

Deeping St. James

Parish Council Newsletter



Winter 2016

www.dsjpc.co.uk



Image: Id rather be in Deeping

Looking back as we look forward to 2017

Dignitaries from all over the area gathered for the opening of the Garden of Remembrance on November 6th along with Town Mayor, Wayne Lester and Parish Council Chairman, Steve Gilbert. The ceremony was also supported by representatives from community groups including the Royal British Legion as well as many local residents.



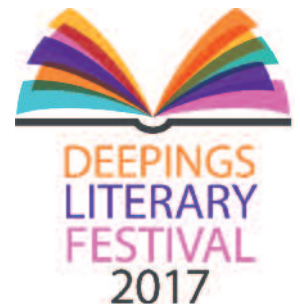
l-r Friends of Jubilee Park's Diane Rose, Rotary President, Carl Midgley, Peter Hibbins, Judy Stevens, Tom Johnson

Not only a time to look back at the sacrifices that have been made for us, now is also the time to look forward to the spring. The Parish Council have been delighted to support the Rotary Club of the Deepings in their highly successful campaign to eradicate polio

worldwide. When Rotary International embarked on the campaign in 1985 with Microsoft billionaire, Bill Gates vowing to triple their fundraising efforts, little did they think that by 2016 they would have reduced this crippling disease by 99.9% with just 74 cases worldwide reported in 2015. In a last push the Parish Council have supported

the 'purple for polio' campaign and purchased 10,000 bulbs as part of the 50,000 overall planted by the Rotary Club of the Deepings and the Friends of Jubilee Park planted them one cold and windy morning in early November on the Park.

Also looking forward to 2017 - the first Deepings Literary Festival will take place from 27th April - 1st May and in breaking news it has been confirmed that on Saturday 29th April there will be an Evening with Gyles Brandreth. More details to follow.



Judy Stevens



The Parish Council go 'A Planting'

Yes, its that time of year when spring bulbs need planting. Early in October Cllr Brian Barber and Steve Fisk (see picture) spent the morning planting over 300 daffodils along the river bank, from High Locks in Bridge street to Hereward Way road end on Church Street.

While carrying out this task they also undertook the removal of low hanging branches from the trees to allow safe passage for those wishing to walk along the bank, without the need to step onto the road. Both the walkover bridges were cleared of weeds and overgrowth to make it safe and pleasurable.



Hopefully, next spring we will witness a mass of flowers along the bank, adding to the 500 planted 3 years ago. ENJOY.

Brian Barber



Victory for Local Democracy

Controversial plans to create an all-powerful executive Mayor to cover the whole of Greater Lincolnshire from Deeping St James to the Humber bank now seem unlikely to go ahead following widespread opposition.

The Government was keen to devolve the running of selected services such as public transport and health provision by launching a new extra tier of local government.

Ministers insisted that the proposed new authority had to be led by an elected Mayor. However, in a public consultation across Lincolnshire 53% of those taking part said 'No' to a Mayor. Here in South Kesteven, rejection of the idea was even more decisive. However, despite 61% saying 'No', the Leader of SKDC and all Executive members backed the deal. But following a 28-17 vote against by the full council, the Executive agreed not to sign up.

A special Lincolnshire County Council meeting also voted down the deal after hearing that the estimated costs of a Mayor would be £200,000 a year in addition to an expected £2 million per year cost of administering the proposed new authority.

As this newsletter went to press, it appeared unlikely that the Leader of Lincolnshire County Council would use his executive authority to sign the council up to the Mayoral Combined Authority.

DSJ parish council agreed the proposals would not benefit our community. And DSJ's representatives at district and county, Judy Stevens and Phil Dilks supported devolving power but rejected the imposition of an elected Mayor for such a huge diverse area.

Real devolution of powers would be welcome, but when people say No to a Mayor, our job is to listen, not tell them 'we know better than you.'

Phil Dilks

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

I've recently been thinking about the aims and objectives of Deeping St James Parish Council, and I've been looking at a few facts and figures.

There are 9,000 local councils (parish and town) in England. Over 16 million people live in communities served by local councils, which is around 25% of the population, and about 80,000 councillors serve on these councils. Local councils work to improve community well-being and provide better services at a local level.

Our activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well-being.

Note: Deeping St James is one of the larger Parish Councils in England with 15 Councillors serving over 7,000 residents.

One local council in Berkshire stated their aim to be: a strong voice for residents and local businesses, working to improve the overall village area both built and natural, while preserving the uniqueness of heritage areas.

We hold surgeries on the first Saturday of each month at The Library from 10:00 – 12:00. If you would like to come along, we would be pleased to hear what you have to say and work with you to improve our community.

Steve Gilbert



Market Deeping Car Park

The car park in Market Deeping, often referred to as the co-op car park has been the subject of some speculation on social media groups of late. This car park is in fact owned by New River Retail who also own the shops in the co-op / precinct area.

Deeping St James Parish Council have been working with Market Deeping Town Council for the last 2 years on this matter and would like to reassure you that nothing is due to happen in the immediate future and that the land owners are in amicable discussion with us. Once a reasonable proposal is on the table further discussion / negotiation will take place and at that point we will pass on the detail and may ask for your opinion.

From earlier negotiations we are hopeful that the carpark will remain free for short to medium term parking but there may be a charge for very long stays.

Although there are plans for additional retail premises, this plan includes remodelling the car park such that there is no reduction in its capacity.

As mentioned previously, New River retail have so far been reasonable, willing to listen to local concerns and try to balance those against the issues raised by rent paying retailers who have to foot the bill for the maintenance of the car park. Please help us maintain a good negotiating relationship by refraining from negative comments on social media at this stage.

Andy Pelling, Transport Committee



Josephine Lincoln received the Deeping St James Parish Council Award for the student to make the best contribution to the school community at the recent Deepings School presentation evening. Here she is pictured with her mother Phillipa who was previously a Parish Councillor.



Signal Box

Two years ago, the Deepings lost another part of its heritage, the signal box of St James Deeping which had stood proudly for over 150 years. It was an emotional occasion as the last train from Spalding "tooted" a farewell. Immediately demolition workers from Network Rail began their work. Also on hand, were a group of people committed to save the building for future generations. Thwarted from the original plan to demolish the building by pressure from the community, John Hayes MP and the Department of Culture, the box was "sympathetically deconstructed", the components cleaned and stored and handed to The Save Our Signal Box Group, who set about planning the rebuild.

At a recent public meeting, plans were outlined for the rebuild. Chairman, Stuart Hall, explained that final details for the land purchase were with the solicitors and SKDC has granted Planning Permission for the rebuild. Manor Roofing have offered to re-slate the roof and the Construction



Painting of the Signal Box by local artist, Peter Scott.

Department of New College, Stamford, are excited to be involved in the rebuild as a community project. Offers to supply hardcore and provide some "hard labour" have also been received.

Also at the meeting, sealed bids were opened for a painting of the Box by a local artist and donated to us as a fund raiser. A generous bid was received from a gentleman who lives in Spalding and we will present the picture to him at The Little Layout Company on Church Street in the near future.

More funds and help are still needed for the rebuild and if you would like to sponsor a brick for £10 or feel you can spare a few hours, contact us at our stall on the Christmas Market.

Stuart and Lynda Hall

The development of our neighbourhood plan is progressing. The data from the completed questionnaires had been collated and we have now established nine Topic Groups whose role will be to profile the topic, to engage and obtain community feedback on it and then to set aims, objectives and policies for it.



The Topic Groups are:- Local Economy, Housing, Heritage, Education, Transport, Sports/Art, Health Care, Crime & Policing and the Environment

The Chairs of these Groups will be recruiting members to produce their sections of the Plan and will be looking to co-opt members with an interest and/or experience in their Topic.

We are also looking at recruiting from those who expressed an interest in being involved via the returned questionnaires and hopefully from both the Newsletters from Market Deeping Town Council and Deeping St James Parish Council.

Finally, the Local Plan being produced by SKDC has now extended its programme timescale. This should have the effect of making the two plans more co-determinate.

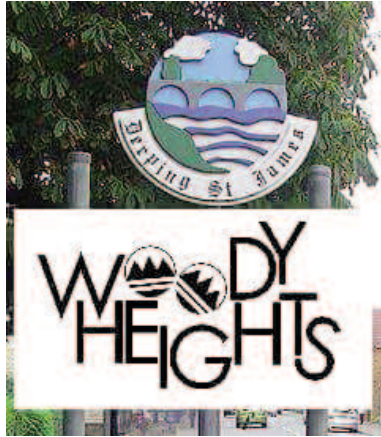
Mike Ward



Skatepark replacement

The Parish Council continues to work towards replacing the current skate park at Woody Heights on Linchfield Road, with a concrete facility as now favoured by many wheeled sport users and providers. As skate boarding will be included as a new sport in the 2020 Olympics, we are aiming to help Team GB add another 'gold' to the medal tally!

Of course this type of facility has to be funded and we are working towards our goal - thank you to those members of our Community who recently helped us by voting for our project on the Aviva Website - we are waiting to hear if we have been successful with this and two other community funding applications.



We will be at Tesco on Saturday 26th November from 9.30am with information about the project, and where any ideas and financial donations would be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there.

If in the meantime if you would like to know more or are able to help with this project, please contact Julie Fortnum the Parish Clerk on 01778 343266 or clerk.dsjpc@btconnect.com

Julie Fortnum

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VICE CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month 7.30pm at the Institute, 38 Church St., members of the public are very welcome to attend and an open forum takes place in the first 30 mins of the meeting.



Find us on Facebook - search: **Deeping St James Parish Council**

Carols in the Park
Friday 16th December
7-8pm
Jubilee Park twixt Crowson & Thackers
Way Deeping St James

Friends of Jubilee Park in partnership with Deeping St James Parish Council, Churches Together, Good Vibes and the Salvation Army. Funds to Salvation Army, Friends of Jubilee Park and Deepings First Responders (LIVES)

DEEPING ST JAMES COMMUNITY SKIP

Deeping Recycling Centre
Station Road,
Deeping St James
PE6 8YB

**EVERY SATURDAY
8AM-5PM**

First come first served til full
Proof of residency will be required.

Items that can be disposed of include:

**BEDS, FLAT PACKED
FURNITURE, CARPETS,
POLYSTYRENE,
3 PIECE SUITES ETC**

Free disposal for paper,
cardboard, car batteries,
clothes, plastic, metal etc.



For a fee wood, hardcore, soil,
car tyres, computer monitors,
TV's green waste, engine oil
etc can be disposed of.



For more information please call 342873

Funded by Deeping St James Parish Council for the benefit of Deeping St James householders