



HATHERN Parish Council

Welcome to the Parish Council's Newsletter. In this issue we cover some important new initiatives from the Council, together with some latest news.

Green Spaces Management

Public green spaces, like Hathern Park, are a vital part of our village environment. Those green spaces managed by the Parish Council provide a range of amenities to village residents with a significant impact on village life. The quality of these amenities affects everyone in the community. Through good stewardship of these areas the Council aims to enhance their amenity value to the community whilst nurturing the diversity of plant and wildlife species that co-habit these spaces and preserving the essentially rural nature of the landscape.



To guide us in this work the Council commissioned the development of a management plan to provide both the Council and residents of Hathern a clear picture of the work required to manage, maintain and improve the green spaces in the village over the next few years. We have used expertise from both Charnwood Borough and Leicestershire County Councils as well as calling upon advice from some local experts as well. The plan covers essential remedial work as well as recommendations for improvement to specific areas including tree and hedgerow planting, wildflower areas, and landscaping schemes. This plan is now published on our website (see below for details) and is also available through the Clerk.

Over the course of the term of the Parish Council we will be acting upon the recommendations from this plan, bringing about gradual improvement to the village's green spaces for both current residents and future generations to enjoy.

Parish Council role in local planning

All Parish Councils are invited to comment on planning applications in their locality. This is a limited but important role and Hathern Parish Council takes its responsibilities seriously.

In a move to ensure that the Parish Council conducts its function in an open a fair way a new policy has been adopted. This policy sets out just what its role is and how local people can find out how it has responded to applications. The policy also explains how local people that are affected by applications can pass on their comments to the Council for consideration in making its response.

A copy of the policy is available on the Parish Council website http://www.hathernparishcouncil.org.uk/page_policies.htm or a printed copy can be obtained from the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Latest News

New Planting Schemes - You may have noticed that over the past few weeks a number of small, new planting schemes have appeared around the village – notably on the Round Bank, Wide St. and outside the school in Pasture Lane. These are the first outcomes from recommendations made in the Green Spaces Management Plan and with time these schemes will mature into attractive areas adding variety and colour to the urban landscape.

Criminal Damage - Hathern's iconic center piece has been damaged and it looks as if this has been done maliciously. The top step on the area facing up Narrow Lane suffered quite large chips in the stone work some months ago. Chairman of Hathern Parish Council, Cllr Roy Dann, said "the Cross has stood at the heart of the village for hundreds of years and is, of course, irreplaceable. I urge villagers to be vigilant and to report incidents of vandalism to the Police immediately".



In a second incident new signage at Hathern Park was deliberately broken and pulled down just a few day after it was installed. This incident has been reported to the police and they are asking for witnesses to come forward.

Budget and Precept – The Council's budget for the financial year 2008/9 has been agreed and requires an increase of 5% in the Precept (ie. that part of the Council Tax that goes directly to the Parish Council). The Council has had to balance a modest budget increase with the requirement for more funds to pursue community projects identified in its Strategic Plan. To keep its budget increase to a minimum the significant cost of work required on the Cemetery area, for example, will be spread over two years. A typical Band D tax payer's Precept contribution will rise by £2.22 to £46.69 per household for the year.