30 mph speed limit. This is only a short stretch of road up a hill, approaching a bend and a road junction, 3 hazards lining up in an area where an accident happened in 2016.



**Dementia Action Group** - Lesbury Village Hall provided a warm and welcoming setting for the 55 people who attended the Friendship, Sharing and Celebration in January. Afternoon tea was followed by a legendary evening of self-entertainment directed by Carol Southam as MC and including stars such as Roger Southam and Tom Pattinson, Lesbury Recorder band, the Singing Vicar, the Morrisons, Gail Stokeld, Kaye Southam,



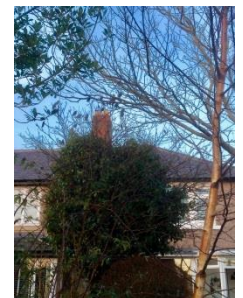
Martha and Mick and our own Stanley Holloway (Jill Lyons). Contributions from the performers included singing, instrumental items, poetry and humour. The PC would like to thank all those who contributed to making the evening a real success. The DAG backroom staff should all be thanked for putting on a great afternoon tea. DAG is really taking off so why not join one of the SATs (Saturday Afternoons Together); the next meeting will be on Saturday, 11 February 2017 at 2.00pm.

**NEED Ltd**

North East Equality & Diversity Ltd

**Transport between Lesbury and Alnwick** - One or two people have mentioned that they have difficulty through infirmity, disability or lack of their own transport in getting to Alnwick perhaps to do shopping etc. NEED is our local Community Transport organisation of which I am a Trustee/Director and we could consider providing a bespoke weekly service if it was feasible and there was sufficient demand. There would be a cost which would be shared by the passengers. If you would be interested in using such a service, please give your name, address and telephone number in the first instance to Peter Hignett, 5 Meadowlands, Lesbury so that we can discuss it with NEED.

**Nature note** - Walking down South View from the station, about an hour before dusk, your attention may be grabbed by the cacophony around an ivy-covered Rowan. This desirable residence has been chosen by a wintering flock of over 150 Starlings, as its roosting site. Gathering in small groups on neighbouring roofs they watch for a time safe from predators to make their way into this modest sized accommodation. Whilst in this communal roost the apparent excitement and chatter is a way of exchanging information about feeding areas for the next day's foraging. Joining them are the real residents, about 30 House Sparrows and Tree Sparrows, who may appreciate the noisy incomers, the central heating provided by all those bodies being beneficial to all. Surprisingly, amidst this mini murmuration, a Collared Dove thinks it's spring and has started building a nest, so do keep your ivy it has much to offer the natural world.



**The England Coast Path** - In autumn 2016, Natural England started work on the 104 kilometres long stretch from Amble to the Scottish Border, including Holy Island. Natural England is working closely with Northumberland County Council and other local stakeholders, such as Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership, to develop proposals for the route along this stretch. As part of this process, Natural England is holding public 'drop-in' meetings along the stretch. The nearest session to Lesbury parish will be on Friday 17th February 2017 in the Methodist Hall, Chapel Lane, Alnmouth, NE66 2RR between 9.30 am to 12 noon.

**Parish Clerk** - Mrs Elizabeth Taylor, Rivendell, Steppey Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU, Tel: 01665 830040,

E- Mail [lesburyparishclerk@goolemail.com](mailto:lesburyparishclerk@goolemail.com).

**Parish Council Chairman:** Bob Dutton; Tel. 01665 830801

**Parish Councillors:** Kym Bradshaw - 833292, Gareth Breese - 830195, Douglas Hunter - 07903243362, Jean Humphrys - 07906146163  
Dave Knowles - 830467, Roger Styring 830531, Adrian Vass - 830134, Peter Cossins - 830597, Kevin Franklin - 830122.

**Parish Council meetings** are usually held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. All residents are welcome to attend.



More from the Friendship and Celebration Event.

