

Leigh on Mendip - YOUR VILLAGE

This is the 2020 annual newsletter from the Parish Council. A "Welcome booklet" is available on the village website www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk for everyone who is new to the village.

Community Open Space: The Parish Council now owns the land adjacent and to the west of the Recreation ground. There are 2 distinct areas, the Allotments, run by the Leigh on Mendip Allotment Association (AA) and an area, which the Recreation Field Management Committee (RFMC) will manage. Not yet a year on from starting to dig, the AA now have 16 allotments of varying sizes and a waiting list! The allotment area is properly fenced, and water pipes laid. One accessible plot owner is working a plot and the AA will install the raised beds for that and another plot. Walking past you will see many different styles of design and produce, planned and grown by a range of people who want to grow their own but lacked space to do so at home. The RFMC recently sought suggestions for the use of the land and have asked 2 companies to design the area, incorporating as many ideas as possible; they will share these with you shortly. The AA and RFMC and Council are both having leases drawn up to delegate ownership of this open space.

Leigh on Mendip First School: The Leigh on Mendip School community were overjoyed to receive the news that the school will change from a First School to a Primary School as of September 2020. This means that the school will be able to offer education to children in Years 5 and 6 before they move on to their next school. This also means that there will be some works on the site to accommodate initially a third classroom and subsequently a fourth one. As well as this they received confirmation that the Owl Babies preschool will also become an official part of the school so that the educational offer will be for children aged 2-11. Exciting times for all our school community!

Quarry: Development work to deepen and expand the quarry within the existing boundary is now underway and includes the construction of a new 'state of the art' tarmac plant which can be seen from the perimeter footpath. The Company is setting up a community fund to provide financial support to village activities and organisations and this will be launched later this year. Strict rules prevent lorries from Halecombe using our village street. If you see a lorry in the village NOT making a local delivery, note the vehicle details and report it to Halecombe Tel: 01373 812800 where appropriate action will be taken.

Planning: Leigh on Mendip, in terms of planning purposes, is an isolated settlement where all development is strictly controlled. Nevertheless, the Parish Council has been consulted by Mendip District Council on several planning applications during the year. We are keen to ensure that the design of new development that is permitted follows the Leigh on Mendip Village Design Statement, which is available on the village website and is a great starting point if you are considering work to your home or property in the village. A Housing Needs survey was completed recently and will be used to guide Council assessment of future proposed developments in the parish.

Getting involved - contact a Parish Councillor if you are interested in the following:

Being a Councillor: The Parish Council has vacancies and volunteers are welcome; do come and join us.

Land: The Council is keen to plant more trees. Does anyone have a spare corner of a field that could be developed as a coppice or orchard?

Cycle Link: Is there any support for an off-road cycle link from the village to the Colliers Way cycle path by joining up current footpaths and bridleways?

Neighbourhood Watch: Most areas in the village now have a Neighbourhood Watch coordinator to send you messages about recent incidents, warnings and security hints. If you aren't receiving these messages, it means you are not a member of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. To join, liaise with a Councillor or the PCSO

Footpaths: The group of volunteers continue to supervise and report problems with our extensive network of paths which need constant attention to maintain good access. Landowners are reminded to keep this in mind and are thanked for the work they do to maintain the rights of way over their land.

Parish Rangers: We have ten volunteer Rangers who carry out care and maintenance jobs in the Parish. Their work, which includes the cleaning and maintenance of traffic signs, is greatly valued by the community. Once again, we are indebted to Chris Ingrem for his ongoing work in painting and maintaining our heritage finger signposts. Also, special thanks to the WI for organising the Village Clean Up Day and to our regular litter pickers who work, quietly and diligently, to keep our street and lanes clear of objectionable litter. If you are aware of any job that needs doing then tell a Parish Councillor and, of course, feel free to help if you can.

Report Problems When You See Them

Most issues can now be reported directly by the public e.g. www.fixmystreet.com (potholes, street lighting, fly-tipping) or by speaking directly to those present (drivers, etc.). Contacts can also be found on the village website.

Remember - Defibrillators are at the Memorial Hall & the Rec Field clubhouse. First Aid courses have been held which are free to all parishioners. More can be arranged if you want, contact any Councillor.

Leigh on Mendip Website & Facebook Both are exclusive to Leigh on Mendip, particularly in the current crisis, to stay in touch and communicate information/contacts, lost/ found and sales/wants. There are also the two Parish Council Noticeboards and the old telephone box (which anyone can use).

Parish Councillors for the 20/21 year are Martin Carter, Paula Freeland, David Mattick, David Sparkes, Vicki Taylor, Vicki Trundle, their contact details are on the village website.

Parish and Cemetery Clerk - Mrs Anthea Brooks, Tel: 01761 418737. Address: Ashville, Monger Lane, Midsomer Norton BA3 2SP, Email: clerklom@gmail.com

The **Annual Parish Meeting** has been cancelled due to Covid-19. Monthly Parish Council meetings are being held as an online event. If you would like to link in please inform any Councillor.

Finally, the Covid-19 pandemic, is affecting all our lives and making significant demands on our way of life to ensure the NHS is not overloaded and to save lives. The village website has a specific Coronavirus section with a lot of valuable information ranging from the latest government advice to which local shops can deliver to your door. The Parish Council liaises with the various village organisation and with the local care and wellness organisations supporting villagers and coordinate responses through village contacts including the Neighbourhood Watch team. Lets all do our bit and follow guidelines, look to help our at-risk neighbours and share confidence, care and compassion throughout our community.

It's a great village to live in - let us all keep it that way and enjoy being part of it.