

COLLINGTREE NEWS

January 2014

Northampton Victim of 'Stitch Up' over housing

So ran the headline in the Chronicle & Echo (*Thursday 19th December*) when, just in time for Christmas, revisions to a draft expansion plan were narrowly approved. The plan once adopted would allow mass house building on several so called 'sustainable urban extensions' (SUE's) around Northampton, including Hardingstone, Moulton and Collingtree. It had been hoped that because of opposition from local councillors, MP's and hundreds of residents, the SUE affecting Collingtree and East Hunsbury would have been dropped—but it remains in the plan even though an independent Planning Inspector had asked that all sites be re-examined (*see HCRA comment page 4*)

The plan (known as the Joint Core Strategy) and promoted by a body called the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, would aim to build 26,000 houses on mainly Greenfield sites within, or very close, to the Northampton boundary. The plan was only voted through on the casting vote of the Chairman, a councillor from Daventry, after a tied vote with all the Northampton members (plus County Council representatives) voting against – and the Daventry and South Northants members voting in favour.

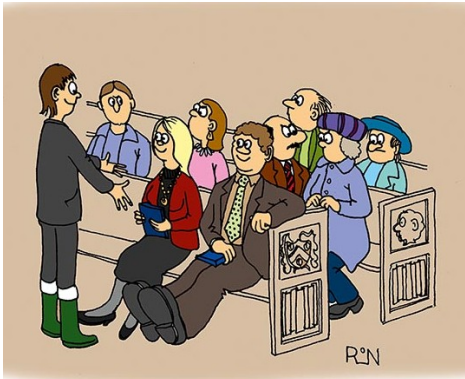


Residents and politicians from all the most affected areas have argued that big questions over infrastructure, traffic congestion, flood risk and pollution, remain unanswered and local councillors claim that in effect Daventry and South Northants are 'dumping' their housing needs on the edge of Northampton and eating up what remains of the borough's green fields. They argue that piling even more pressure on the already overloaded A45 and Junction 15 will be a planning disaster. Figures just released by the Local Government Minister Eric Pickles, show that despite claims that Brownfield sites will be built on first, in fact there has been a 10% fall in urban sites being developed. The figures are based on Ordnance Survey 'land change' reports.

There will now be another 'consultation' period before the JCS plan is reviewed for a second time by the independent Planning Inspector in March.

Meanwhile, on the assumption that the JCS plan will eventually be approved, Bovis is continuing with its application to build 1000 houses on farmland between East Hunsbury and Collingtree. Over Christmas, a flood warning was once again issued by the Environment Agency on Wootton Brook. A record number of objections from bodies such as the Environment Agency, NCC Highways and residents have already been posted on the NBC Planning website and can be viewed on: <http://planning.northamptonboroughcouncil.com> and searching for Planning Applications N/2013/1035 & N/2013/1063

ST COLUMBA'S +



The Jones's were upgraded. Extra leg room and chocolate biscuits"

With acknowledgements to the 'Church Times'



Church Wardens

John Green 6 Watering Lane 763468

Peter Skinner 'Lynton' Barn Corner 768394

Deputy Warden

Chris Wright 8 Watering Lane 761930

Collingtree Church Flowers

January 18th - 25th

Mrs R Harris (A) Mrs B Jones (M)

February 1st - 8th

Mrs C Brown (A) Mrs J Clamp (M)

Services for January

5th January

6pm Evening Prayer (CW)

12th January

9am Parish Communion (BM)

19th January

10am Morning Praise (CW)

26th January

10.30am Family Service (BM)

CW = Church Warden led

BM = Benefice Minister led

SALCEY BENEFICE MINISTER: REVEREND MIKE BURTON 862284

	Ashton	Courteenhall	Hartwell	Road
5th January	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.15am Parish Communion	10.30am All Age Service	10.30am Lighthouse
12th January	10.30am Sunday School	10.30am Morning Prayer	10am Morning Praise	10.30am All Age Service 6.30pm Benefice Youth Group
19th January	10.30am All Age Service		9.15am Parish Communion	10.30am Morning Praise & Sunday School Club
26th January	8.15 Holy Communion	10.30am Informal Service	10am Morning Praise	9.15 Parish Communion

Carol Singing Tradition revived

Village Carols in the open air is a long-standing tradition in Collingtree. Many years ago singers used to call at all the 'big houses' including Courteenhall. On a thankfully dry night on 19th December a goodly crowd was happy to stay with the wood burning stoves and mulled wine in the Wooden Walls courtyard. The gathering organised by the 'Friends of St Columba's' and with the support of pub landlady Sue Blackman, rounded off an enjoyable night with a collection for the 'Friends' fundraising campaign. We all look forward to doing it all again next year. The 'Friends' were formed in 2011

to involve both regular churchgoers and anyone who appreciates a beautiful building at the heart of the village. Even though funding for the actual work of the church is the responsibility of the PCC and the churchgoing community, there are always extra funds needed to maintain the fabric of an old building that everyone enjoys. So far the 'Friends' have contributed to work on the fine organ, restoration of the clock face and maintenance work on the churchyard. A firm group of supporters has now been built up but anyone who cares about St Columba's is invited to contribute a joining fee of £10 and become a 'Friend' for details call 769407, 674999 or 765742



VILLAGE ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Allotment Association

As reported elsewhere, the Association has had assurances from Northamptonshire County Council that the surrounding fields are likely to be under cultivation by the spring of this year. Members can now look forward to another productive growing season.

For details of plot availability, contact Graeme Joll 767277

Milton & Collingtree Women's Institute

The next meeting is on Thursday 9th January at 7.30pm in Collingtree Village Room (please note change of venue) We welcome Chris Rowe who will speak on 'The Squires and Spires of Northamptonshire' The competition is entitled 'Northamptonshire's best side'

Anyone interested in becoming a member or to find out more, please contact Ann Marsh on 766060

Medicine Collection

Weeks commencing:

6th & 13th January

Irene Skinner 768394

20th & 27th January

Jo Clamp 761349

If you would like to help with collections, please contact: Coordinator: Shirley Flight 764433

SPORTS CLUBS

Cricket Club

A Happy New Year to all from the Cricket Club. Net practice is every Wednesday 8 - 9pm starting on 8th January until end of March at the Northants County Ground. It is £3 a session and all are welcome. The first game of 2014 is a home game on April 13th.

For further details please contact Karen Hopkins on kahopkins66@yahoo.co.uk or Mark Underwood on 0783451876

Pub Skittles

It has been a good finish to the first half of the season with 4 consecutive victories including a quarter final win which means we have reached our first semi final.

It has once again been a real team effort especially with the festive season upon us, we have needed all our squad members—thanks again to all.

To get involved call Mark Underwood 07834 518760

Tennis

The club continues to invite new members to enjoy its two floodlit courts and regular coaching sessions.

To join the club or find out more visit:

www.collingtreetennis.co.uk or call

Geoff Kershaw on 761331

Boxing Day Football

The traditional match between the North & South of the village was won this year by the South 10 - 3. As always, funds were raised for the Edinburgh based Mercy Corp charity.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS PARISH CLERK: TESS TAYLOR 07729784653 tessajaylor@icloud.com

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all Parishioners from the Parish Council.

Parish Council Membership A vacancy for Collingtree North Ward is in process of being filled.

Pavement obstructions Congratulations and thanks to the parishioners in Windingbrook Lane who tended their gardens so that all complaints about bushes obstructing the pavement, were answered. It would be great if two areas of Lodge Avenue could meet with the same success.

Pedestrian Crossing proposal and increased Council Tax. It was pleasing that several people attended the last meeting to give their views but no decision was made about the crossing or the extra

funding. It was agreed that other possibilities would be discussed with the Highways Department and revised proposals would be taken to the next meeting on 8th January 2014.

These are likely to include the possibility of extending the 20 mph limit to Ash Lane and that would mean that all roads off the crossroads would also be covered by the 20 mph limit.

If you cannot make the meeting, please let the Clerk have your views.

Planning matters

Golf Course Development The target date for the Bovis application to be processed has been changed from the end of January until the end of March. The date for the resumption of hearings by the Planning Inspector has also been delayed until March 18th. Parishioners may have seen the reference in the

Chronicle & Echo to the town being 'stitched up' by the plans, now out for more consultation, being proposed by the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. The plan was approved on the casting vote of the Chairman. This defied the convention that the Chairman should vote to maintain the status quo so that the issue can be considered later.

Please make any contact with the Parish Council through the Clerk (see above).

Minutes of all meetings are placed in Parish Council noticeboards and e-mail versions can be obtained from the Clerk.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on 8th January at 7.30pm in Collingtree Village Room.

Parish News is produced by Collingtree Parochial Church Council, on behalf of community groups within the parish.

The financial support of the Parish Council, and the Women's Institute is gratefully acknowledged. We also appreciate the support of our regular Sponsor, Central Foods.

If you have a local community or charity event to promote contact:

Compiler/Editor

Rod Sellers

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<http://justcollingtree.co.uk>

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Parish Notices

- Ollie Strickland would like to thank everyone who came along to the Quiz on 30th November. A great night was had by all and £227 was raised in aid of his trek across the Sahara Desert for Alzheimer's Research UK in February. A special thanks to Fay and Andy Tennenet for hosting the event and their support in making it happen. Happy New Year to everyone.
- The Park Practice (Roade & Blisworth Surgeries) operate a Patients Participation Group (PPG) The aim is to help patients have a say on how the Practice operates and to make suggestions on how facilities and services can be improved. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions to make, they can be sent to the PPG Secretary Sylvia Barnsley 01908 745517 Email: sylvia.barnsley@gp-k83052.nhs.uk or to the local PPG contact Malcolm Brice 01604 764723



Walls Whispers

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us through our first six months and it was good to see so many new faces over the Christmas period.

We have had a great response to our New Years Eve music and buffet and Burns Night on 25th January and all tickets for both events are now sold. We look forward to seeing you in the new year. **Best wishes Sue and the team**

Watering Lane

Following uncertainty over what is to happen to the County Council owned fields along Watering Lane, the Allotments Association wrote to the NCC Property Officer. The Association has now been told that a new tenant is expected to take over cultivation of the land before March this year.

Hunsbury & Collingtree Residents Alliance

As well as helping to oppose the specific Planning Application submitted by Bovis on the Collingtree/East Hunsbury site, the HCRA are also opposing the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) that has earmarked this site.

Following the public hearings held last year the Planning Inspector had asked that a 'fresh assessment' be carried out of the actual housing need for the plan period. He had also asked that 'acknowledged shortcomings' in the work done so far be addressed and that in particular the reasons for selecting the particular sites be reviewed along with the reasons why they were preferred over alternatives. The Inspector also asked that this review be done with 'an open mind'.

HCRA along with many others, have argued that this 'open mind' review has not been done and that the revised JCS should not have been approved on the casting vote of a Daventry councillor (see page1)

There will now be a further consultation period and then it will be down to the Planning Inspector to hold further public hearings in March and decide if he is satisfied that the JCS has been properly prepared and is 'sound'.

To keep in touch with the background to these plans and the issues raised visit:

www.HCRA2013.co.uk

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