

## **MINUTES OF THE EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT EAST LEAKE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Kevin Shaw (Chair), Cllr Eleanor Robinson (Vice-Chair), Cllr Mel Roper, Cllr Donna Griggs, Cllr Jason Billin, Cllr Lesley Way, Cllr Lynn Forsyth, Cllr Lynne Twigg, Cllr Liz Taylor, Cllr Sara Budzik, Cllr Stefano Forlani.

**ALSO PRESENT:** The Clerk, Sue Lewis; Assistant Clerk, Ally Moore; Cllr Matt Barney; 2 representatives from Severn Trent, and 30 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Carys Thomas, Cllr Nick McGowan, Cllr Wendy Thompson – reasons given and accepted.

### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

The Chairman, Cllr Kevin Shaw, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **GUEST SPEAKER FROM SEVERN TRENT REGARDING FLOODING:**

Chair welcomed the two representatives from Severn Trent – Gary Kinley (Design Manager) and Helen Hollingworth (Project manager) to the meeting.

Gary Kinley introduced himself and Helen. He explained that Severn Trent have been working on a few schemes in this area for a while now and they're at the stage where they wanted to give an update on where things are in terms of programme, what they're doing, and what the impact is likely to be. They have 4 projects in total in and around East Leake from a wastewater point of view. There's a major upgrade (costing £8 million) going ahead at the treatment works on West Leake Road. This has been triggered by the new housing in the area. Looking at upgrading the pumping station in East Leake and increasing the capacity of that station in order to pass more flow to the treatment works to be treated, and then they're looking at reinforcing the network in Brookside and up Gotham Road and along Costock Road so that's providing capacity to deal with historical issues in terms of sewer capacity and also putting capacity in place for remainder of the development plans on the design horizon. They are also carrying out work in Wysall and Willoughby to address issues in those locations. At the feasibility stage at the moment, have identified the size of the assets to build and decided roughly where they are going to go. Regarding pumping station on Gotham Road, the pumping stations generally sit at the bottom of the network, sewerage flows downhill so they always end up near watercourses and there is not always a lot of flexibility in where they can do which proves a challenge around the well-developed area of Gotham Road. Their proposal at the moment is to abandon the existing pumping station and build a new pumping station next to it within the footprint of the existing car park next to the doctors and library. To compensate that, they would then be looking to abandon the existing site and switching the car parking around. To the best of their plans at this stage, they think they can broadly protect the same amount of car parking spaces which are currently available once the new site arrangement is in place. They would expect a fair amount of disruption during the works including temporary loss of parking and will have to explore how this would be managed during the works. By the end of the works there would be a new pumping station, minimal to no loss in parking area and a resolution to some of the flooding and pollution issues which have caused problems in the village for many years.

Helen reported that, programme wise, they will be looking at carrying out detailed surveys towards the end of the summer which will allow them to complete their design for the scheme and understand routes for any new pipelines which will take about 12 months to complete. Then they will have to do some detailed design work and apply for planning permission. Current programme is suggesting Summer 2024 is when construction will begin.

A member of the public asked how long the works would take and Helen answered that they will take approximately 18 months to complete but that would be for the entire scheme, and they still need to look at sequencing of works.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Gary informed that they would need to upsize the existing rising main so the new one will hopefully run between the skatepark and the play area, along the green open space, near to the watercourse. They try to pick locations in the treelines and boundaries which will cause the least amount of damage and disruption. And then hopefully out and under the tunnel in the railway line and then there's 2 possible routes (one of which is the existing route and the other would run alongside the railway line where there are currently some overheads). All the rising main routes and sewers, there will be approximately 50 landowners affected across the total scheme, there are over 10km of new sewers and rising mains so a lot of consultation will be needed.

In response to a question from a member of the public about capacity for future growth and expansion, Gary replied that the systems are designed to take into account all known future growth based on the local development plan.

Cllr Lynn Forsyth asked whether between now and the planned end of the works, is there any way for Severn Trent to be more proactive at times of expected flooding. Gary replied that there is a small scheme going ahead this summer at the pumping station to raise the walls of the storm tanks so that the outfall can be restricted and the flow in will exceed the flow out. During storm conditions they are permitted by the environment agency to spill into the river during rainfall rather than the roads, into the gullies and into the watercourse. There will still be risk of flooding, but it will be reduced. There will be a massive benefit to the watercourse in terms of quality and the number of spills. At the moment there are static screens in the storm tank and the new system will have a much more robust screening system.

A member of the public asked when the temporary fix on the pumping station is due to start. Gary replied that it should have already started but there has been a couple of delays with the contractor. Hopefully will be completed by July but they're hoping for June. The member of the public asked Gary whether the capacity of the tank would be increased. Gary replied that the size of the storm tank would be increased but the outfall arrangement will remain the same so it won't increase the volume retained before it spills to the watercourse, but it will help retain as much as possible in the tank. If there is severe rainfall, then it may still get overtopped if the river level is already up. It's just going to make it a lot less likely. There is a limit to how big they can make the tank as they still need to be able to get inside it to maintain it. The member of the public asked whether the works on West Leake Road would require the same amount of planning. Gary replied that, whilst the outline design phase and plans have been developed, a land purchase is required, and talks are in progress with the landowners. Planning at County level will be required as it is a water extension

In response to a question from a member of the public regarding communications, Gary informed that they have a meeting planned with Rushcliffe Borough Council Growth Board to discuss comms management. They have their own comms team and are hoping to work with the Parish Council to relay information to residents and provide updates.

A member of the public asked whether there would be educational material circulated on what can and can't be put down the toilet, so residents are aware. Gary replied that information would be included in the upcoming communications. Helen added that they would look into visits to schools to educate children.

The Chairman informed the meeting that plans would be available to look at in the Parish Office. Helen said they would welcome questions from the public regarding the plans.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

**Proposed:** Cllr Kevin Shaw

**Seconded:** Cllr Mel Roper

**Agreed Unanimously**

### **ANNUAL REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTS:**

Good evening and thank you for coming along to the Annual Parish meeting - the first one that we have been able to hold for two years.

A major concern to the Parish over the past 5 years or so has, of course, been the explosion in new dwellings being built. Once the ongoing developments are finished, we will have seen some 1400 new houses in the village. Rushcliffe Borough Council now have a local plan in place which states no further development in East Leake. However, it remains to be seen what happens when the next local plan is put in place.

However, a new development has been the sudden increase in the number of sites in this area for the potential development of solar farms. The Parish Council will look at each one in detail as they are referred to us. We are certainly not against them, but we are not in favour at any price.

Turning to the amenities in the village that the Parish Council has control over, I must first address the Gotham Road play area which was closed for over two years.

The Parish Council remain convinced that the problem with the surfacing around the play areas was due entirely to poor advice given to us by the suppliers of the equipment. Unfortunately, we were unable to prove that, and eventually our legal advisors recommended dropping the legal suit against them because they felt we only had a slim chance of success. We therefore had to go ahead with the repair at our own expense. We very much regret the delay the legal battle caused, but hopefully the problems are now behind us.

We are already working on plans to add to our play provision for over-12s

Next, I want to talk about the Costock Road playing fields and the associated parking problems on match days. Whilst the majority of the land used for sports pitches is owned by the Parish Council, it is leased to and managed by East Leake Playing Field Charity.

For many years they have wished to replace the old wooden pavilion building (built in 1964) but were not being very successful. If this was ever to happen it was obvious that it needed someone with the time and resources to drive it forward. So, the Parish Council stepped in and asked the previous clerk, Neil Lambert, to project manage the scheme and we agreed to increase his hours to facilitate this.

We already knew that we had some £280,000 of contributions from the housing developers, and we were able to secure a grant from the premier league, the football association, and the government of £375,500.

After the tendering process we were able to sign contracts with the preferred bidder in September and work started in December 2021.

The total cost of the project is some £900,000 but this includes the renovation of the existing two storey brick-built building. The Parish Council have agreed to fund the shortfall by way of a public works loan board loan payable over 10 years, but we do not envisage this leading to an increase in Council tax.

When everything is completed, we will have up to date changing facilities complete with showers and toilets for players and officials, plus a kitchen, bar and two spacious community rooms which will be available for hire.

Parking on Costock Road has long been a problem on match days and the Parish Council have tried to purchase land opposite the pavilion on several occasions. We have finally been successful and now plan to build a 70-vehicle car park opposite the playing fields but have been frustrated by planning problems. These have now been resolved and we should be able to sign contracts shortly.

You will no doubt have noticed the transformation of the Oldershaw Land off Costock Road also, with the planting of over 300 trees and the construction of a new natural children's play area. This was almost entirely funded by developer contributions, and the small working party that drove it forward are to be congratulated.

You will also start to see changes to the small green area in the village centre that previously was known as 'The Rest Garden' but which in future will be referred to as 'The Friendship Garden'.

Plans currently being finalised include the installation of friendship benches, a Covid-19 memorial garden and a custom-made friendship arch for the entrance.

I trust that most of you have noticed the improved floral display in the village centre planters and the extension to the summer blooms, with the addition of the planters on the railings.

Wildflowers were sown in the small grass area in the Gotham Road car park, and they bloomed beautifully, and many happy bees were spotted around the area. More have been sown this year in a few other spots about the village.

The skatepark has had a wonderful facelift due to funding from the Welcome Back Fund. We also ran two family fun days in October in the village with funding from the same source.

Unfortunately, some of our Christmas lights failed last year, so we are planning to replace them to ensure we have a full display this year.

Sadly, our bottle filling tap on the public toilets has been damaged twice by vandals and we are looking into effective and practical fixing options.

East Leake Market has continued with the support of the Parish Council. A big thank you to those who volunteer their time to make it happen.

Look out also for our Jubilee celebrations that will be coming up in June – it's not too late to get involved. Please speak to Cllr Wendy Thompson if you wish to volunteer.

I am also delighted to confirm that construction of the new junior school at the bottom of Kirk Ley Road is well under way and talks are ongoing regarding a new Health Centre and sewerage pumping station.

Finally, I must turn to the question of budgets, finance, and council tax.

Managing the Parish Council funds and setting a budget is the main function of our Personnel and Finance Committee and they work to allow for large, planned projects whilst also providing funds for managing open spaces and parks, allotments, the burial ground, The Friendship Garden, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

I think the main difference with the current administration to previous ones is that we are much more proactive in ensuring that we get maximum benefit from the various developers who

have/are building in the village and other forms of funding that are available. We have been able to undertake some fairly major projects over recent years and will continue to do so over the next 18 months without having to increase council tax - the Parish Council element of which has not increased for 3 years now.

In 2021 the Parish Council declared a climate emergency (more about that later) with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2030. We have already calculated our carbon footprint and have started to offset this with all the tree planting that has been undertaken and will continue.

We have commissioned a review of the Parish office to ascertain what can be done to improve the efficiency of the lighting and heating.

We also intend to replace, when necessary, all the petrol driven power tools our maintenance staff use with cordless electric models and replace the current diesel tractors with electric models in due course.

In the meantime, our grounds maintenance staff have been targeted with reducing our consumption of fossil fuels.

Provision within the budget has and will continue to be made for the capital expenditure that will be required.

Last but by no mean least I must say a massive thank you to the 14 Councillors who give their time freely to drive forward improvements in the village which make all our lives that little bit better.

Also, a very big thank you to our 4 members of staff.

The Parish office is now fully open. Susan Lewis – who incidentally has been with the Council for over 25 years – was appointed as Clerk following Neil's surprise decision to retire, and we are delighted to welcome to the team the new Assistant Clerk, Ally Moore. Ally has already started to study for the CiLCA qualification (Certificate in Local Council Administration), and we look forward to her being with us well into the future.

Also, of course, we have the two grounds maintenance staff, who continued to work during the pandemic and do their best to keep the village neat and tidy. Thank you to them both.

That concludes my report. Thank you for listening to me and I will be happy to try to answer any questions that you may have.

**Cllr Kevin Shaw**

#### **REPORT FROM CLLR JASON BILLIN ON CLIMATE EMERGENCY:**

Cllr Jason Billin presented on the Climate Emergency and how the Parish Council are looking at tackling various issues surrounding climate change. Members of the public invited to become involved. Presentation received from Craig Woodburn regarding electric vehicle charging points.

#### **QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

1. Email received from resident regarding horses fouling pavements and roads, and what can be done about it. Resident did state that she has researched into this topic and found that there is no legislation asking riders to clean up after their horses. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council include a piece in the next newsletter asking riders to be more considerate.

2. Email received from Tim Slade (resident). Congratulated Parish Council on recent refurbishment of skatepark. Asked whether East Leake will be entering for Best Kept Village this year. Chairman responded that it is too late for this year, but we will be looking at entering next year. Also asked about condition of the roads around the village and what is being done in terms of repairs and resurfacing. Cllr Matt Barney (Nottinghamshire County Council) replied with the good news that, on next years' expenditure budget, works will be carried out on Gotham Road and Kirk Ley Road. Bateman Road is also on the list although that may be carried over into next years expenditure list. Cllr Barney urged residents to report any road repairs needed and potholes so that the Council are kept aware of works which need carrying out. Cllr Lynn Forsyth reminded the meeting about [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) on which faults such as potholes, street lighting, etc., can be reported on. Cllr Barney also mentioned the 'mynotts' app. Mr Slade also asked about monies received from residential developers, how much we've received and what we have done with it. Chairman replied to this query with the following figures:

Allocation	Potential	Collected	Allocated	Spent	Available	Notes
Affordable Housing Sum	£0.00	£86,360.00	£86,360.00	£0.00	£0.00	Allocation towards Metropolitan Garages Phase 2A
Allotments Sum	£3,723.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Prospective for provision or enhancement of the allotments at West Leake Road
Health Sum	£141,472.00	£857,409.69	£0.00	£0.00	£857,409.69	Provision of new Medical Centre or redevelopment or upgrading of the existing medical centre
Library Sum	£0.00	£37,729.11	£8,000.00	£0.00	£29,729.11	Increased stock at East Leake Library
Primary Education Sum	£0.00	£3,186,117.98	£1,316,544.00	£557,002.17	£1,314,036.26	Spend towards Lantern Lane School Annexe, allocation towards Brookside Primary Expansion (understand has been delivered), further contributions to be applied towards new primary school on Persimmon/David Wilson development
Secondary Education Sum	£0.00	£716,299.66	£0.00	£0.00	£716,299.66	Identified towards additional capacity at the East Leake Academy
Sports and Leisure Sum	£73,320.00	£497,226.70	£195,791.96	£246,904.27	£56,742.23	Spend towards Costock Road Sports Fields Car Park and Play Equipment at Meadow Park, Gotham Road, and Oldershaw Trust Land. Some spend towards Costock Road Pavilion with further a further amount allocated. Further contributions to be applied towards further play equipment for older children at Gotham Road
Transport Infrastructure Sum	£0.00	£203,669.20	£0.00	£0.00	£203,669.20	Identified towards footway and bus stop improvements on Woodgate Road, Kirk Ley Road, Gotham Road, and Costock Road
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£219,334.02</b>	<b>£5,620,273.71</b>	<b>£1,606,695.96</b>	<b>£803,906.44</b>	<b>£3,213,347.52</b>	

## CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSE.

The Chairman expressed his thanks for all those who attended the meeting and who asked questions.

Meeting closed at: 8.23pm