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EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

June 2020

Update on the Parish Office

As at the start of June, the Parish Office remains closed with office staff working from home. The telephones are diverted and will be answered, so do ring if you want to contact us, staff will agree a time to meet with you (socially distancing) if that is necessary. Grounds staff are working normal hours.

Council meetings are held electronically, and anybody is welcome to join the meetings, to listen or raise points. The meetings are advertised on the website and noticeboards, but residents will need to indicate in advance if they wish to take part so that they can be sent the appropriate meeting link.

We would like to thank everyone who have been very helpful with offering support and advice and especially all the Key Workers in East Leake who have dealt with challenging situations.

EAST LEAKE COMMUNITY CARE ASSOCIATION



The Community Care Association has remained active within the village during the Covid 19 crisis.

Thanks to our volunteers and the new volunteers - who joined us at the beginning of the lockdown, our residents have been helped with tasks such as shopping, prescription and medication delivery, plant watering and dog walking.

Befriending people, some who are even more isolated because of the situation, has been an important focus for us. Those we have supported in this way have appreciated regular calls from a friendly voice on the other end of the telephone.

Members of our various groups, where we have their phone numbers, have also been contacted and all are looking forward to a time when we can restart our activities with the appropriate measures in place. Hospital appointments have restarted and our Volunteer Driver Car Scheme volunteers have been making these journeys as well as taking passengers for medical appointments at the Health Centre.

With the partial easing of lockdown for the vulnerable , there will be some who still have concerns about the situation and we want to reassure them that we are ready to help in any way we can.

For help or advice please phone your Area Organiser, phone numbers can be found on Village web site, or phone 01509 853866

You can keep up to date on Parish Council News via our website —east-leake.gov.uk or on our Facebook page or contact us by email parishclerk@east-leake.gov.uk

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

At the time of writing this update we are all still wrestling with the consequences of Covid-19. It feels a long way yet to go to emerge on the other side. In the meanwhile we will have experienced personal and financial hardships, disappointments and grief. I would encourage us all to follow guidance wherever possible, and to do everything we can to help and support our neighbours.

We have been unable to hold our usual Annual Parish Meeting this year, but our reports are available online at <https://east-leake.gov.uk>. For those unable to access the internet, I am summarising the key points below. Some items are subject to a separate article in this newsletter.

- We made progress in getting the subject of the new Health Centre to national level. Unfortunately the financial strains of Covid-19 will have set the cause back.
- Lots of “behind the scenes” work to sort out the children’s’ playground have been going on. The current position is a separate article on page 3.
- Sewage / drainage problems have continued, but Severn Trent has finally accepted that there is a problem. We don’t know what the solution will be, but it is likely to take some years to be delivered. We are monitoring the situation closely.
- Additional car parking for Playing Fields: see article below
- New Costock Road Pavilion: we have agreed to fund additional hours for our Clerk Neil to project manage the work necessary to finalise a building design, obtain costings and progress grant funding through the Football Foundation and other bodies. The project is a joint venture between the Playing Field Charity, members of the community and the Parish Council. Good progress has been made despite lockdown.
- The new Outdoor Gym in Meadow Park was proving popular before its closure during Covid-19
- New housing applications in East Leake have diminished during the last year, but not stopped. We know that we need improved infrastructure and continue to press for that (school places, health centre, traffic calming around T-junction, drainage).

Additional Car Parking – Costock Road

There has been a longstanding issue with car parking outside the Costock Road Playing Fields when there are a lot of matches taking place. The overflow car park off Cornflower Way has helped, but too many cars obstruct Costock Road, and the demand for parking is greater than the current and the onsite parking can accommodate. This results in dangerous situations when cars are on the wrong side of the road getting past parked vehicles, close to the bend in the road. There is also parking on the pavement, creating problems for pedestrians.

The Parish Council will shortly be applying to Rushcliffe Borough Council for planning permission to add further parking on the opposite side of the road, on waste land purchased a while ago. This will accommodate a further 60 cars, with separate entrance to and exit from the site. There will also be a pavement for pedestrians to wait on when crossing to the pitches.

Hopefully construction can start reasonably quickly when permission is granted.

Gotham Road Play Area



Residents will be aware that this has been closed for a long time because of dangerous soft areas under the rubber surface. This has, we know, been a great frustration to many people. The Parish Council has spent many months seeking a resolution from the playground supplier. This has included many legal exchanges between the parties.

Regrettably the supplier continues to deny responsibility for the failure and will not even share the remedial costs. Thus the steps agreed by the Parish Council at its 26th May meeting are:

- To continue to pursue legal remedy, including exploring whether our insurers will cover our legal costs for court proceedings and obtaining any expert report recommended as part of our evidence to the court.
- To get the area repaired as soon as possible at the Council's cost, whilst retaining the right to take legal action to recover the cost, in parallel with repairs.

It should be stressed that the repair work will be substantial, as it involves removing the rubber surface, installing a stone base and installing a new safe soft surface. Costs are expected to run into tens of thousands of pounds, and the Council believes strongly that this should be paid for by the supplier, rather than being paid by the Council funds that come directly from your Council Tax.

However we cannot leave things as they are until any legal proceedings have concluded, as they could take a considerable time, so we have agreed to fund repairs up front.

EAST LEAKE MARKET COMING SOON....

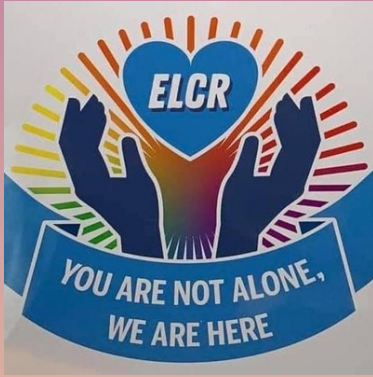


Yes folks, it's the news many of you were hoping to hear! A small group of East Leake residents have joined forces with East Leake Traders and the Parish Council to bring a regular monthly market to our village. Being run by volunteers as a not-for-profit organisation, with any proceeds being used to improve the market and any excess funds donated to local charities. Our original opening event had to be postponed due to the lockdown but we hope to be able to bring our local artisan market to you in the near future.

It is planned as a twilight market (3pm-8pm) on the second Friday of the month (once launched) and will be located in the Bulls Head car park. We are currently on the look-out for local artisan food and product traders who may be interested in having a stall, if you're interested then please contact our market manager Meg (info@eastleakemarket.org.uk)

Special thanks to Rushcliffe Borough Councillor Kevin Shaw for allocating funding to get us off the ground. And thanks to everyone behind the scenes who have already donated so much of their time and professional expertise.

ELCR



East Leake Crisis Response (Coronavirus) is a Community Hub registered with Rushcliffe Borough Council and was set up to provide help and support to all residents across our community during this coronavirus pandemic. Significant funding has been provided by Nottinghamshire County Council to support our work. We are working closely with the Parish Council and the Community Care Association in East Leake and have been operating since March.

The response from this village has been overwhelming, and we want to thank everyone who has donated, volunteered and supported us over

the last few months. We are all incredibly proud to be part of such a generous and supportive community.

However, you may have seen that we have recently paused taking donations. This is because the community has been so generous that we have received far more money and food than we have received requests for help. We are unsure why this is, whether it is that our village is coping OK, if people are finding help elsewhere or for other reasons. We are though, very much open and ready to respond to requests for help from people in the community. We can also still continue to support those shielding or self-isolating by collecting and delivering prescriptions, walking your dog, or doing your shopping.

The food bank was set up to support the community and we would urge you to continue to spread the word that we can help people if they are struggling to put food on the table and feed themselves and their family. This is a confidential service and we have a small dedicated team of volunteers who will maintain that confidentiality. We do need to ask a few questions about your needs so that we can respond appropriately. You do not need to have a food voucher or have to visit the food bank as we deliver to you once your needs have been established. This can be done discreetly. So PLEASE if you know anyone who is struggling encourage them to contact us for advice and support.

We have a dedicated telephone line: 07909 563531

You can e- mail us: info@elcr.org.uk or

You can message us on our Facebook page: [@ELCR19](#)

You are not alone: we are here

News from the Borough Councillors

Meetings of groups and committees are resuming virtually and the Council will meet again in July.

We were pleased to highlight the work of the EL Corona Response group and a presentation of flowers was made to Maggie Gordon and Martin Walker in recognition of their contribution.

We would like to thank all the officers and staff from Rushcliffe Borough Council for their hard work during this crisis. I am sure everyone appreciates still getting their bins emptied. We would also like to thank the East Leake Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Groundsmen for keeping essential services going.

You can keep up to date on Parish Council News via our website —east-leake.gov.uk or on our Facebook page or contact us by email parishclerk@east-leake.gov.uk