



HEPSCOTT HERALD

Issue No 49

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Who said this was going to be easy?

When I last wrote in the Herald in May, I had just been appointed Chair and there were 3 other councillors: David Cowans (vice chair), Ken Reed and Philippa Raper. Our first duty was to appoint a Parish Clerk—and we have made an excellent choice in Sylvia Johnson, who lives in the village at Red House Farm Cottages. We soon co-opted 3 other councillors and they too, along with our existing councillors, have turned out to be inspired and hardworking choices. Welcome to Merle Heppell from Thornlea, Fred Dye from Fieldhouse Close and Hollie Ross from Glanton Close, Stobhill Manor.

I must confess to being a little surprised as after a brief “running-in” period, the silly-season seems to have hit us! Five significant issues have been on Hepscott Parish Council’s agenda, mostly planning-related. Before everyone yawns and turns off, they have proved to be issues that actually matter to the quality of life in the village and the parish. Firstly as I write, we have just had the excellent news that the Loansdean (Bellway) 200 houses planning application has been refused at a Northern Planning Committee meeting on 19th September. What’s that got to do with us? Bellway were planning to put the run-off from 20 acres of housing estate into the Catch Burn, a tributary of Hepscott Burn. Not a great help to our flooding issues. We, along with South Morpeth Coalition, strongly opposed this application and it was refused. However, this may be the first skirmish of the war as Bellway have the right to appeal. But great news.

This is not to be confused with the larger Barratt development of 400 houses in our parish near Stobhill roundabout. You may have seen reference to this in the local press and in our flyer that we posted through all doors. This is still on-going and it is very important that we remain vigilant. Major issues are traffic congestion into Morpeth, flooding (run off from 43 acres of houses into Hepscott Burn) and encroachment of Morpeth into what should be green belt land. Fortunately Hepscott parishioners (and others) have been wonderful and more than 500 objections have been logged on Northumberland County Council website, fantastic for such a small population. Hepscott Parish Council of course opposed this application vigorously and we await next steps.

We also discussed the wind turbine application in Nedderton but decided against Parish Council objection. However more than 150 objections were received by Northumberland County Council (NCC) from Hepscott, Hazlemere and Nedderton. The latest news is that a date when it goes to the Planning and Environment Committee at County Hall, probably in December or January, will be announced.

We dealt with two other meaty issues, the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan and NCC’s forthcoming proposals for a green belt around Morpeth, - more in a separate article. If you have any comments to make to councillors about any of the above, please do—our phone numbers are below. Phil Ashmore—Chair

Alert! Be alert—your Parish needs lerts.

I am very conscious that when important issues are going on people want to know the latest news. But this is extremely difficult—the only way the Parish Council has of communicating with everyone is by the Hepscott Herald, special leaflet drop or the notice boards in the village and Stobhill Manor. Leaflet drops are very time-consuming and labour intensive, but the best way we have at the moment.

What happens if you want to call a public meeting? We might well want to do this in the near future over, say, the Barratts/Stobhill roundabout application. How do we do this? Word of mouth? Telephone calls? Notices on telegraph poles?

There must be a smarter, quicker, more professional and modern way. **I would like there to be an email contact-list of those who are interested in hearing updates on issues or would likely to be interested in coming to a public meeting.** I am quite happy to run this and give my word that it would be used only for the exclusive use of Hepscott Parish Council and only on their business. Any addresses would be instantly removed on request. So if you are interested please email me at philipashmore@hotmail.co.uk, headed Hepscott Alert!
Go on, be a lert. Phil Ashmore

Parish Council Contacts:

Chairman:	Philip Ashmore	01670 516726
Vice Chairman:	David Cowans	01670 516397
Village Ward:	Ken Reed	01670 51301
	Merle Heppell	mheppell@btinternet.com
	Fred Dye	01670 514871
Stobhill Manor Ward:		
	Philippa Raper	01670 503436
	Hollie Ross	07974 002446
Parish Clerk:	Sylvia Johnson	01670 503883

Views from County Hall



Ian Lindley County Councillor for Stobhill Manor:

Green Belt Action Needed

As you will be aware I have revitalised Morpeth Action Group – originally set up in the 90's by Hepscott's own John Lewis and myself (see our Facebook page), in order to fight the planning application by Barratt Homes to build 396 homes on two fields to the east of the roundabout at the top of Stobhill.

I am convinced we will defeat this particular application but **the key to fend off future depredation is to have all the land south of the A196 designated green belt.** I am lobbying NCC Planning and visited Morpeth Town Council on 25th September to ask for their support in this goal. Unfortunately, **the first version of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (just out for consultation) fails to do this. I would appreciate residents having a look at the Plan on Morpeth Town Council's website and comment on this aspect at least. The Plan, once adopted, will become a legal document for planning purposes.**

Of course, if you haven't yet written to NCC on the Barratts' application you should please do so. Planning have assured me that, although the official closing date for representations was 26th on this application they would be logging all received right up to the day the formal committee considers the application.

If you want any help in composing a letter contact me or a member of Hepscott Parish Council or see Morpeth Action Group website.

You can see the planning application on the Northumberland County Council website, ref 13/02416/FUL, where you can also make your objection. Alternatively, write to the Planning Officer, John Dowsett, at NCC, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF or email him at john.dowsett@northumberland.gov.uk.

Ian Lindley – Independent County Councillor for Morpeth Stobhill

On a personal level my big news is that I have now decided to formally become an Independent Councillor, having refused the party whip since May and classed myself as Independent Lib Dem.

I am now fully independent. This is due to my lack of confidence in the party leadership at County level and weak, un-democratic decision-making processes against which I have struggled for the last five years.

This will not affect my work for Stobhill, Morpeth and Northumberland, which you know I am completely committed to. Similarly I am sure that my current Stobhill Town Council colleagues (three of whom I recruited to the party to fight the May election!) will wish us to continue working together for the good of all. Party labels are meaningless to me – it is about the quality of people, teamwork and creative thinking. I have found that 'Gang' conformity tends to typify political party culture. This is timewasting and leads to the kind of tit-for-tat childish politics we are all heartily sick of. The German model of consensus politics is my favoured model for the future – not that I can do much about that, but just so you know!

Contact details for Ian Lindley: Ian.Lindley@northumberland.gov.uk

01670 515217



Glen Sanderson County Councillor for Hepscott Village:

I am now getting more familiar with Hepscott and the surrounding area as I get used to this new part of the Longhorsley council seat, and have found everyone I have come across so far very friendly and welcoming.

Many of the issues I have taken up are around planning and the inevitable pothole issues.

On the latter point, because I have received so many complaints about this, I recently asked a formal Question at the County Council which asked for the number of claims made against the Council and those on which were paid out.

In the six months up to June this year, there were 606 claims made for pothole damage and 124 were paid out.

Because a number of those people who have failed to receive payment feel very upset, I feel an Appeals procedure would be of value and I have formally asked that this should be considered.

I have also asked about the Council's role within the Northumberland Safer Roads Partnership - made up of the local Councils and the Police. They run the speed cameras and the Council pays £120,000 each year as their share.

Following complaints that the mobile speed cameras pick locations where safety is not an issue, I asked how many times over the past six months they had been deployed on the A697 - one of our most dangerous roads in the County.

To my amazement, the answer was - not once.... As a result, I wrote to Vera Baird, the Police Commissioner, to seek her help and received supportive responses from her and the Partnership. Hopefully the matter has been discussed...

Meanwhile, big issues are looming - all around Housing and what Morpeth should or may look like in ten years time. I have already made it clear that I will stand firm against the development at Stobhill and have spoken to planners to that effect. Like many of you, I have formally objected to the proposals.

I am happy to update anyone on this or any other issue that affects or concerns you. My email address is: glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk or phone me on 07730 979737

Questionnaires and the Green Belt



As mentioned earlier the Parish Council have spent a lot of time on specific planning applications in the last 3 months, but the two 'bigger picture' issues of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan and the forthcoming Northumberland County Council (NCC) consultations on the green belt are equally, if not more, important to the future of the Parish.

You should have recently received a Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Short Questionnaire. I urge you to complete it—details of how are on the back page of the form. The deadline to return it is 30 October.

Most important is to fill in the box on 'issues missed' or 'that you feel particularly strong about'. **Now is the time for Hepscott to strongly express its views on two key issues. Firstly that retention of open countryside between the A196 and Hepscott is essential to retain the character of the Parish. Our aim should be that the green belt starts at the A196.** The alternative is constant fights against developers and the eventual coalescence of Hepscott with Morpeth.

Secondly **the Environment and Housing sections miss some of the real flooding issues for Hepscott—run-off from housing developments downstream into the Hepscott Burn; the inadequacy of the ponds designed to store floodwater and attenuate the flow** (or SuDS, Sustainable urban Drainage Systems, as they are known). There are 5 around Hepscott yet in September 2012 we still suffered more flooding. Our sewage system capacity is too small and is a dual system (sewers take both foul and fresh water); and the fact that we are not part of the Wansbeck river system but the Blyth. You can put in flood defences galore in Morpeth and it won't affect us a scrap.

Please have your say on these important issues. If we can get them recognised as part of the final Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, and it is accepted by a referendum, NCC have to take our views into account. 'Planning done by us, not to us'. The second issue is closely related. It is NCC that have the say on where the green belt will be. They start a consultation on the issue (amongst others) on 31 October and it runs for 9 weeks. We will have a further opportunity to reiterate the views above about the green belt boundary. Please keep your eyes open for this and make your opinions known.

Phil Ashmore

Look out for each other

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The bell rings. Standing on the door step is an agitated woman, 30ish. "I've been stung by a wasp" she gasps. Peering at the heavily tattooed arms, nothing is obvious to the villager. Alarm bells are ringing. But how to

get out of this nicely? As a spontaneous response this takes some beating," I know nothing about bee stings but there is a doctor next door." Probably true in Hepscott. Predictably the doctor was not troubled. However, at the other end of the village she was more successful, gained entry and stole a purse. The undesirables are ever more inventive. Villagers have to match their ingenuity and be one step ahead.

It has been an unusual, strange period in NHW. At one property there have been mysterious incidents of door bell ringing at unsociable hours and in spite of extensive enquiries no one has been seen. If you have experienced anything similar please let me know.

Diesel oil continues to be stolen around the area. Three garden sheds were broken into and a caravette ransacked, all on the same night. Nearby thieves broke the window of a bungalow, mid afternoon, and stole jewellery, nothing else.

As always, note anything out of the ordinary. Vehicle reg. numbers and a brief description of their associated drivers are invaluable. Use 101 to report your concerns.

With the dark nights drawing in a reminder to please not leave your house in darkness. This is an invitation to the opportunist burglar. So reset those time clocks, close the curtains and leave a light on when you are out of an evening.

JM

Village life.....

Over recent weeks a few incidents have occurred which made us reflect upon the privilege we have of living in a small village where looking after each other should be part of daily routine but....

A resident in Crofts Park, always scrupulous about ensuring the stream bed going through her garden is kept clean, spent time heaving branches out of the water one week and then saw a load of garden rubbish had accumulated the following week, clearly having been put in the water upstream. The Environment Dept regards this behaviour as the equivalent of fly tipping and they removed the rubbish but it is an inconsiderate action to your neighbours and a flood risk. Please dispose of your garden debris properly.

Everyone has enjoyed being in their gardens during our wonderful summer. However noise from neighbouring properties has spoiled this enjoyment in more than one instance. Complaints have been registered formally with the council. The subjects of one complaint felt hurt and upset and no longer able to enjoy their own garden particularly as no other close residents considered there was a problem. Hepscott is a thriving community of all generations and we should all be able to enjoy time in our own gardens. Please be considerate and aware of the noise from your property.

Walkers who use footpaths around the village have struggled to negotiate overgrown hedges, although thank you to the gentleman who took time cut back the encroaching brambles on one stretch of the path. Those of us who have hedges on our boundaries should keep them trim and neat so that paths are easily accessible.

On the subject of safety, we remind anyone walking late at night or after dusk has fallen, to carry a torch, or wear light clothing.

Bonfires....take care when you light up, watch out for hedgehogs, make sure no one has washing out or windows open and keep an eye on where the smoke is going. A bonfire is one of the joys of autumn, at the right time, in the right place.

BONFIRE on Nov 5 lit at 4.00pm in the orchard.

The Annual General Meeting of Hepscott Heritage Group will take place in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, 20 November, commencing at 8pm. All are welcome.

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The fabulous Vieux Carre Jazzmen had a capacity audience toe-tapping on an excellent night out in September. A coffee morning in August had some extremely tasty cakes thanks to Kathryn Scott and Carol Mathews.



We have a full agenda until the end of the year. October 19th is the last Coffee Morning of the year. Then October 26th brings us a well recommended show "Salt". This is a family show with music, storytelling and projected imagery performed by well known artists.

On 29th November we have "Oscar Wilde's Lord Arthur Saville's Crime" a black comedy, just what everyone needs to brighten a cold winters night. More about these shows will be advertised in the Inside Morpeth magazine.

10th December is Lee's Holly Wreath Making Night. Come along and make your own Christmas decorations and have a glass (or more) of wine. I have been told this is a great night to meet friends, have a chat and take your creations home with pride.

The usual Mulled Wine drop-in is on Saturday 21st December, another chance to meet friends have a drink or two (it would appear people of Hepscott like a little tippie) and try your luck on the tombola.

This brings us to New Year's Eve. Over the years we have been asked why don't we have something in the hall at new year? Well your prayers have been answered because this year we are opening up the hall for anyone and everyone who wants to come along. A fun night is planned with music and games. Bring your own food and drink and expect to have a rousing New Year's Eve. It is a free evening with maybe just a small donation.

As always all these events will be advertised outside the hall along with times, prices and phone numbers to book tickets

Katie McDonald 514031

Hepscott Women's Institute

Hepscott W.I. met again in September after the summer break. Well not exactly a break as, although there is no meeting in August the W.I. hosted it's traditional summer party for the village. We have enjoyed some interesting activities during the summer months: in June a visit to Newbiggin Maritime Centre and Woodhorn Colliery Museum. An invitation to a Flower Arranging Demonstration at North Seaton W.I. resulted in three members sweeping the board to win beautiful flower arrangements in the raffle. Some members joined the march of suffragettes from the Railway Station to St.Mary's church during the celebrations to commemorate the death of Emily Wilding Davison on June 15th. At the September meeting Gail Mortimer talked about the fabulous jewellery she knits and designs using string, wire and beads. She soon had everyone finger knitting to create a "loopy" scarf. Silence reigned as concentration took over to count, loop and tug the wool.

Next month – on October 15th at 7.30pm we welcome Ian Byatt of Moorhouse Farm who is going to tell us about his farm and popular local farm shop. On Friday 18 October we are hosting a QUIZ NIGHT in the Parish Hall. This is open to everyone– with light refreshments and soft drinks but bring your own alcoholic drinks. Join together to make a team and get you tickets from Linda or Carolyn. The November meeting will focus on preparations for the forthcoming festive season as we discover Makes and Bakes for Christmas – a craft evening with a difference.

Members of Hepscott W.I. are a friendly bunch and are always delighted to welcome visitors and new members. If you have moved into the village recently or lived here a while and always thought that you should come along to a meeting but never got around to it then make this the time to try us out. You are assured of a warm welcome, its a great place to make new friends or even chat to neighbours whom you've only ever nodded to in passing.

Posters in the window of the village hall always have details of the next meeting. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. if you would like any information you can phone either of the joint presidents: Carolyn Reid 01670 515308 or Linda Wadge 01670 504909

We look forward to welcoming you at one of our meetings.

100 Club Winners

May 1 Mr M Robson
2 Mrs V Whitfield
3 Mr & Mrs Bosanko
June 1 Mr Ramsey
2 Mr and Mrs. Youngs
3 Mr D Hicks
Special prize
Mr & Mrs Weightman

July 1 Mr J Johnston
2 Mrs M Callf
3 Mr F Barker
August 1 Mrs M Fischer
2 Mr & Mrs Bosanko
3 Mrs L E Stanners
Sept 1 Mr A Murray
2 Mrs I Ainsley
3 Mrs M McAndrew



A grey squirrel spotted in the village has gone but sadly no reds have been reported in Hepscott. Reds have been spotted elsewhere within the Parish. In autumn they move to new territories and search for new food supplies. If you see a squirrel of either colour please ring Kate Weightman 515504

Regular activities in the Parish Hall

Mondays
Quilting Class 10.00 a.m.
Tai Chi 6.15 p.m.

Tuesdays
Bridge Class 10.00 a.m.
Line Dancing Club 7.00 p.m.
W.I. 3rd in month 7.30 p.m.
Village Tea
Last in month 2.00 p.m.

Wednesdays
Yoga Class 7.00 p.m.

Thursdays
Art at Hepscott
9.00a.m. – 12.15 p.m.
Bridge for All 1.30 p.m.
Parish Council 6.30 p.m.
3rd in month bi-monthly.
Bridge Class 7.00 p.m.

Friday
Keep Fit 10.30 a.m.
Bridge for All 1.30 p.m.

Saturday
2nd in month
Chatterbox Quilters 9.30 a.m.

Sunday
1st and 3rd in month 6.00 pm
North East Mandolin Band

SPECIAL EVENTS

OCTOBER
W.I. Quiz
Friday 18 October 7.30 pm
Hall Committee
Coffee Morning
Saturday 19 October 10.30 am
SALT!

Saturday 26 October 7.30 pm
NOVEMBER

Parish Council
Thursday 21 Nov 6.30 pm
Highlights

Oscar Wilde's Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
Friday 29 November 7.30 pm
DECEMBER

Hall Committee
Wreath Making
Tuesday 10 December 7.00 pm
Mulled Wine Evening
Saturday 21 December 3.00 pm
New Year's Eve Party
Tuesday 31 December

Hepscott Herald DEADLINE
Friday 31 January 2014
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