

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

All residents of East Leake are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Parish Office.

This meeting is not to be confused with the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council as it is an OPEN meeting of the Parish.

The Parish Council traditionally facilitates the meeting and creates an Agenda to include current matters known to be of interest to the community.

Any relevant matters can be raised for discussion at the meeting by any member of the Parish. Refreshments will be available. Full agenda will be published on website and on all noticeboards in the village.

Questions from residents for considered responses should be submitted in advance by letter or email to the Parish Council Office by Friday 3rd May 2024.

Email: parishclerk@east-leake.gov.uk

Eleanor Robinson

Chair
East Leake Parish Council
26th April 2024

RESIDENTS SURVEY

Thank you very much to those who took the time to complete our recent Residents Survey. It is part of our vision to be driven by what matters to our residents. Therefore, it is important for us to listen to the views of residents and consider these views in shaping the future of the village. The survey offered an important opportunity to gauge public satisfaction and gain feedback which can help us identify where we can make improvements.



"Photo Credit: Marco Verch via cnull.de"

MAKING EAST LEAKE MORE ATTRACTIVE!

One of your Parish Councillors recently gave a presentation to the council with a number of suggestions to make the village more attractive. As a result we have leapt into action. We have increased the number of flower baskets in the centre of the village to great effect.



The Friendship Garden has also seen a number of changes to make it more appealing to residents. We have added a raised Community bed with bulbs and wildflowers and further planting has been added to the area. These improvements have gone down well with residents.

We're now about to see something in the village which we have not seen before – Street Art. Street Art is not the same as graffiti and has proved a great success in many areas. We have commissioned a well known local street artist to come up with some ideas. You will soon see the first project on the public toilets in the centre followed by more art on Stonebridge Bridge on Gotham Road. We are already having a conversation with the artist for some further work once the initial work has been completed. Watch this space!

COSTOCK ROAD CAR PARK

It took much longer than we anticipated due to objections from Rushcliffe Borough Council planning officers and the Environment Agency, but these were eventually overcome and the car park became operational early in the new year.

It is smaller than we originally wanted, resulting in some vehicles still parking on the road (this has been made worse by the need to reorganise a lot of fixtures that had to be cancelled due to the waterlogged football pitches) but it has taken over 50 cars off the road every Sunday morning, and will be available when large functions are held at the Pavilion.

It has also cost about £50,000 more than we originally estimated due to the need to incorporate some of the planners and Environment Agency requirements and the substantial increase in the cost of some of the building materials over the past 2 years. Pre-contract enquiries did, however, flag up this possibility so provision for additional costs had been made in the 2023-24 budget.



This is the last of the Parish Councils planned major projects which enabled us to effect a small reduction in the 2024-25 Council Tax and it is anticipated that this will be at least equalled in 2025-26.

SEVERN TRENT

Severn Trent Water have a number of proposals affecting East Leake. These are as follows:

Works to the sewage treatment plant on West Leake Road: As you will be aware, these works are ongoing. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by January 2025. The Parish Council has raised concerns about the construction traffic and about the state of the verges along West Leake Road. These are being looked into.

Pumping station on the car park by the Health Centre: There have been concerns about the pumping station for years. The current pumping station does not have the capacity to deal with the increased flow from all the new development. Severn Trent had proposed building a new station to the rear of the car park. The existing pumping station would then have been restored to car-parking. Severn Trent are now looking into this again to see if they can accommodate the increased flow by installing new pumps on the existing site.

New main sewer across Meadow Park: There is an existing sewer which crosses Meadow Park. Severn Trent propose building a new sewer. The new sewer would have a bigger bore and increased capacity. It is hoped that it will follow the same line as the existing sewer, subject to site investigations. Work is anticipated to start in Autumn 2024.



New sewer scheme, East Leake to Willoughby on the Wolds: Severn Trent had proposed a new main sewer line for the area. This would include new sewers along Costock Road, Brookside/Main Street/ Gotham Road. Currently this project is being reconsidered.

D-DAY CELEBRATIONS

The D-Day landings on 6 June 1944 were the largest seaborne invasion in history. Along with the associated airborne operations, it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and Western Europe. The bravery and sacrifice of those people in securing the peace and freedom we enjoy today will be observed by the lighting of beacons around the country.

We will be holding a Beacon Lighting ceremony in our Friendship Garden at 9.15pm on 6th June 2024, in celebration of the 'light of peace' that emerged out of the darkness of war. Joining us will be Major Bill Pepper from the Leicestershire & Rutland County Pipe Band who will be playing the Bagpipes to mark the occasion. Lighting the Beacon will be Deputy Lieutenant, Trevor Fletcher.

Please join us to mark this historic occasion and remember those who lost their lives in battle.



SOLAR FARM

Early last year, we raised an objection to plans for a large solar farm past the golf course and extending to West Leake and Gotham. The plans were for over a dozen fields of Green Belt land to be filled with a type of solar panels which would not allow any agricultural or pastoral use. The area would also require significant security fencing likely to dominate the landscape. Our objection reflected feelings from many residents that the loss of amenity would be detrimental.


Rushcliffe Borough Council refused permission stating the plans “**would result in substantial harm to the Green Belt by reason of adverse impact on openness, visual amenity and impact on amenity of users of the well-connected nearby Public Rights of Ways and Bridleway**”. However, the prospective developer has now lodged an appeal against this refusal and the national Planning Inspectorate will be holding an Inquiry before making a final decision.


Rushcliffe Borough Council will continue to object to the plans at the Inquiry and will be supported by a barrister and an expert in planning and landscape. To minimise public expense and duplication of work, East Leake Parish Council chose not to become a formal party to proceedings which was anticipated to incur costs in the tens of thousands. However, we have registered as an ‘Interested Party’ to the Inquiry jointly with Gotham and West Leake Parish Councils.

We have arranged for an expert Planning Consultant to prepare a detailed statement on behalf of residents, which has been submitted. Our Planning Consultant will also attend the Inquiry in order to present our evidence and challenge the developer.





The Inquiry is due to take place from 22nd to 24th May 2024 (possibly stretching to 25th) at Rushcliffe Arena which will be open to the public. A website is due to be created shortly to bring all the evidence together in a more accessible manner, details of which will be circulated on our website and social media. In the meantime, all relevant documents are available on the Rushcliffe Planning Portal under reference **22/00319/FUL**.

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