

Cobnor Activities 2015

Once again village children will have the opportunity for a day out at Cobnor Activities Centre. It will, as before, be largely based on water activities, and children involved should be water confident. There will be two adult villagers with the children, medically qualified and enhanced DBS checked. The date this year will be **12th July** with a 9.30am start at the LMH car park. The activities will be designed for children in school years 5-9 and the event is open to any parishioner or pupil of Lavant CofE Primary School. The cost will be £20 per head, a slight increase on last year, but this still represents a saving of over 50%, with the balance being met Lavant Recreation Fund. It is our policy that the day should be available to all village children, so any individual cases of hardship will be considered sympathetically and quietly. All application forms and details can be obtained from Ian on 528897 or hutton.i@sky.com

New Website

The new website went live in January, and initial feedback has been very positive. Let us know if there is anything else you want to see on the site, as the Clerk and Councillor Mallett are now trained to make changes. Find the new website at www.lavantparishcouncil.co.uk

Lavant Community Day

A great day was held on Saturday 21st February, when 24 local groups and associations gathered in a packed Lavant Memorial Hall to show you what they do. There was a great turn out and dozens of visitors came to see what goes on in Lavant as well as voting for their Neighbourhood Plan options (see opposite). Many people said how good it was to see the community come together, and that we should do it more often! Perhaps we can do this again on a regular basis



– let us know what you think.

Operation Watershed

Councillor Benson has done a sterling job over recent months, pushing this project towards a successful conclusion. A huge amount of research was undertaken to get to the bottom of the real issues that lead to the village flooding, and agreement with the Environment Agency, WSCC and CDC as to the works that will be carried out. Flood defence funding has now been applied for which will see the river taken back to its original flint bed and the removal of large quantities of silt and undergrowth as well as some strategic straightening. Eventually it is hoped to remove the Builder's Yard Bridge that causes severe restriction to the river flow, but this element is the subject of further work.

Emergency Planning

Councillor Blades is making good progress in developing the village's Resilience Plan. It's a complicated process and involves coordination with the emergency services and local authorities. It is intended that this plan will be ready ahead of the winter 2015. In the meantime, if you want a ready source of useful information, go to the WSCC or CDC websites. If you are reliant on special support (stair-lifts, oxygen, dialysis, etc) did you know you can register for priority service in case of an emergency? A form for this is enclosed with this newsletter and spares can be found on the LPC noticeboard inside Lavant Memorial Hall.

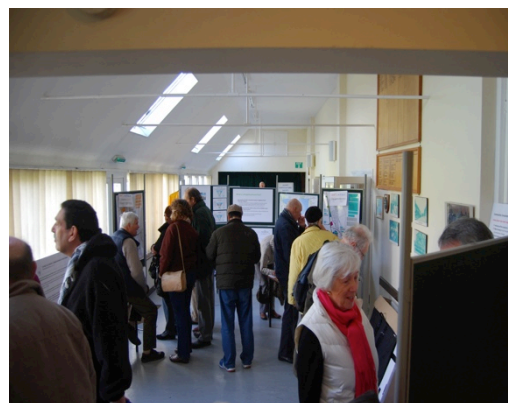
Village Volunteer Workforce

Our new volunteer workforce is now assembled and a list of projects is ready and waiting. Two councillors are receiving training in the inevitable Health & Safety elements of using the appropriate equipment, which will allow the team to get started with the arrival of the better weather. It's not too late to put your name forward if you want to help out. Contact Adrian Blades in the first instance.

Traffic and Parking on the A286

As we are probably all aware, traffic speed generally through the village is a real issue. The Council is planning to monitor speeds on the A286 specifically, using speed loops, to better understand the problem. Steps are also still being taken to resolve the difficult parking issues at Yarbrook.

Lavant Neighbourhood Plan



The huge task of steering the village through the development of a Neighbourhood Plan is proceeding well and more and more villagers are getting involved and having their say. It was very encouraging to see so many at the recent Community Day and two follow-on events to vote for your preferred development Options for the village. There were 212 valid votes from Lavant residents. All of the figures have been audited by Dr Andrew Chipperfield and accepted by LPC and the LNPSG and the results are:

- Based on first preference: Concept 1 received 144 votes; Concept 2 received 62 votes.
- Regarding Concept 1: Option C was the least popular; preference was almost equally split between Options A and B.
- **Conclusion:** Concept 2 has not received sufficient votes to be taken further.

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2015

The Steering Group are going to proceed on the basis of **Option B** as it seems the Community would support some Market Housing if it enabled Affordable Housing to be built and would help provide some Community Gain. **Option B** consisted of 45 affordable housing dwellings plus up to 30 Market Housing dwellings spread across several sites. It also included possible improvements to parking; traffic calming measures and enhancement of leisure facilities and footpaths. The full audited results of the option voting can be found on the LPC website.

What's next for the Lavant Neighbourhood Plan?

Using the outcome of the preferences the Steering Group are in discussion with landowners, South Downs National Park Authority and CDC. So far all the landowners have been very positive and keen to work in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Plan. Some new sites have been presented since March and the Steering Group is working to identify viable (rather than indicative) key sites. Environmental Impact and Landscape Assessments will be undertaken.

The next Update meeting:-

At St Nic's on **Saturday May 16th**, from 10.00am to 3pm.

Or if you are unable to attend on this date you have another opportunity on

Thursday May 21st, from 4.30pm to 7.00pm.

Further information about possible sites and the implications of Option B will be available. Members of the Steering Group will be there to answer questions.

And/or you can send an email with your query to lavantneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com or phone **07503 637472**

It is hoped that the **Draft Neighbourhood Plan** will be well on its way by the time of the Village Fete in June. Once this document has been produced there will be **one last opportunity** for residents to comment and help shape the final Neighbourhood Plan.

It is important that the final Neighbourhood Plan has Community support as the referendum will **only allow a yes/no answer**. The final **Neighbourhood Plan** will be the subject of a formal consultation period before going to an independent examiner. After any adjustments asked for by the examiner the **Lavant Neighbourhood Plan** will be presented for a village **Referendum**.

How to Contact Us

Don't forget that you can reach the Clerk or any of the Councillors via the new website or you can call the Clerk, Imogen Whitaker, on 01243 575094; email her on lavantparishcouncil@gmail.com or by post at 2 McAdam Close, Hambrook, PO18 8FG.

It is Spring, and these comments ought to be upbeat and reflect on a year of achievement for LPC and our village. However, as we move into the last couple of weeks of this council, I am more conscious of where we have yet to succeed. We have found it difficult to resolve safety issues on Pook Lane and the A286. Parking, potholes and pavement issues still remain a problem and we have yet to provide a viable solution to rubbish collection at the playground and village green or to provide protection to the green from ever-possible "visitor" incursions. Doubtless villagers may have other concerns that should have been resolved. Despite these shortcomings, this Parish Council are required to resign and a new Council take up the reins in May. We have been under strength throughout the last 16 months and I would confirm that all six of our members have applied for re-election. Two further villagers, Caroline Reynolds and Robert Newman, have submitted themselves for election and this would bring us to 8 out of our quota of 9 councillors. There will, therefore, be no parish council election on 7th May: all candidates will be provisionally elected to LPC. Despite this somewhat low-key report, this is your village and your Council, and we will always be guided by you telling us what you want.

Ian Hutton

Chairman, Lavant Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

This year there will be no annual meeting for the electors. As everyone is welcome to attend and ask questions at every full LPC meeting, it was felt that this was unnecessary. The next full meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 19th May at 7pm in the Lavant Room at St Mary's church, followed by an ordinary council meeting. Please do come along and meet your new council.

2014-15 Budget

This year the Council has come in almost exactly on its planned budget. The largest part of the budget is spent on land maintenance; a key part of ensuring Lavant remains cared for. The budget for 2015-16 is being increased marginally (1% on Band D) to ensure sufficient funds are available for the known future expenditure.