

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

ACTIONS FROM OUR JUNE PUBLIC MEETING

Meeting with the Old School Trust

As *The Magazine* goes to press we have a long-awaited meeting organised with the Old School Trust, due to take place on 21st September. Solicitors specialising in trust and charity law will be present representing both parties. Our aim remains clear; to ensure the Trust is retained within the village and its governance becomes representative of the community of Burton Joyce. Our call upon the Trust, in line with the Charity Commission's own guidance, is for full consultation to be undertaken and agreement reached before any reforms to its governance and scope are instigated. This meeting is an important first step towards this aim.



Our Involvement in Medical Premises Site Identification

We had a second 'New Medical Premises' working group meeting with Ivy Medical Group's (IMG's) Patient Participation Group (PPG) representatives, Assura and Trent Valley Councillor Sam Smith on 16th August chaired by Paddy Tipping. We anticipated this meeting would bring new potential site options to the table, with a full and clear review of the site identification / elimination process, particularly having made it clear in the first meeting in July that the Parish Council has no wish to surrender its 125-year lease on the Old School Building and site. Our plans to create a community garden and performance area, are underway; years of research and consultation concluded the need for there to be a 'heart' to our village, with the importance of open green space in modern day life being well-recognised. We were highly disappointed at this meeting therefore to be presented with only one alternative, declared unworkable by Assura themselves, with no other site review details.

We were due to continue alternative site discussions in a meeting in mid-September as the representative body for the village, but have recently been advised by IMG that "work is ongoing to assess sites outside of the village. Assura will liaise with the Parish Council once things progress to the next stage". Having put the group in direct contact with other potential site owners, is it somewhat disheartening to see the community need for Parish Council consultation on such an important issue was seemingly so short-lived.

Even more saddening was the recent inappropriate intervention on social media and through letters in the post of the Trent Valley Councillors and Tom Randall MP, a response to which is on our website: <https://www.burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk/response-to-recent-facebook-post-re-medical-centre/>

OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN & PERFORMANCE AREA PROGRESS

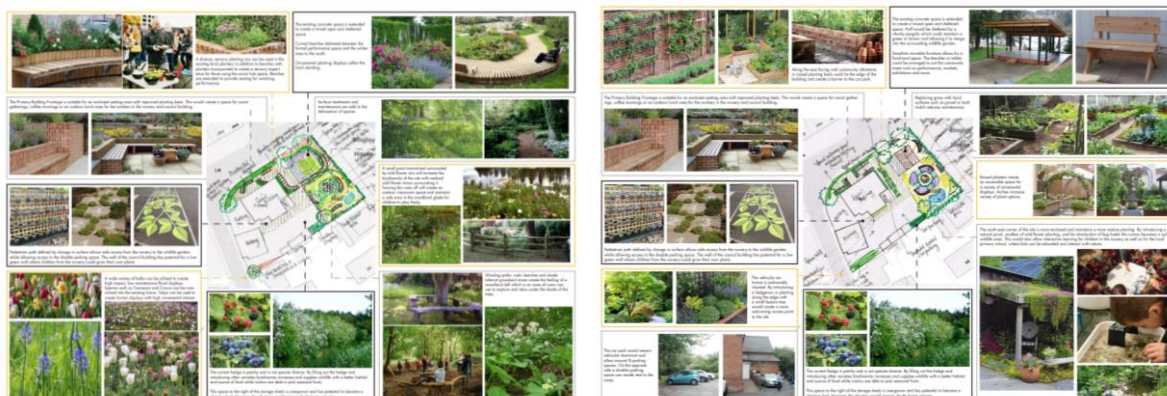
Whilst concept designs for the new Community Garden were being drawn up over the summer, we took delivery of 5 new picnic benches to enable the space to be used by residents and visitors.



It is pleasing to see it being used for take-away coffees, picnics and “chippy teas”! The Women’s Institute also held their annual meeting there and enjoyed the alfresco venue in the warm sunshine, whilst the Parish Council enjoyed use of the space to bid a fond farewell to Cllr Robin Ringham who has now moved out of the village.



We are excited to have received three concept designs for the Community Garden & Performance Area. These are currently displayed on the board outside the Old School Building and can also be found on our website. Once the drawings are refined from sketches into a ‘developed plan’ we will have an open event and consultation process to get your thoughts and ideas on the proposal. The garden will be funded from an initial £70k levy fund successfully applied for from Gedling Borough Council, specifically to provide open, green space to mitigate the impact of housing developments in the village. The intention is to obtain additional funds over time to further develop and enhance the facility and garden. There still remains the unresolved reinvestment of £225k held by the Old School Trust, which we hope to address at our meeting with them on 21st September.





VILLAGE CENTRE REDESIGN

Following many years of work by villagers through the Parish Council, design aspirations for our village centre were presented to Nottinghamshire County Council’s Highways and Transport Team in February 2022. We met with Cllrs Smith and Adams in July to view, comment on and refine the design proposals sent by the Highways and Transport Team. The feedback on the design proposals are now being taken back to the County Council team to further the project plan.

ENTRANCE GATE AT ROBERTS RECREATION GROUND

Following recent issues with the main gate at Roberts Recreation Ground, as an interim measure we have installed new signage asking people to take care when opening it. Whilst the gate continues to pass its RoSPA (safety) inspections, we have liaised with suppliers and have listened to the views of park users over the summer to seek a new design, particularly to address the direction of opening of the gate. We will endeavour to have it installed this autumn. We have also made a request to Nottinghamshire County Council for a barrier to be installed on the pavement outside the gate to enhance safety for playground users.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE GROUP

The Homes for Ukraine Group met at the Old School Building in August to provide updates and support to one another. The Group is a mix of hosts and volunteers. Members of the community have been hosting Ukrainian refugees, some coming up to 18 months and have found their involvement positive and fulfilling. They are supported by a group of volunteers who provide weekly language training and support to the Ukrainian guests. The Parish Council was pleased to welcome staff from Nottinghamshire County Council’s Homes for Ukraine team at the meeting, who were able to provide useful information on hosting and support available. Hosts are still needed, so if you are interested please contact the scheme directly at paris.lopinto@nottscc.gov.uk.

BJ BOWLS CLUB PRESENTATION DAY

As the bowling season comes to an end, our Chair Cllr Laurence King was delighted to be asked to attend the Bowls Club’s Presentation Day at the Poplars Sports Ground on 3rd September to present trophies to winning players. Thanks were extended by the Club to Laurence and the rest of the Parish Council for their help and support over the year, particularly to David List and his team for their excellent maintenance of the bowls green.



PICNIC IN THE PARK

We were delighted to host the annual ‘Picnic in the Park’ on Saturday 16th September at the Grove. A huge thank you to Burton Joyce Brass for their excellent performance and to all those who came along and supported this enjoyable community event. We look forward to hearing the band play again at the Christmas Lights Switch-On!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 29th October – “BJ Village Pop-Up” in the grounds of the Old School Building – a selection of street food and drinks.

Friday 3rd November - Annual Fireworks Display at the Poplars Sports Ground.

Saturday 2nd December - Annual Christmas Lights Switch-On, Main Street.

If you are interested in having a stall at the Christmas event, please contact us at admin@burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLOR

We are delighted to welcome Cllr Richard Rolls to the Parish Council this month. Richard brings to the team experience in governance roles, having been a school governor, a trustee of the Nottinghamshire Hospice and a board member of Capital One. He also has 30 years of experience in fields such as accounting, risk management, strategy setting, stakeholder management, contract negotiation and IT, all of which will be of significant benefit to the Parish Council. We are grateful to him for filling this important voluntary role.

NEW WEBSITE

Over the summer, we have also been working with ‘Jigster’ on developing a new look website. We are close to completing and look forward to its launch in the coming weeks. The website address will remain unchanged.

IN OTHER NEWS

The Burton Joyce Train Action Group have submitted a paper to the Nottingham-Lincoln Stakeholder Board supporting improved train services for our station. We will continue to press and campaign for vital service improvements. And following the months of disruption from the gas works in the village, our County Councillor reports that welcome road surface repairs and improvements should be initiated soon.