



Parish Matters

The Newsletter of Poringland Parish Council

February 2021

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Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to Edition 2 of Parish Matters!

We've had some good feedback from our first newsletter, so here's the second of three trial editions. As always, feedback is very welcome.

Covid Vaccination Centre The community centre is now in its fourth week of operation as a Covid-19 vaccination centre. It has been a fascinating operation to be a part of and to see just how many people need to be involved to make the clinic work. The NHS staff and local volunteers are working very hard to make sure the priority list as set out by the government is being worked through. The Parish Council has no access to where people are on the priority list, medical records or appointment details, so we are politely requesting that we are not contacted with regards to Covid-19 vaccinations. We can receive up to 15 calls a day relating to appointment enquiries and if we could help we would, but we genuinely can't. Please be patient, you will be contacted when it is your turn.

Covid-19 Assistance There still remains assistance for people who need it in these very difficult times. Our local Good Neighbours Scheme remains a lifeline for those who need assistance with services such as shopping, the collection of prescriptions or just a friendly chat. If you would like assistance from these volunteers, please call 07934 195724.

South Norfolk Council's Help Hub is also very active during this period. They can provide assistance for instances such as if you're feeling isolated or lonely, if you're worried about issues at home including relationships, if you have money

worries or if you need food parcels. They can be contacted on 01508 533933. Businesses are also being supported through the provision of business support grants. If you would like to know whether you qualify, please call 0300 790 6290.

Norfolk Assistance Scheme The Norfolk Assistance Scheme helps people who are unable to meet their immediate needs or need practical support to set up home. It can help with food, paying bills and money for everyday essentials. It can also help with household items like white goods or beds if you're having to move house if, for example, you're fleeing domestic violence or moving out of care and into the community. The scheme can help people who are struggling because of coronavirus, for example those who have been furloughed, are on reduced hours or have been made redundant. Please call 0344 800 8020 to apply.

Free Meal Kits Pink Orange is working in partnership with Norfolk County Council to provide ingredient kits for households with children across Norfolk that need a little support this winter. The boxes are targeted to children, with easy to follow recipes to inspire young people to learn about ingredients and how to cook them, to make meals for the whole family. Kits contain ingredients for four meals and some other useful essential household items. To register for a kit, go to www.pinkorange.co.uk

Free Face Visors The Parish Council has been donated a number of plastic face visors which we are able to donate to local community groups and volunteers, or those doing essential work in the local community such as carers or educators. If you could benefit from this, please get in touch and we can arrange a socially distanced collection/delivery.



Free Active at Home Packs The Parish Council is also in possession of 30 'Active at Home' kits. These packs are designed to support any vulnerable adults who are isolating at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and need support to be active, and specifically those who are digitally excluded and those who are uncomfortable accessing online health resources. Each pack contains a 'Sitting Room Circuits' DVD, showing a guided walk through of gentle exercises, a 20-page exercise booklet designed for those who do little/no exercise, a resistance band and information leaflets with tips for reducing sedentary behaviour. If you would like one, or know anyone who could benefit, get in touch.

Request for Increased Gritting Route

Following concerns from members of the public, the Parish Council has asked Norfolk County Council to increase the gritting route to cover Rectory Lane and Ugate. We agree with parishioner concerns that this is a well-used highway, on a bus route and a slope and should have improved protection against icy weather.

Caravan on Overtons Way

We have had a lot of calls about the caravan that has been placed on Overtons Way. We can clarify that the site remains without planning permission, with the application submitted in September still being considered by South Norfolk Council. Presently there can be no enforcement for removal of the caravan. To comment on this application, please visit South Norfolk Council's planning website and search for application 2020/1689

Flooding Problems

There are currently investigations into the recent flooding incidents. Poringland is susceptible to flooding, but has a good internal drainage network that helps to alleviate this. But this network only works if we work together to help keep it clear. Investigations have uncovered drainage ditches being clogged with material - garden waste in particular. If your property is on the boundary of a ditch, it is worth checking whether you have a responsibility under 'Riparian Rights' If you have an ordinary watercourse running through your land or along the boundary of your property you are likely to be the riparian owner or joint riparian owner, unless the watercourse is known to be owned by someone else. If the land on the other side of the watercourse is not in your ownership you are presumed to be the joint

riparian owner together with the landowner on the other side. In the case of joint riparian ownership each party is presumed to own up to the centre line (the middle) of the watercourse and therefore is responsible up to this point. Part of your Riparian responsibilities is to keep the ditch clear of any matter that could cause an obstruction.

Incidents of flooding can be reported to Norfolk County Council at www.norfolk.gov.uk/safety/floods/report-a-flood

Cygnets Care Planning Application

The planning application for a new care home with care lodges and associated facilities on the Bungay Road was approved by South Norfolk Council on 28th January. The Parish Council provided no objections to this application, on the basis that the applicant had worked to improve the design of the original application that was previously refused, and that it will help to provide care for older people, where there is currently an unmet need.

Potters Way Play Area

The Parish Council is close to taking on this area from Norfolk Homes and we hope to have it open as soon as possible. We are pleased with this addition to the village, as another welcome area of play provision for young people.

Spring has Sprung!

Sometimes it's the smallest of things that can make you smile, and the emergence of this snowdrop at the community woodland made us happy. After several weekends of bulb planting by volunteers, the village is now starting to see the rewards.

Hopefully in future years they will multiply and the woodland will be full of colour in late winter and early spring. Let's keep an eye out for the bluebells and daffodils.



Neighbourhood Plan Update The Neighbourhood Plan is edging closer to a referendum. We hit a sticking point with our policy to restrict development to smaller sites. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot totally stop development, but it can help shape it, and you told us that if development was necessary in Poringland, it should be on smaller sites rather than large development sites. It's been hard to find some wording to agree on, but thanks to our partners at South Norfolk Council, the policy now reads as follows:

Individual proposals for housing development within the parish should be located on sites no larger than one hectare.

Developments on sites larger than one hectare will only be supported where:

- 1. they would meet an identified housing need for specialist housing, such as sheltered housing, supported housing and extra care housing, or other types of housing provided to sectors of the community whose needs are not met by open market housing and*
- 2. they would provide and deliver the supporting community facilities and infrastructure needed.*

The artificial subdivision of larger sites in an attempt to circumvent the above requirements will not be acceptable.

Where multiple residential developments are likely to occur, consideration will need to be given to the cumulative impact of development and any infrastructure necessary to mitigate it. Development will not be permitted unless any unacceptable cumulative impacts can be appropriately addressed through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Small in-fill proposals inside the development boundary will be supported in principle, provided that the proposal:

- 1. does not unduly harm the local character in terms of landscape, adjacent buildings or important views, and;*
- 2. would be located on a site comprising a gap within an otherwise continuous line of housing or other development.*

This proposal will be put to South Norfolk Council's Cabinet on 8th February, and will then be consulted upon for 6 weeks. Once these hurdles have been crossed, the whole Neighbourhood Plan will be put to referendum, possibly in May, when all electors in Poringland have the power to decide whether it should be adopted to shape the future of the village.

We hope you've enjoyed our second newsletter. The Parish Council remains active to assist in these difficult times, so please get in touch if you need us.

Keep safe

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