



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

Parish Councillors

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Thankyou to those of you who returned the Pride in your Parish questionnaires, we received 51 responses and we are looking at them carefully, we will include information on your comments and choices in our next newsletter.



In 2018 councillors dealt with 28 planning applications of which 8 were refused, 19 granted and 1 is yet to be decided. We have been concerned for some time about the discrepancy between our interpretation of planning policy and the much wider, and in our view looser, interpretation by NPA planning officers. We are also concerned about dwellings being replaced by larger modern properties which NPA policy (DP10 7.34) states has led to concerns about 'long term urbanisation and erosion of local distinctivenessand a reduction in the stock of smaller dwellings' yet this is happening in our parish, and across the National Park. We met Steve Avery, NPA Executive Director Strategy and Planning, to discuss our concerns, he said that the NPA could not afford to lose appeals and this was a factor in decisions. We hope to have a further meeting with Mr. Avery and planning officers to look at applications and the interpretation of policy.

There were 21 applications to fell individual trees and others were felled as part of group or hedge management. Please consider planting a tree if you have to lose one, or perhaps adding a tree to your garden, the NPA tree officer suggests small native trees such as hawthorn, holly, hornbeam, crab apple and fruit trees, The Woodland Trust is a useful source of information on size and the wildlife appeal of various species. The Trust sells trees that are sourced and grown in the UK.

<https://shop.woodlandtrust.org.uk/single-trees>

NPA are creating woodland sites where families are invited to assist in the planting of trees to celebrate a birth, marriage, or the life of a relative; the event will take place to coincide with National Tree week 23.11 – 1.12.19. There is some information and a list of Q & As on the website newforestnpa.gov.uk enter Family Trees, further details of the venue and date will be posted when confirmed. You can register an interest now via the online form.

2019 is the Year of Green Action, the NPA website has a list of 12 Challenges to encourage everyone to contribute to this Green initiative, you can join activities or act individually. As well as tree planting and litter picking, which we hope will be considered by residents, there is 'Wild Play' to help children connect with Nature, for a full list see newforestnpa.gov.uk/year-of-green-action-in-the-new-forest

A reminder - The 'Bird Nesting Season' is March to August inclusive and it is recommended by Natural England that tree or hedge cutting or site clearance should be done outside of the nesting season. Foxes and crows etc. are a natural danger to ground nesting birds but people, with or without dogs, straying from Forest paths are also a risk. (Please note, felling or pruning trees which have a trunk circumference of 23.5 cms or more at 1 metre from the ground requires the consent of NPA).

Saturday 15th & Sunday 16th April - The New Forest Spring Cycle Event - from and back to Somerley, start times from 7.20am to 10.40am, latest finish time 5.00pm. One route is from Ringwood through Mockbeggar, South & North Gorley, Hyde Lane, Stuckton, Fordingbridge. There are 2 other routes across the Forest which return along the B3078 to Fordingbridge. Full information is on the website www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk or telephone 01425 653372 The website gives a link to www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/cycling-code and asks riders to observe it; there is also an interesting video giving guidance on cycling through the Forest.

Thursday 2nd May – Parish and Town Council Elections, please see back page.

*** SATURDAY 6th APRIL – LITTER PICK ***

Bags and grippers will be available at 9.00 am opposite the school - or pick up when you can. As well as being ugly litter is a serious environmental issue, it causes harm and even death to wildlife and to commoners' livestock, we hope volunteers will help us to be part of the Great British Spring Clean (22. 3. - 23. 04.19) and help to keep Hyde parish free from litter.

ELECTIONS for all 37 Town and Parishes in the New Forest are held every four years in May, the next one will take place on **2 May 2019**

Make a Change: Become a Local Councillor

If you care about where you live and are keen to help your community become a parish councillor. Being a councillor will allow you to make a difference in your community - by engaging with residents and local groups to find out their needs and concerns, and by reporting problems to, and liaising with, the National Park Authority, New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council; you will also study and respond to their consultation documents and to relevant planning applications.

The National Association of Local Councils' survey found that councillors put aside, on average, three hours a week for council work. This includes attending various meetings, and sometimes speaking on behalf of the council to other bodies.

If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor - You may be a candidate if you are age 18 or over and are either listed on the electoral register for the Town/Parish, or have worked or owned or were a tenant of a property within the Town/Parish, or have lived within 4.8 kilometres of it for at least 12 months preceding nomination.

From 22nd March full details will be on NFDC's website www.newforest.gov.uk/article/3759/Town-and-ParishElections and on hydeparish.net and Hyde Parish Council's notice boards.

Hyde will have **7 vacancies** to be filled at the election, if there are more than 7 candidates there will be a full election/poll. For more information on the role of a parish councillor for Hyde contact the parish council clerk, Martine, for an information sheet.