

Would you be interested in taking part in a Community Speed Watch?

Community Speed Watch was launched in 2007 and is a project working across Norfolk empowering communities to play an active part alongside the police and the Safety Camera Partnership in tackling the problem of speeding in their neighbourhoods.

In an effort to help tackle the common complaint of speeding, teams of volunteers, (minimum of six) who have their parish council support, have been trained to use speed guns across the County. One of the volunteers acts as the coordinator and is the point of contact for the team and responsible for looking after the radar equipment.

The groups are issued with a speed radar gun, two community speed watch signs and reflective jackets. Volunteers then carry out speed checks in 30 and 40 mph limits working to Norfolk Constabulary's guidelines.

Returns are completed logging various details such as vehicle registration mark, make, model or colour. These are then sent into the Safety Camera Partnership team, who obtain the registered keeper details. Registered keepers whose vehicles are observed breaking the speed limit will have their details recorded and will receive a warning letter requesting them to keep their speed down. Those who persistently offend will be notified to Roads Policing and the local Safer Neighbourhood Team for police enforcement action.

■ If you would like to help the Parish Council set up a Community Speed Watch scheme in Old Catton then please contact the Clerk of the Council on (01603) 423880 or email: oldcattonpc@btconnect.com

Speed Indicator Device

Old Catton Parish Council is working in partnership Norfolk County Council to fund the purchase and installation of a flashing Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be installed in a location to be agreed in Church Street. This move follows several complaints from residents with regards to road users not sticking to the 20mph speed limit. It is hoped that the visual sign will be installed by the end of the Summer months and that it will see an immediate impact.

JUNIOR CRICKET AT OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB Old Catton Cricket Club wants you to join!

We offer coaching and competitive cricket in local leagues to both boys and girls, with coaching focused on children aged 7-13.

Our qualified coaches cater for all abilities and levels of experience, with an aim to making sessions enjoyable, competitive and a great place to learn! If you are a good sportsman or fancy trying your hand at something different, then cricket at Old Catton is the place for you!

Come join us at Old Catton Recreation Ground, NR6 7DS
For more information about joining contact Deane Anderton

e: occc.youth@outlook.com
t: 07552 761173



Joint editors: Melanie Kingshott and Bradley Sabberton-Coe
Old Catton Parish Council, The Pavilion, Church Street,
Old Catton, NR6 7DS.



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The Parish Council office opening hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12 noon. You can contact the Clerk on (01603) 423880, email: oldcattonpc@btconnect.com or via the Parish Council's website, Facebook or Twitter (details on page 1).

Your Parish Council

Parish Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Church Street.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

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Mr M Vincent

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Miss P Wilkin

Church Barn, Swash Lane,
Rackheath, NR13 6QT
(01603) 781050

Mrs J Williams

13 Colkett Drive, NR6 7ND

Your newsletter

Annual Parish Meeting

You are all warmly invited to the Annual Parish Meeting of Old Catton at 7.30pm on Thursday 22 May 2014 at the Church Hall in Blacksmiths Way.

This is NOT a Parish Council Meeting. It is a meeting for the residents of Old Catton to discuss matters within the Parish; whether or not they are related to Parish Council functions. We hope that representatives of Village organisations will either be able to come and tell us what their organisations are doing or send in a written report.

The Chairman of the Parish Council will give a brief report on the Council's activities during the year and answer any questions.

You are strongly urged to come along and have your say on your Parish and even bring ideas on what you would like to see in the Parish and how you can work with the Parish Council.

Chairman's report

This year has been an extremely busy and challenging year! The Parish Council is working very closely with Old Catton Junior Football Club and the residents of Austin Way to achieve some excellent results at Lavaré Park. In the coming months it is hoped that the Football Club will sign a lease of the park and with this the majority of the park will be fenced in, but still accessible to the public. There will be a walk way around the edge of the park for dog walkers and dog waste bins will be erected at various locations. The old play area will be made into an additional car park to allow for further parking at the weekends when football matches are played thus meaning that we should not have any further problems with parking in Austin Way. A brand new under 9s play area will be established in a new part of the park and it is hoped that this will be erected in the coming months. There will also be a wildflower meadow planted. Please note that the funds for this big project is not coming out of your council tax but is being funded by Section 106 monies received from the developer of Austin Way.

I am delighted to report that Melanie, the new Clerk has settled in well within the Council and community and is working hard to bring the Council up-to-date. I would also like to welcome Leroy O'Sullivan to the staffing team as Church Street Recreation Ground Supervisor and I sincerely hope that he has many happy years working for the Council and community.

You may remember from my report last year I spoke about two new pieces of play equipment being introduced at Church Street Recreation Ground for the older children. The Titan and Viper were installed in spring 2013 and have been extremely successful with the children of the parish. Following the installation of the equipment the Council received numerous complaints from nearby residents with regards to excessive noise levels and foul language from users of the Titan. After much deliberation, investigation and input from both the complainants and parents of users of the equipment the Council has resolved that the situation will be carefully monitored and that a sign implementing a set of rules will be installed. It is hoped that this course of action will be most effective.

Follow us on...

facebook

Old Catton Parish Council is now on Facebook and Twitter. You can keep up-to-date with the latest news and also contact the Clerk via these pages. Please follow us on <http://www.facebook.com/OldCattonParishCouncil> or find us on Twitter @OldCattonPC

twitter

Please help us spread the word of the Council.



► The Council has been approached by Catton Park Trust with regards to the Council taking over the running of the Park once its funding runs out in 2015. The Council is currently in deep discussion with the Trust and is investigating the possibility of taking it over. We are extremely mindful of the fact that at present the Park is seen as a park for dog owners only and the Council is looking at ways in which it can enhance the Park so that it is user friendly for all users. It is also looking into ways in which the Council can raise funds to keep the Park afloat instead of just increasing the precept and funding the Park straight from Council Tax payer's money. We will be consulting with the electorate in the summer months with regards to your views on the Park and what can be done to enhance it.

“ looking into the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan

You may recall from the last newsletter that a working group had been set up to look at and update the Parish Plan for Old Catton, which was created in 2005. Since reviewing the plan it has become apparent that the best step forward for Old Catton would be to look into the possibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. Neighbourhood Plans came about when the Localism Act came into force in 2011. The Localism Act introduces powers for local communities to produce a new type of community-led plan known as a Neighbourhood Plan. This plan will set out policies on the development and use of land in our Parish. Developing a plan can help communities play a greater role in shaping the future of their area. It brings together residents, businesses, local groups, landowners and developers to share ideas and build consensus about what needs to be accomplished in the Parish. For a Neighbourhood Plan to work the Council MUST have the support of residents and businesses within the Parish from the outset, who are willing to give up their time and expertise to help develop a plan for the future of Old Catton. Is this something that you would be interested in helping the Council with? Please let the Clerk know.

The Council has received a request to install a bus shelter on Lodge Lane opposite the entrance to The Paddocks and one in St. Faiths Road opposite the entrance to Appleacres. For this to happen the Council needs to seek the views of users of these bus stops. Therefore, please can I ask that you let the Clerk know your thoughts on this project.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors and the Council's staff for all their work during the year.

Mr Bradley Sabberton-Coe

Catton Park Trust

Catton Park Trust was very pleased to be awarded a Heritage Lottery grant to produce a 10 year plan to ensure the Park can continue to be accessed and enjoyed by all. We asked consultants to help us plan the best way forward and as a result of this work the Trustees have asked if the Parish Council would be willing to play a bigger role in the future of the Park. How this could happen is currently the subject of discussions between the Trust and the Council.

As a result of responses to the online survey conducted by the consultants, we will shortly be looking for people who can help the Trust and the Friends of Catton Park to:

- Develop child and family-friendly activities. This would include looking at appropriate play equipment.
- Consult with Park users to see how the dog free area of the Park can be extended and how dog owners and those without dogs can both access and enjoy the Park.
- Develop the Heritage aspect of the Park, linking into other Repton sites in Norfolk and to promote Catton Park and its heritage on external websites, through tourism media and social media.

All three groups will also look at identifying and applying for grants or fundraising.

- If you would like to know more or to be involved with one or all of these groups please email: chair@cattonpark.com or phone (01603) 429986.

Parish Precept

The parish precept forms part of your Council Tax bill. Council Tax is collected by every district and borough council in England to help pay for local services such as police, fire, refuse collection and education.

In Broadland the District Council collects the Council Tax for itself, Parish Councils, Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Police Authority. The amount you pay depends which band your home is in and if you are entitled to a discount.

The collection for Parish Councils is known as the precept. Old Catton Parish Council has slightly increased its precept this year due to the ever increasing demands for Parish Councils to take on more duties. The slight increase works out at £0.64p per band 'D' property per annum. So if you live within a band 'D' property the collection of Council Tax which will go to the Parish Council will work out at £72.26 per annum.

Come to our meetings to see what we do

Old Catton Parish Council welcomes the public to its meetings. In fact by law members of the public must be admitted to all meetings of the full Council and its committees. However, the law does not allow members of the public to take part in the debates. This Council, like many other Parish and Town Councils in England and Wales, gives members of the public an opportunity to speak at some point during the meeting. We do this by temporarily adjourning the meeting. This allows the public plus our District and County Councillors an opportunity to speak. It is important for you to study the agenda so that when the opportunity occurs you can make the best use of your time.

If you wish to raise a point which does not relate to an item on that evening's agenda you are free to do so. However, the Council's discussion of that point might have to be delayed until a subsequent meeting as the Council is unable to make a decision binding in law (this is particularly relevant to financial decisions) unless a specific item is included on the agenda.

Members of the Council are always willing to discuss topics put forward by the public. Our agenda is prepared about a week before the next monthly council meeting so you will need to inform the Clerk or the Chairman about ten days prior to the meeting. Although this might seem a long time in advance the Council is required by law to publicise its agenda at least three clear days before each meeting. These days do not include the day of issue or the day of the meeting.

Development in Old Catton (Beyond Green)

Following the headline article on 17 April in the Evening News "Work on 3,500 new homes will start next year..." the Chairman asked Councillor Ken Leggett to clarify the position with Beyond Green. Neil Murphy, one of the Directors, replied as follows. "Any large development has to be built in phases. The planning application for the North Sprowston and Old Catton project identified the part of the site lying east of the North Walsham Road as the focus for the initial phases of development, with development in Old Catton parish commencing later on. There are no plans to depart from this approach to development phasing."

In the Beyond Green Design and Access Statement for North Sprowston and Old Catton Outline Planning Application October 2012, Old Catton was scheduled under Phase 4 of the development programme.

Allotments

We are lucky to have over 100 allotments at Spixworth Road in Old Catton. They are well maintained and there is water and parking on site. The cost is £15 a year. The allotments belong to the Parish Charities. If you are resident within Old Catton and would like an allotment please call John Aldridge on (01603) 413258 or Ann Chandler on (01508) 470388.

Sporting activities

Bowls

The Anglia Bowls Club invites you to come and play for leisure every Thursday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm. No equipment is needed, just flat soled shoes or trainers. If you would like more information about the bowls club, contact Tony on (01603) 478789.

Old Catton Tennis Club

Old Catton Tennis Club will continue to play at the Recreation Ground on a Wednesday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm, weather permitting, and always welcomes new members. If you are unsure about it, why not come along to the Recreation Ground one afternoon and watch before committing yourself - you'll be made very welcome.

The Norfolk Hospice and the Bishop of Norwich's Open Gardens

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House are one of the fortunate charities to benefit from the Bishop of Norwich's Open Gardens on Sunday 13 July 2014 between 1pm and 4pm (last entrance is 4.30pm). Please come and join us at Bishop's Gardens, Bishopgate, Norwich, NR3 1SB.

Entrance is just £3 (children and wheelchair user's free admission). All visitors will be entered into a free prize draw to win a plant kindly donated by the Bishop's Gardener.

Enjoy a traditional English afternoon with cream teas, lawn games, Punch and Judy, storytelling by the Yarnsmith of Norwich and love music with The Old Wild Rovers shanty singers and Grace Carter singing opera. Our two friendly bears, Hugh and Harmony will also be attending and will be organising a treasure hunt for the children. We look forward to seeing you there.

www.norfolkhospice.org.uk

