



## Long Stratton Town Council

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April 2022

## Long Stratton News

### WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION

Introducing the first edition of Long Stratton News, bringing you regular updates on what is happening in your local community from the Town Council and providing you the opportunity to get involved in the matters that are important to you.

I often wonder whether the residents of Long Stratton are aware of what the Town Council are responsible for and so this first newsletter presents the perfect opportunity to tell you all a little about your local council.

The Council is made up of 13 Councillors, all volunteers that meet on the 2nd Monday of the month with the exception of August, in the Community room in the Pavilion. The Council meets to discuss matters of importance to the community and where appropriate make decisions as a collective.

The Council can only make decisions on areas that are in the Councils control, these include, Manor road playing fields, the multi use gym area, land behind One-Stop by footpath 12, Manor Road play areas, gym equipment, planters, The Plain, bus shelters, dog bin emptying, traffic and speed monitoring, litter bins on the playing fields, street lighting and some events such as the Christmas event to name a few. The Council are consultees for planning applications only.

We have no power over the following - parking issues, Council tax, housing enquiries, bin collections, road works, pot holes, speeding, traffic movements and speed limits to name a few. The Council are always on hand though to lend support where we can.

There are currently 6 members of staff - Town Clerk, 2 administrative assistants, amenities officer, pavilion caretaker and playing field litter picker, a mixture of full and part time roles and it is our duty to action the decisions made by the Council.

### MEET YOUR COUNCIL

#### Councillor

**Kevin Worsley**

#### Chairman

**Councillor Kelly Lunness**

#### Vice-Chairman

#### Councillor

**Andrew Lansdell**

#### Councillor

**Christina Kenna**

#### Councillor

**David Ridgway**

#### Councillor

**Diane Woodham**

#### Councillor

**Judith Baker**

#### Councillor

**Louise Mundford**

#### Councillor

**Mathew Pochin**

#### Councillor

**Robert Mackenzie**

#### Councillor

**Susan Smith**

**2 Vacancies**

## MANOR ROAD PLAYGROUND AND TRIM TRAIL



In the Autumn, it was highlighted to the Council that the play equipment was getting tired and could do with being replaced.

This led to lengthy discussions by the Council who are committed to ensuring the play equipment for the children was of a good standard.

In addition to this the Council were keen to see the reinstallation of the trim trail which was removed at the beginning of the new Pavilion build.

Quotes from several companies were sought to provide ideas and options and before Christmas, the children in Manor Field

junior school were approached to ask what they would like to see in their playground.

Consultations with the community ensued through the website, social media and via school newsletters. It is not too late to have your say, please visit the website.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately £75,000 and therefore the next steps are to see what grant funding is available.

It is the Council's intention to have the new equipment in place for the summer holidays, subject to availability.

## WE HAVE 2 VACANCIES

**Are you passionate about what happens in your local area?**

**Would you like to make a difference and help shape the future of your community for the better?**

Local councils can only be as effective, relevant and vibrant as the people elected to run it, so we need councillors who are capable, energetic and engaged – from all backgrounds and experiences to reflect their communities. Being a councillor is highly rewarding. No other role gives you a chance to make such a huge difference to the quality of life of people in your local area and to influence the way issues are dealt with locally. Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area. Becoming a councillor is both a rewarding and privileged form of public service.

A councillor's role and responsibilities include:

- developing strategies and plans for the area
- serving the community – helping with problems and ideas
- representing the community
- working with others
- decision making and reviewing decisions
- talking to the community about their needs and about what the council is doing

*We are committed to making Long Stratton the best place to live, work and play.*

*Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan.*



## 1800 HOMES AND BYPASS

At the time of writing (March 2022) we are awaiting news from South Norfolk District Council's planning committee regarding the outcome of the revised planning application from Norfolk Homes & Norfolk Land regarding the hybrid application for 1800 homes and bypass 2018/0111 & 2018/0112.

It is anticipated that work on the initial 600 homes on the west side of Long Stratton will commence in 2023 alongside the bypass.

Central Government's aim is to deliver more housing for our ever growing population and it is inevitable that development in and around Long Stratton is going to happen, what is important is that as a consultee the Town Council can have comment on whether any development fits with the adopted Neighbourhood Plan which is based on evidence and the views of the local community.

The Town Council has made representation on the aspects of the application that do not fit with the Neighbourhood Plan. If you wish to review this further you can find the application on South Norfolk District Councils planning portal using the reference numbers above. We will keep you updated when we hear any news.



## 2022-2023 PRECEPT REQUIREMENT

The Precept is the levy raised from Central Government and forms apart of you annual Council Tax bill. Every year the Town Council sets the budget based on the cost of delivering its services such as Town maintenance, operating public toilets, refuse collection and many others as mentioned on page 1 of this newsletter.

In the past 12 months, the Council has seen the cost of services rise significantly with the adoption of Swan Lane public toilets, which the Council were asked to take on by the Community, as well as loss of revenue from the ongoing Pandemic, something I sincerely hope will now ease with the vaccination programme and the lifting of restrictions. This is in addition to contractors and suppliers increasing their costs.

Swan Lane toilets since June 2021 have cost the Council approx. £18,000 and this does not include repairs as these were under contract until December 2021 with South Norfolk District Council. It is anticipated the toilets will cost the Town Council an anticipated £22,500 in 2022-2023. We do receive a small grant of £9,900pa from South Norfolk to assist with this cost however £12,600 has to be raised via the precept.

The Town Council are very conscious that all in the community with be feeling the effects of rising charges especially in utilities and this was taken into consideration when setting the precept.

The precept for 2021-2022 was set at £10.76 per month per band D property. The precept for 2022-2023 has increased to £11.62 per month, an increase of 90p to reflect the current climate.

### BUDGET HEADLINES

Administration	£ 31,230.00
Resource	£ 110,150.00
Streetlights	£ 9,600.00
Environment	£ 81,650.00
Events	£ 5,000.00
Toilets	£ 22,500.00
Churchyards	£ 2,750.00
S137 & Grants	£ 3,500.00
Playing Field	£ 10,300.00
Pavilion	£ 18,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 294,930.00</b>

To note:

Environment includes the proposed works to the play area and trim trail.

It is anticipated that we will receive approx. £86,544 with income being derived from the Pavilion community room and grant applications towards the new play equipment.

The shortfall will be made up from the Council's general reserves.

If you have any questions please email the Town Clerk.

## LETS TALK ABOUT DOGS



Dogs, an emotive topic and always one that causes controversy. Here are the facts. Fact 1, there is a bylaw on the playing fields prohibiting dogs from being off lead, they can be on lead on the footpath, under any circumstance dogs are not allowed in the skate park nor the children's play area. I know this is not convenient for some however this is a rule in law set on the playing fields. I was disappointed to learn of a child who has a fear of dogs scared to be in the play area because there was a dog off lead. The dog I am sure was friendly however that is not a consolation to a child that is frightened in what is a protected space. There are lots of open spaces around Long Stratton where dogs can be let off lead. Fact 2, dogs poo. Majority of dog owners are responsible and sadly it is the few that spoil it for the rest. If you see someone, and you feel comfortable please ask them to clear up after their dog. The school children have made fantastic posters around the village reminding everyone to be responsible, lets keep Long Stratton clean.

Please can everyone, dog owners and non-dog owners alike be responsible, courteous and respectful of each other. Thank you.

### MEET TOM

Tom is the Council's Direct Services Officer. He has been with the Town Council for just over 4 years and is responsible for maintaining and looking after the Council's assets and open spaces.

He works full time for the Council, 32 hours in the winter months and 42 hours in the summer months.



His responsibilities include, maintaining the playing fields and other Council owned open spaces through grass cutting, hedge cutting and strimming. Maintaining and repairing play areas including the skate park. Maintaining the public toilets both at Swan Lane and the Pavilion. Ensuring the Council assets are in good condition and carrying out repairs where necessary.

Tom can often be seen carrying out his role in the Council Van.

If you see him, give him a wave and don't hesitate to mention if you see something Council owned that needs his attention.

*Did you know, there are life saving defibrillators situated at the Pavilion, Co-op, South Norfolk Council, Schools and the library.*

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS



The Council meet every second Monday of the month, in the Pavilion with the exception of August and discuss prevalent matters concerning the parish of Long Stratton.

The Council operates 5 Committees. Committees meet no less frequently than quarterly however in reality they meet more often in lines with the needs of the Council and Community.

The Committees have their own terms of reference which dictates what they can and can't do therefore the committee will either approve a decision or will make a recommendation for consideration at a full Council meeting.

All agendas for meetings are on the noticeboards and website a minimum of 3 clear working days including Saturday, if you are interested in a topic then come along.

### Next 3 month meeting dates

11th April at 7pm

9th May at 7pm

13th June at 7pm

#### Full Council

All 13 members meet on the second Monday of the month to make the strategic decisions not delegated to a committee.

#### Events

Currently the Council have 2 major events at Christmas and Summer.

#### Planning & Highways

The Council are a consultee only for planning applications. They also look at all matters relating to the Highway.

#### Finance

To assess and scrutinise all matters relating to Council finance.

#### Staffing

Deals with all matters HR

#### Leisure & Pavilion

Makes strategic decisions relating to Council owned open space and the pavilion.



## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Long Stratton Town Council would like to ask you to join us on Saturday 4th June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event is starting at 1.30pm at Manor Rd playing fields. We have lots planned, stalls, games, entertainment, competitions, food, drink. The event and all entertainment is free and the stalls are provided by local groups from Long Stratton raising funds for their community groups.

**We need you!** We are looking for budding performers who are looking to show off their talents, can you sing? Part of a band? A solo performer? Are you part of a community group and would like to have a stall? We would love to hear from you, please contact Jess and Emma on [office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@longstrattontowncouncil.gov.uk) titled the Queen's Jubilee and we will get you booked in!

## HEDGES

Its that time of year again where hedges start growing, and growing fast.

The Highways Act of 1980 Section 154 states that hedges that are overgrown that causes a loss of light, an obstruction, reduces visibility or is a hazard on grounds of Health & Safety must be cut back. Private hedges must be cut on the road/pathway side. There are repeat offenders in Long Stratton and we are working with the relevant authorities to get these hedges cut.

Please be mindful of your hedges and keep them cut back, the Town Council will be delivering letters to the properties that are not maintaining their hedges.



**OFFICE OPENING HOURS**  
**MONDAYS, TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS**  
**10AM-2PM**  
**CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**

**Has this newsletter piqued your interest?**

**Is there something that you would like to know more about?**

**Is there something that you would like to see in the next newsletter or on the website**

**Please get in contact, this newsletter is designed to provide as much information about the important work Long Stratton Town Council are doing and the chances are, if you have a query, other residents will have the same query.**

**Please take the time to have a look at the website, address is on the first page.**

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

## **KEY CONTACTS**

**Town Council office—01508 530524**

**South Norfolk District Council—01508 533633**

- **Bins**
- **Council tax**
- **Housing**

**Norfolk County Council—0344 8008020**

- **Highways**
- **Social Services, adult and children**
- **Education**

**Allotments –Managed by Parochial Church 01508 536724**

**Long Stratton Medical Partnership – 01508 530781**

**Manor House Dental Surgery—01508 530514**

**Netherton Dental Practice—01508 532226**