



**North Leigh Parish**

Serving North Leigh, East End, New Yatt and Wilcote

## Parish Council Newsletter - December 2022

### **A New View from the Chair**

In these ever changing and challenging times in September the Parish Council was very sad to accept the resignation of Greg Matthews who had been a constant of the Parish Council for over 10 years. I and the other Parish Councillors would like to express our sincere gratitude for the sterling work that Greg has done for the residents of the parish particularly during his 6 years as Chairman.

As the saying goes – “a difficult act to follow,” however myself and the other parish councillors will endeavour to carry on Greg’s good work with the same positive pragmatic approach he applied to the issues that arose during his tenure.

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council and a number of the projects carried out are covered in further detail below.

The Parish Council wishes you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and we look forward to continuing to maintain a thriving community spirit in North Leigh, East End, New Yatt and Wilcote.

**Julie Minch**  
**Chair**

## Community Speedwatch and Village Traffic Surveys.

### Community Speedwatch.

The Parish Speedwatch group has carried out 49 surveys over the course of 2022, 19 of these were on Common Road, 14 on New Yatt Road and 16 were in East End.

The following statistics were produced from those surveys:

Location	Total number of vehicles surveyed	Number of vehicles travelling above 30MPH	% of vehicles travelling above 30MPH	Number of vehicles travelling above 35MPH	% of vehicles travelling above 35MPH	Highest Recorded speed MPH
Common Road - based on 19 surveys	1417	246	17%	54	4%	50
New Yatt Road - based on 14 surveys	1056	131	12%	19	2%	46
East End - based on 16 surveys	733	152	21%	48	7%	49

### Village Surveys

The Parish Council undertook a survey in East End regarding the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in East End. The East End Survey closed on the 14th of August and the result was that only 25% of the village supported a 20mph speed limit being introduced.

There was also considerable support for the installation of Speed Indication Devices, The Parish Council will therefore be purchasing and installing Speed Indication Devices similar to that in Long Hanborough, both in East End and North Leigh.

A similar survey will be carried out in North Leigh in the coming weeks.

## **Children's Playground**

The refurbishment of the Children's Playground was completed in May. The new and upgraded equipment is being well used and the playground continues to be popular with the younger members of the parish.

## **North Leigh Neighbourhood Plan – Your Vision for the Parish**

The Parish Council (PC) hosted an open afternoon at the Memorial Hall on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October at which parishioners were invited to voice their ideas and suggestions for a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

The meeting was well attended and those who came along provided many views and proposals for the topics to be covered by the NP. These comments have been collated by the PC and are intended to be incorporated into the proposed NP.

The PC has also established the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee (NPC). It is hoped that the first meeting of the NPC will take place before the end of the year. To follow the progress of the NP please go to the North Leigh Parish Website - [North Leigh Parish](#) .



## Planning Committee

Based on the feedback from the Neighbourhood Plan meeting regarding development in the Parish, and in response to a substantial increase in planning applications across the Parish, the Parish Council has established a Planning Committee of 4 councillors. The Committee will be able to focus on raising concerns with the District Council with regard to applications that would not be considered appropriate to the Parish or would have a substantial impact on the infrastructure of the village.

The Planning Committee held its first meeting on 24th October (minutes will be filed on the Parish Council website), at which AR Planning presented their proposal for a development of approximately 38 houses adjacent to Mason's Grove on land at New Yatt Road.

The Planning Committee informed AR Planning that the Parish Council will be objecting to the application when it is filed on the WODC Planning Portal because it opposes more planning in the village, especially when there is insufficient infrastructure to support it, and, at this location, development would lead to coalescence between the villages of North Leigh and New Yatt which must remain separate.


**PLEASE NOTE:** AR Planning will be holding a village-wide meeting regarding the proposed development which is scheduled for **4.30-8.00pm on 24th January 2023** in the Memorial Hall. We strongly encourage you to come along to this meeting and share your concerns about this development with AR Planning. If there is any change to the date of this meeting, it will be posted on the Parish Council website and notice boards.



## **Planning Committee continued**

The Planning Committee has also continued to stand with residents of North Leigh and the Councillors of WODC in opposing the development proposed by Abbeymill Homes at 44 Common Road. Due to a shortfall in the 5 year land supply in West Oxfordshire, Abbeymill Homes appealed the decision to turn this planning application down. The Parish Council attended the Appeal Hearing on 15th November to make known the village's opposition to this application and we await the decision of the Appeal inspector in the next few weeks.

We are also monitoring developments at the in-principal application by Rectory Homes for 55 houses at Rectory Rise which is proposed for land adjacent to the Marlborough Gardens site next to the A4095.



## Planning Committee continued

### Botley West Solar Farm

This proposed solar farm would be the fourth largest solar farm in the world (after sites in China and India). Occupying more than 3,400 acres north and west of Oxford city, 76% would be on green belt land. North Leigh is within 6 kms of the proposed solar farm and so is likely to be one of the most affected communities.

The Botley West proposal has been put forward as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and so circumvents all local planning procedures of the three affected District Councils (West Oxfordshire, Cherwell & Vale of White Horse). As an NSIP it will go directly to the Government's Planning Inspectorate for final approval without any community consultation or comments being made public.

It is important that we as residents make our concerns known. Phase 1, of only two developer-led consultations, will run for 6 weeks until 15<sup>th</sup> December, with a second consultation due in Spring 2023.

You can write to your local MP Roberts Courts who has already expressed his reservations on his website and invited people to fill in a short survey “to ensure that I am able to reflect the strength of local feeling in detail” <https://www.robertcourts.co.uk/botleysolarfarmstatement> or make comments directly to the project: <https://botleywest.co.uk> (although these may not be made public). **He states: BOTLEY WEST WILL GO AHEAD IF WE DO NOTHING NOW**

