



NORTHWAY VOICE

Northway Community Hub

Hooray! First hurdle completed! We received planning permission for our new community centre last month and the Parish Council has now submitted its application for the Public Works loan. If and when this is approved we can then select contractors and progress the build, hopefully seeing diggers on site this winter!

Exciting times and one more step towards improving Northway for everyone!

Children's Play Park

The public works loan application has been submitted for the preferred option 3 for the play area (along with the community hub application). If and when we get approval we will instruct the contractors to start work. Thanks to some clever negotiating by our clerk's assistant, Laura, we have got the price reduced and, following residents' comments at the Parish Council tent at this year's fete, two additional swings will be included.

One suggestion received at the fete was "anyone caught vandalising the new play area gets put in the stocks next year!" What a great idea!

Active Together Grant

The Parish Council has successfully applied for funds from Gloucestershire County Council's "Active Together" Initiative. The monies will pay for a new outdoor tennis table at Gould Field which will be installed next to the children's play park. Hopefully, this will be sometime this winter.



BMX Track Improvements

The NARHA/NCV committee is planning to build a new BMX track at Gould Field. Plans and quotes are in place and £3,000 of the funds raised for Northway from the various events that NARHA/NCV has raised will kick the project off. The Parish Council supports this effort and has agreed to match this amount from the Crime and Disorder budget. NARHA/NCV is applying for grant money from Tewkesbury Borough Council for the remainder that is needed. If this application is successful, then work can start sooner rather than later.



The existing BMX track has been very popular over the years but a bigger and better track will provide a more exciting and fun experience for our younger generation.

Inconsiderate (and illegal) Parking

Once again, the Council has to mention parking on pavements and grass verges. This is a problem that doesn't seem to go away due to a few thoughtless people who continue to ignore the law.

The problem is not just in Northway. Several representatives from communities across the Borough have reported their concerns.

It is being proposed that, due to damage caused and remedial work being necessitated, offenders may possibly be charged.

Northway Summer Fete

The weather was not very kind for NARHA/NCV's Fete this summer. After weeks of warm, sunny weather, the heavens opened on 2nd August. Still, the fete went ahead and all the volunteers worked hard to get it ready in the morning. In the afternoon, it cleared a little and people braved the intermittent storms.

Jean would like to thank all the people who volunteered or donated prizes, as well as those who came along.

Sadly, due to the weather, the profits of about £600 were considerably down on previous years'. Nevertheless, all profits will go to projects in Northway for Northway people.

Northway Youth Club

Ben Evans from GMAS, your local youth work provider, reports that there has been a good start back to the new term. The young people are very energised by the idea of researching and lobbying on the subject of building a skate park in Northway. The youth workers are harnessing this by taking them to visit different parks to see what they are like (and most importantly what things cost for different levels of quality).

Ben also says "We have a steady group of about 10 young people aged 10-13 who come to our junior session. We do activities that are best called "life skills" with them each, amongst the normal playing games, going to the park, and making food. We have done a shopping task for them (who can get the best value out of £5 with a simple shopping list) and will replicate this later in the year, on a bigger scale. The young people are keen to do a bag pack in Morrisons to raise some money for the club, which I will contact the supermarket about soon. The main topic that concerns our juniors is bullying and friendships. We do a lot of informal work on this and have also done a more formal workshop looking at scenarios where bullying takes place and how the young people involved could best handle it."

"We still have contact with our older seniors (aged 16-19) but they come in rarely and normally only for a cup of tea and to catch up with us. We often work with them in the park instead."

Youth Club runs on Tuesday nights at Northway Village Hall (from 6.15pm)

Road Safety

Further to the Parish Council's Road Safety Committee's recommendation, it was agreed at the October Full Council Meeting that Gloucestershire County Council's Road Safety Team be asked to investigate the merits and safety of providing a pedestrian crossing on Northway Lane close to the junction with The Park/Kingston Road.

Skate Park

Some of our youths and youth club members attended the Parish Council meeting in October to put their request forward for a new skate park. Although the Council has no money available at the moment, it fully supports the fundraising efforts the youth club is planning.

It was agreed at the meeting that a working group could be set up (if all parties agree) and should include members of the Youth Club Management Committee, NARHA/NCV, Parish Council and potential users (specifically young people under the age of 18). The working group's brief will be "to research design and funding options, to gauge public opinion and create a business plan and deliver something that the community wants and will use."

On the subject of the skate park, some rather nasty and offensive graffiti had to be removed from the half pipe recently (at a cost). Within a couple of weeks yet more appeared, apparently by the same untalented artist. The Parish Council really doesn't want to be spending your money on this sort of thing.

Vandalism

Sadly, we have not been immune to various mindless acts of vandalism in Northway. We thought it would be interesting to let you know what costs the Parish Council has had to pay out this year in this respect.

Replacement meter box at Village Hall - £133

Re-fill of fire extinguishers at Village Hall following beak in - £133.85

Boarding up and subsequent replacement of glass in kitchen window at Village Hall - £109.17

Replacement of damaged palisade fence panels at Gould Field - £196 (April £45; May £70; August £83)

Bus shelter cleaning (due to public urinating) - £105 every two months Litter picking - £77.70 every week

Painting over graffiti at Gould Field - £50

Removal of graffiti in bus shelters - £80 each time

New litter bins and dog bins - £3,431 (plus installation)

Replacement litter bin liners - £102 each

New padlocks for litter bins - £144

So far this year, that's over £5,300 - of your money! What a shame – that's money that could have been spent on good things for Northway.

Did you know that, according to the latest 2011 census figures, there are 5,080 people living in Northway? It's likely that fewer than 20 of these are doing the damage that the Parish Council has to spend money on to put right.

So ... if you see or know of anyone who is vandalising or disrespecting property in Northway, please, please report it to the police or inform the Parish Clerk or a Councillor.

Litter and Dog Bins

The Parish Council has recently purchased 4 new litter bins and 5 new dog bins which are due to be installed shortly. The Council has listened to residents' requests and comments and has agreed to relocate two dog bins to more suitable locations and will straighten up the bin near Gwen Davis Row.

Wouldn't you think that, with the many litter and dog bins around Northway, our streets and parks would be clear of all litter and dog mess? Sadly, it's not the case.

The Parish Council appreciates that most residents are responsible and pick up after their dogs and do not drop litter. Unfortunately, it's a small minority that leave a mess for others to deal with.

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up their dog's mess. All public footpaths and public open spaces in the borough have been designated under the Dog Fouling of Land Act 1996 and if someone fails to pick up after their dog they can be fined up to £1,000. The offender can also be given a £50 fixed penalty notice.

Tewkesbury Borough Council's Environmental Health Team have recently carried out a number of joint operations with the Police to tackle the issue of dog fouling and are looking to collate information on problem areas. Do you know of any specific 'hot spots' for dog fouling? If so, let us know and we will pass the information on.

Paws on Patrol

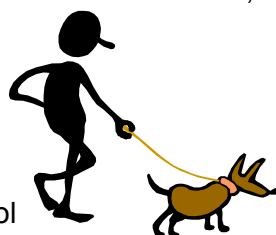
The Borough Council recently launched the brand new Paws on Patrol Scheme which gives communities the chance to help crack down on crime within their local areas.

They launched this scheme in Northway at the NARHA Summer Fete and the response from residents was very positive with several people signing up.

Dog walkers can register to join while out and about in the neighbourhood, and will be issued with all of the necessary contact numbers to help report suspected dog fouling, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour to the Council, the police or Crimestoppers.

These issues are the ones that both the Parish and Borough Councils receive the most complaints about and are very costly to clear up.

Find more info at www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/pawsonpatrol



Seniors Luncheon Club

The Wednesday WRVS luncheon club for our more mature residents continues with some new members joining for the very tasty lunches that the dedicated small team of volunteers provide. A few more volunteers would be gratefully welcomed. If you could give a few hours a month, please get in touch.

The Parish Council provided written support to the luncheon club in their recent application for a small grant to provide extra activities for the luncheon club. A decision on the success (or not) of the grant application should be received soon.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Look out for news of events on our Parish notice boards, online or in Gloucestershire Echo's Neighbourhood section.

Full Council meetings take place at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month (except in August), members of the public are welcome to attend these and, if they wish, there is an opportunity to address the Council during the first ten minutes of the meeting.

Meeting agenda's and minutes can be found on the Parish Council webpage.

Northway Shopping Centre

Lots of complaints have been received about the state of the car park, blocked drains, footpath and recycling area at the Coop and shopping area.

The Parish Council has sent written complaints to the landowner, Creed Catering, on many occasions over many months. Unfortunately, no resolution has been achieved so far. We continue to press the matter.

The recycling area has become an eyesore as people are just dumping large amounts of plastic bags around the bins. This is actually fly-tipping. All the bins (except one) have a phone number to call if the bin needs emptying. Each of these numbers has been called in the last week and the bins were cleared within a day.

The one problem is the large blue bin which has no number or information on the company owning it. Unfortunately, this is the one that has become surrounded by plastic bags. We believe this to be an illegal bin that has not been approved by the Borough Council and have requested the Council to clear the area and remove the bin entirely.

Please, if you bring items to the area, make sure that you place them fully inside the bins and don't block the openings. Also, if you see the bins are overflowing, it takes just a moment to either jot down the number and call to ask the company to empty it or you can call the Parish Clerk's office and they will call for you.

Northway Police Crime Report

During the period 5th July to 4th October, 38 crimes were reported in Northway. Although the number is down from 44 crimes reported over the same period in 2013, it's still 38 crimes too many.

The crimes have taken place across the Parish with no specific street being targeted more than any other. Crimes reported have included criminal damage, theft, burglary, assault with injury and shoplifting.

Please be vigilant! Make sure your houses, vehicles and sheds are locked at all times.

Always report suspected crimes and incidents to the police and ensure you obtain an incident number.

Your local policing team for Tewkesbury and Coombe Hill are given on the Gloucestershire Constabulary website, which has been recently updated with profiles. Your local community beat officers are PC Sarah Sceats, PC Karen Saunders and PC Adam Chalkley. Your local PCSO's are Karl Simpson and Sandra Jones. A further two PCSO's are due to join the team but they are both currently in tutorship.

PCSO Karl Simpson holds a Police Information Point (P.I.P) at the Parish Offices (Ray Shill Building) once a month at which members of the public can come and report any issues. Upcoming dates: 10 November (1pm-2.30pm) & 22 December (1pm-2.30pm).

Community Carol Singing

We would like to invite you all to join us for some community Carol Singing this Christmas.

This will be on Friday 12th December from 6pm till 7.30pm (to be confirmed).

We hope to sing outside the shops in Lee Road and outside the Co-op.

Please check noticeboards and the Parish Council website for further details.

Or contact Cllr Sandra Terry on 01684 290997



Northway Christmas Fayre

Northway Community Volunteers (formerly NARHA) will be holding its Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall at Gould Field on Saturday, 29th November from 1:00 pm till 5:00 pm. As well as the space inside the Village Hall, there will be a large marquee adjoining it so it can accommodate more stalls and tables.

We're told that there will be roasted chestnuts, chocolate dipped marshmallows, and mulled wine. So, lots of tasty eats and drinks and old time Christmas favourites. Father Christmas is coming too, of course, and will be giving presents to all good children!



Our Older Residents

Now the weather is getting colder and the long dark nights are upon us, please give a thought to your elderly neighbours. Many people in Northway live alone and would welcome you just checking that they are OK.