

PARSON DROVE PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

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Exception Site for Affordable Housing for People with a local connection.

The building of 12 Affordable Homes next to the Doctors Surgery, Main Road, Church End is now underway. The aim of the affordable housing is to provide homes for people on modest incomes, who can't afford to buy or rent a home on the open market. The new affordable homes will help sustain our community by offering local families, couples and single people the chance to stay living in the place where they have strong connections. The term local means a person who has been living in the parish for at least 1 year, persons with a strong family connection to the parish or who have previously been a resident in the parish, or a person who has been working within the parish for at least a year. If anyone is interested in a one of these houses and they have not already completed an application form then please contact Fenland District Council.

Highway Fault Reporting System

Contact Cambridgeshire County Council for highway problems online available at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/highwaysfault in addition you are still able to report faults by telephone on 03450455212.

Parish Plan

Our first Parish Plan was completed in 2005 and we are now starting the process of bringing this important document up to-date. During the last few weeks you should have received a short questionnaire delivered by one of the groups volunteers. Please ensure that you complete and return the questionnaire so that we can find out if your views have altered or if there are things you still want to be changed. Return boxes are located at the School, Village Hall, Post Office or Vialls Shop but if you are unable to visit any of these venues arrangements can be made for the questionnaire to be collected by a volunteer if you contact the Parish Council Clerk or Chairman.

Trees & Parking on the Village Green

Pruning of the trees around the village green will be completed during the next few months and signs are being erected to remind residents and visitors that vehicles should not be parked on the grass.

Trees & Hedges

Residents regularly complain about over grown trees and hedges obstructing the footpaths and obscuring the street lights and road signs particularly along Main Road. We would be very grateful therefore if home owners could bear this in mind and cut back their trees and hedges if they are likely to be causing an obstruction.

Neighbourhood Planning

The Localism Act 2011 introduced Neighbourhood Planning which enables communities to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan for their area. The plans are used to decide the future of the places where you live and work giving opportunities to choose where you want new homes, shops and offices to be built and have your say on what new the buildings should look like. The Parish Council will take the lead on the plan but in order to meet the first criteria a group must be formed with at least 21 members representing the local community including residents, employers and businesses. If you are interested in becoming a member of the group please contact the Clerk or Chairman of the Parish Council.

Care Network's Help at Home - Volunteers Needed

Care Network's Help at Home, incorporating Welcome Home from Hospital Service provides a free service to people after a hospital stay, illness or crisis at home. The Help at Home volunteers visit people in their own homes and help out with shopping, calling to check people are ok, collect prescriptions and help people to access other services. Volunteers are given training and paid out of pocket expenses, and can fit volunteering around their other commitments and visit at a time that suits them and the client. Volunteers are needed in our area, please contact Care Network Office on 01354 694413 for further information.

More Choice in Social Care

Social care is provided to people who have been assessed as having substantial or critical support needs with personal care, getting meals, managing medication and staying safe. If you need social care the County Council will arrange your care for you, but they now have a duty to offer and provide Direct Payments. Direct Payments are an alternative way of getting the care and support you need. They are cash payments made directly into a Direct Payment bank account so that you can use the money to make your own social care arrangements. With a Direct Payment you have more choice, control and independence about how your care is organised. If you would like to find out more about Direct Payments visit Your Life, Your Choice website at www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk or telephone adult social care enquiries on 0345 045 5202 or contact Cambridgeshire Direct Payment Support Services on 0845 6000 684.

Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings will be held in The Cage on Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm and Wednesday 11th December at 7.00pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings and have the opportunity to raise any parish matter during Public Participation for a 15 minute period near the start of the meeting.