



LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2017

Whether you voted in or out, it's possible you believe in some sort of 'community' and would like the opportunity to be part of one small version and to have your views heard about how it should function. Lavant can offer you all the best of a Community (often free or for only a small annual fee), from horticulturalists to toddlers, no one should be able to say there is nothing to do or for me in Lavant, and if your needs and interests don't feature, then let Lavant Parish Council (LPC) know. Give us time (this ole ship moves sedately) and we'll do our best. There's a whole bundle of upcoming events detailed later in this newsletter. But of course (and I bet you were waiting for that 'but') for that boat to keep moving at all, ***Lavant needs people.***

'The Council' no longer provides a growing number of services and from wellbeing support to the cleaning of road signs we increasingly must fill in the gaps. Either we all pay more as part of the Parish Council tax (which would be ironic given that WSCC/CDC are there to keep council tax low) or the tasks and events don't get done, or we do it ourselves. The village benefits from many volunteer groups and individuals and any extra help will always be gratefully received. The LPC is going to set up a register of Lavant Helpers – watch out for the email and further information.

Caroline Reynolds

Councillor, Lavant Parish Council

Village Pump Meetings

In the past, villagers would share their views when they met at the village pump. Today, the LPC would like to revive this practice as occasional meetings on key topics of interest to the village. They are open to all and we invite you to come and offer your thoughts and comments on a range of issues, big and small, that effect the nature of the village. Your input will help the LPC make informed

decisions. In April, the first meeting was on the use of the village green; this was well attended and firm opinions were voiced. Topics being planned for discussion in the near future are Roads & Parking, and Neighbourhood Plan Developments. Please come and give us your views. Let us know what *you* would like to discuss by emailing the Clerk.



So Close We Can Reach Out And Touch The Finishing Line

No not the duck race, but our **Neighbourhood Plan**. The plan has been through the process called 'Independent Examination' which is the final stage in the whole procedure ahead of the referendum. The inspector was very complimentary about our plan, made several helpful (and yes, we do mean helpful) alterations to improve the clarity of the policies we as a community have developed. The Lavant Neighbourhood Plan can be found on the Parish website. This is the final version, and will stand for the 15 years, and is the result of a lot of hard work and community involvement, but we all must participate in the final part of the process, the referendum.

All registered voters in the Parish of Lavant will be entitled to vote, on **Tuesday 18th July** (provisional date) in a straight forward Yes or No vote. The procedure will be exactly the same as an election; papers will be issued by CDC, voting will take place in the Memorial Hall. Majority wins. If it is a yes, then the plan will be 'made' and becomes planning policy. As a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan the parish will receive 25% of all CIL monies (development tax on new local houses) as opposed to 15%, to be invested into community improvement projects. Please make the effort to vote, the whole community will benefit.

Lavant Memorial Hall

Have you been to the hall lately? Following on from the refurbishment of the kitchens, plans are currently being drawn up for the refurbishment of the toilets. The hall is also now able to offer WiFi as a facility to hirers. If you haven't been down, it's definitely worth a visit, maybe you would like to book it for a party or event.

The **Lavant Volunteer Task Force** (LVTF) now urgently need a better base and additional storage facilities and planning permission is being sought for a sympathetic Hall extension for this purpose which also allows the Hall trustees an ideal opportunity to enhance the existing facilities. This is a vital improvement that will enable the LVTF to continue and extend their excellent, and necessary, works around the village. If you are a plumber, carpenter, electrician, groundworker or other skilled tradesman and think you could spare some time to help with the works once they get started – please let Adrian Blades know in the first instance on 527705.

Saturday Brunch Café

What's the perfect way to start off a Saturday morning? Correct – a bacon roll and a cuppa. If you don't fancy a bacon roll, then perhaps a croissant will appeal. So, head down to St Nicholas' church on the **first Saturday of each month**, between 9.30 and 11.30am and give it a try. And what's even better – it's all completely **free** (although donations would of course be very welcome). There will be craft activities for the children too. The perfect opportunity to relax with friends and neighbours. What's not to like? See you there!

Lavant Village Fête & Fun Dog Show 2017

Don't forget to make a note in your diary for the 2017 Lavant Village Fête, which is on **Saturday 17th June, at 2pm**. Bring your dog(s) along to join in the Fun Dog Show, which gets bigger and better each year. Pony rides, cakes, games, BBQ, ice-creams, Winnie the Witch, music from the Super Strings Trio, and so much more. Fun for all ages. Come along and bring all your family and friends.

Cobnor Activity Day 2017

LPC are again providing sponsorship via the Lavant Recreational Fund for a small number of Lavant children to spend the day at Cobnor Activity Centre on **Sunday 2nd July**. If you know of any child who would appreciate a chance to attend, please contact Ian Hutton in the first instance on 528897.



Children's Playground Party – Saturday 15th July

Put the date in your diary – more details to follow.

Lavant Football and Cricket Teams

Lavant is very lucky to have two active outdoor sports teams. This doesn't all happen by magic, however, and both teams would like to appeal for additional players (age 16+) as well as supporters who are prepared to lend a hand. The cricket team plays in friendly competitive games – check out their website for details of how to get in touch at www.lavantcricketclub.org.uk The football team plays in the West Sussex league and would especially like to encourage younger members under 16 to get involved. If you are interested in discussing this further, please contact the team manager, David Kent on 780178 or see their website at www.lavantfc.co.uk



Let's Walk

To celebrate that we live in a wonderful place, a festival of walks - Let's Walk - is being organised for **Sunday September 17th**, to enable as many as possible to have a day enjoying our neighbourhood. Four different walks of varying lengths and

difficulty will be mapped and marked with points of interest along the way. There will also be teas and a BBQ on the Village Green to round off the day. If you would like to help in advance or on the day, please contact Sarah Newman 01243 775059.

Sammy Community Transport is a registered charity, supported by LPC and others, operating in the Chichester and Bognor Regis areas. They offer accessible transport to disabled and elderly people at very competitive rates. If you would like to make use of their services to go to an essential appointment, or go shopping, etc. just give them a call on 827821 or email them on: office@sammytransport.org.uk



The Health & Wellbeing of our Community

It's strange, but often it's the unexpected things that trip us up, making us feel sad, or ill or just stop bothering about ourselves. This can have a knock-on effect on our physical and mental health and how we feel about ourselves and our lives. Sometimes it's easier to stay at home, watch the TV and eat chocolates! When we feel isolated, lonely or without support when we need it, we may neglect ourselves; becoming anxious, depressed and physically unwell. When this happens, our GPs offer medical help, but it's also worth thinking about what we can do for ourselves and each other. The "Five Ways to Wellbeing" gives us some ideas:

- *Staying Connected* – with friends, family and our neighbours;
- *Being active* – engaging in physical activity, mobility and fitness;
- *Taking notice* – being aware of the world around us and appreciating what matters;
- *Keep learning* – learning something new, following interests or hobbies;
- *Giving* – volunteering time to share experience, skills and to support others.

Have a look at the LPC website, Memorial Hall website, the Lavant News and elsewhere in this newsletter for information on the clubs, groups and organisations that run in the village. If there is a gap, or something you would like comment on – please speak to one of the Parish Councillors.

How to contact us

You can reach any of your Councillors through the Parish Clerk as follows:

Imogen Whitaker
2 McAdam Close
Hambrook, PO18 8FG
Home tel: 01243 575094
E-mail: lavantparishcouncil@gmail.com

or check out the Parish Council website at www.lavantparishcouncil.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 16th May at 6.45pm – Parish Electors' Meeting, immediately followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting at **7.00pm**

Saturday 17th June – Lavant Village Fête

29th June – 2nd July – Goodwood Festival of Speed

Saturday 15th July – Playground Party

Tuesday 18th July – Neighbourhood Plan Referendum (provisional date)

Sunday 2nd July – Cobnor Activity Day

8th – 10th September – Goodwood Revival

Sunday 17th September – Let's Walk