

NEWS MAGAZINE



SPRING 2018

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK

Parish Council
www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

THE Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has continued to work hard to produce a plan that is representative of the views of residents but will also comply with the approved Bromsgrove Local Plan. This Plan states that by 2030, 2,300 more houses need to be allocated, within Bromsgrove District, to the main settlement areas of which Catshill is one. A grant was obtained to employ independent consultants who carried out a Landscape Character and Capacity Assessment Study which provided evidence about the viability of land for development within the Parish of Catshill. The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group attended the Annual Parish Meeting held in Catshill Village Hall on 12th April and gave a

***Your Views are Really Important
MAKE THEM COUNT!***



presentation. This included outline plans for further workshops towards the end of this year and also explained about the forthcoming household questionnaire. This questionnaire has been months in the preparation and includes options for objectives and policies to meet the vision statement

which is based on views and issues raised in previous consultations. It will also identify potential sites for housing development to meet the District's target. The questionnaire will be distributed to every house within the Parish and the results will be analysed to ensure the final Neighbourhood Plan represents the views of Parish residents. This Plan will be the subject of a Parish referendum next year. Please make sure that you look out for this questionnaire and take a few minutes of your time to complete and return it. Make your views count – this Neighbourhood Plan is for yourselves and the future generations of Catshill and North Marlbrook. Be a part of it!

Meet Your Parish Council

CATSHILL and North Marlbrook Parish Council now has the full quotient of 13 Councillors, each working voluntarily within this tier of Local Government. Although Councillors are assigned to a specific ward, each of them work together as a team to ensure the village maintains its community feel and that the views of residents are represented as accurately as possible. Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk or Assistant Clerk or by using their initial and surname followed by

@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

eg: emailing *o.sweeting@catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk*

will put you in direct contact with the Chair of the Council. So....who's who?!

Barley Meadow:



*Cllr. Owen Sweeting –
Parish Council Chair*



Cllr. Martin Knight



*Cllr. Malcolm
Shephard*



Cllr. Michael Ball



Cllr. Neil Ward



Cllr. Phil Baker



Cllr. Jill Bate



Cllr. Paul Masters

Woodrow Ward:



Cllr. Glenys Blackmoor



Cllr. Collette Stark



Cllr. Val Harman

Marlbrook Ward:



*Cllr. Bernard
McEldowney – Parish
Council Vice Chair*



Cllr Tessa Gillespie

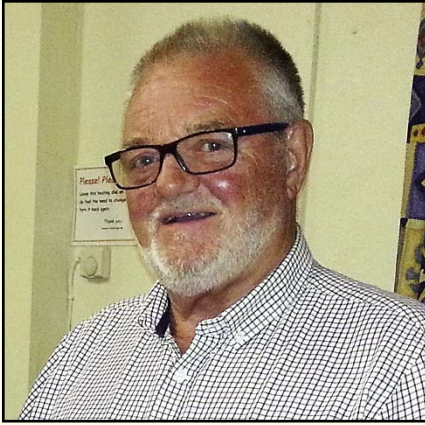


*Rebekah Powell –
Clerk to the Council*



*Jim Quinn – Assistant
Clerk to the Council*

Staff:



AS a Parish, we are very fortunate to have a significant group of people who sincerely care about the village we live in. These people give their time and effort to help in bringing about the changes they would like to occur, rather than have these changes imposed upon them. One such group of people are the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. They will be sending out a questionnaire in the next few weeks which, once approved and accepted, will have a significant impact on the type of development that occurs in our Parish. It is imperative if you wish to influence the

changes and inevitable growth of the village, that you complete the questionnaire and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided. The data from these questionnaires will then be inputted into a programme, that will give a weighted direction as to which way the majority of our residents would like the Village to evolve. Make sure you do not miss this valuable opportunity for you to have your say.

Some good news is hearing a number of people saying we are getting the old village atmosphere back. The success of recent events, such as the Bonfire and Fireworks night attended by a large number of you, was highly influential. Furthermore, there was a well-run Armistice Day with the service at Catshill Community Club, followed by a march over to the cenotaph, and a further service involving the naming of the fallen and the laying of wreaths, finished off nicely with a warm cup of something back over at the club. We then had the first turning on of the Christmas lights, which was preceded by a wonderful children's choir and some excellent dancing all in the road outside of our Village Hall on a very cold evening. Following this, we had the Parish Christmas meal for the senior citizens in the village. This was a super afternoon that was very much enjoyed by the 40 or so people that attended. (It was interesting to note that Father Christmas had lost a bit of weight from last year!)

To conclude, the Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Village Hall on the 12th April with an entertaining and informative presentation from Caroline Webster of Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, covering details of services on offer to support people to reduce the risk from fire, including those available to vulnerable households and another from Dr Chris Fabray promoting the aforementioned activity of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. It was also attended by representatives of community groups who offered reports on the year just passed. It is the Parish Council's intention to move the date of this event slightly next year to ensure it does not fall within the Easter Holiday and hopefully will allow more people to attend.

Surfacing of Front Gardens

Did you know that planning permission may be needed if you want to surface your front garden?

The Parish Council's Planning Committee have been investigating the issue of the surfacing of front gardens following concerns being raised by a local resident. The main concern was that surfacing of front gardens with an impermeable (non-porous) material could contribute to local flooding due to increased run-off of rainwater. If however the run off went to a soak away on the property or a permeable material, such as gravel, was used, this would allow natural drainage into the ground, would not contribute to possible local flooding or result in water flowing over the adjoining pavement. Aesthetic concerns were also raised as extensive surfacing of front gardens, especially using material out of keeping with the house, could spoil the overall appearance of the road.

Planners at Bromsgrove District Council were contacted about this who confirmed the necessity of obtaining planning permission if a householder wanted to surface an area of over 5m² (approximately 6 square yards) and that the main consideration in assessing such an application was the flooding implications.

Planning permission is not needed if a new or replacement driveway of any size uses permeable surfacing, such as gravel, permeable concrete or porous asphalt, or if the rainwater is directed to a lawn or border to drain naturally.

The Planning Committee thought it would be helpful if local residents were aware of these issues, the relevant legislation and the availability of free guidance on the Government's website. This can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/permeable-surfacing-of-front-gardens-guidance

This guidance leaflet, as well as explaining the legislation, also explains the different ways you can construct a driveway or other paved area that controls and reduces rainfall runoff into drains by using permeable surfaces. It is not overly technical and could be useful for anyone thinking of carrying out such work; even if it doesn't need planning permission.

In addition to asking me to write this article The Planning Committee also decided that:

- When commenting on planning applications for new residential development they would ask that front gardens not be surfaced in impermeable material
- Suitable reference to this issue be included in the Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan
- This issue be raised at the March meeting of the County Association of Local Councils to see how other parish councils in the area deal with it

Proposed Development at Perryfields Road Bromsgrove

There is currently a planning application being considered by Bromsgrove District Council for the construction of 1,300 dwellings and other associated uses, such as a school.

Although not in the parish this application is of concern to the Parish Council mainly because of the traffic implications. Parish Councillors met with officers of Bromsgrove District Council and Worcestershire County Council in January to discuss this and raise their concerns. Following this meeting Planning Committee discussed the issue again and the following formal comment was submitted to Bromsgrove's planners as a result.

"The Parish Council object to the proposed Perryfields development in its current form and scale due to the serious adverse traffic effects on the parish of Catshill and North Marlbrook and Lower Catshill in particular.

If the development goes ahead that every effort should be made to mitigate the adverse traffic effects. Such mitigation measures to include:

- *Strategic route signing, e.g. to M5 J4, that avoids through traffic in Catshill.*
- *The creation of a 20mph speed limit on the B4185 (including Meadow Rd) between Stourbridge Road and the A38.*
- *The improvement of peak time traffic flows along the B4185 eastwards by the carrying out of improvements at the junction of the B4185/A38/Braces Lane."*

Draft New High Quality Design Guidelines

This is a proposed new Supplementary Planning Document issued by Bromsgrove Council for consultation. Planning Committee considered this at their February meeting and comments were subsequently sent to Bromsgrove Council. The comments were mainly in respect of residential properties, both new and alterations to existing.

The consultation draft can be found at:

www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/council/policy-and-strategy/planning-policies/local-development-plan/supplementary-planning-guidance.aspx

Jim Quinn Assistant Clerk to the Council

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Catshill Methodist Church 50th Anniversary



The 'New' Catshill Methodist Church under construction in 1968.



Catshill Methodist Church starting their 50th anniversary celebrations.

THE current Catshill Methodist Church building will have been open for 50 years in October 2018.

On Sunday 15th October 2017, part of the evening service took place outside of the church, on the car park. This helped mark the start of what will be a year of initiatives leading up to the Golden Anniversary Celebration in October this year.

Bonfire Event



LAST year's Bonfire Event, held on 4th November 2017 at Catshill Meadow, was another great success. The Parish Council and the Bromsgrove Scouts work together each year to provide a spectacular for all those who venture out into the cold. In addition to the money raised by the Scouts at their food and drink stall, the Parish Council also donated 50% of the gate takings to the group to assist with the provision for young people in the village. A huge thank you goes to all those who work tirelessly each year to ensure this event continues.

SUMMER GARDENS COMPETITION

For all those budding gardening enthusiasts, the Parish Council will again be running their Summer Gardens Competition in 2018. This competition is open to all and includes those without gardens who use window boxes, or small patches that can only fit tubs through to larger gardens that are bursting with colour. Councillors will drive around the village and view gardens, awarding prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. If you wish your garden or that of a neighbour to be specifically judged, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Good Luck!

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PREVIOUS editions have featured old photographs of people, places, buildings and even a choir from our past, and I hope you have enjoyed looking at these photos as much as I have.

In this edition we go back to 1989, with a programme from what was the annual Catshill Carnival supplied by Dave Webb.



This event ran from when the nation celebrated the Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977, through to the early 1990's. I have chosen to show you the front and back cover, and a page showing the route that the procession took each year.

It was always a very colourful major event and really did involve the whole of the community. It was very well supported, especially in the early years, with lots of activities on the Meadow.

Looking through the pages it is noticeable that many of the village businesses that advertised in the programme no longer operate, and several

organisations that were featured no longer exist either.

One question this document raises is... with a population of well over 6000 people, could we possibly find a band of willing volunteers prepared to re-introduce the carnival?

If you have an interesting photograph from our past that you would like us to feature, then please contact the Clerk.

Cllr. Paul Masters

WE have been working hard to publish a brand new website for Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council. It will include more interactive features, up to date information, communication links, a link to the Neighbourhood Plan website and will hopefully allow you as residents to understand more about the workings of the Parish Council. It is also designed to assist the Council with gaining the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Status, which we are aiming to achieve within the year, promoting and recognising the professionalism of the Parish Council.



www.catshillandnorthmarlbrook-pc.gov.uk

The new look site will launch by Summer 2018! Keep checking back.

We are also on Facebook. Like us to receive interactive updates and news about upcoming events.

Christmas Party



THE second Christmas Meal Event, was a huge success and this year the event was sponsored and funded by the Parish Council.

Everybody enjoyed wonderfully cooked food, excellent service, entertainment and even singing from the Chairman of the council! Later on Father Christmas found time in his busy schedule to put in an appearance.

A huge thank-you to all those people who helped on the day with cooking or service for the increased number of people attending and the Parish Council look forward to doing it all again next Christmas.

CATSHILL and North Marlbrook Parish Council Office is located to the rear of the Village Hall. The office is a small space and with the increasing activity of the Council and the subsequent equipment that is being purchased to facilitate this, it was becoming very cramped. The Parish Council have commissioned the supply of a garage to the rear of the hall to assist with this issue and is part of an initiative to make the office more welcoming but also more visible to the community. Look out for a new patio area being laid at both the entrance to the Village Hall and the Parish Council office which has been funded by the Village Hall, and new signs that will direct you all to the soon to be newly decorated office space.

LAST October, the vice-chair of the Parish Council, Bernard McEldowney presented the annual reading awards to a number of youngsters at the library in Catshill.

The theme of this year's reading was based on spies and espionage with Wayne the secret agent present at the awards.

Also, Catshill Library held a successful volunteer recruitment event on Friday 26th January. They would like to thank the people who attended to find out more about what was involved in volunteering at the library. Attendees were able to ask questions and find out more from existing staff and volunteers. Subsequently the library received forms from a number of these people so look out for new faces over the coming weeks. If you would be interested in volunteering at Catshill Library please let them know.

If you have a Facebook or Twitter account then please follow the library to keep up to date with any forthcoming events and activities including those in school holidays.

Twitter - www.twitter.com/CatshillLib

Facebook - www.facebook.com/BromsgroveandCatshillLibrary/

Opening Times

Monday: 9:15am - 12:15pm - **Tuesday:** 3:00pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday: Closed - **Thursday:** 3:00pm - 5.30pm

Friday: 9:30am - 12:00pm - **Saturday:** 9:30am - 12:30pm

Sunday: Closed

The Library will also be closed on Bank Holidays

Parish Council Emergency Planning

Can you help?

ALL major emergencies are dealt with by the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Utilities and Voluntary Agencies in a combined response, but in extreme conditions such as heavy snow, storm and flooding, there is a possibility that the emergency services may not be able to reach the scene immediately.

In such circumstances, the initial response may rely entirely on local people.

A Community Emergency Plan can help a community prepare for an emergency and minimise its impact should they be affected.

The Parish Council are formulating a plan, but as part of it we need to identify what resources may be available within the village. Here are some of the categories which we are looking for:

- ***Four wheel drive vehicles***
- ***Chain saws*** (for clearing fallen trees)
- ***First aiders***

If you think you may be able to help, please telephone or email the Parish Clerk.

Cllr M. Shephard



The Catshill War Memorial being unveiled in 1927

WHEN large crowds gathered for the annual act of remembrance on Sunday 12th November last year, it marked 90 years of remembrance at this location.

The Catshill War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated by Major-General De Cayley CBC, MG on 2nd October 1927 (9 years after the end of the WWI).

When the huge crowds of 1927 gathered in Meadow Road, I doubt that they imagined that a second world war would start just 12 years later, requiring even more names to be added

to the monument. I also wonder if that crowd of 1927 ever imagined that 90 years later, villagers would still gather at the same spot to pay their respects.

Pictured is James Homer who silently stood, dressed as a WWI soldier at last November's service. Simon Gudger from the Baptist Church conducted the services at the Social Club and at the Memorial supported by Anne Smith from the Methodist Church. Thanks are also due to Blackwell Band who performed the lovely music and Paul Hatton who played the bugle.

One of our objectives is to involve younger people in the events so thanks to Luke Galt from Catshill Middle School and Will Collier from the Scouts who each read out a list of names from the War Memorial, and Ben Dawson who read the poem.

This year's commemoration on 11th November will be significant as it will be exactly 100 years since the armistice of the First World War. Planning will commence in September and although much of the event changes little from year to year, we are looking to do something special this time and one suggestion is more music. If anybody has any ideas or would like to help with the planning then please contact the Parish Council.

Finally thanks to Beaumont Traffic Management who manage the road closures. It causes some degree of inconvenience but for safety reasons is necessary.



James Homer stands silently at the memorial.



The War Memorial in 1927.



90 years later.

Getting Help With Your PC & Internet Skills?

catshill.online



An opportunity has arisen for people to get help with their computer & internet skills by attending free sessions to take place at **Catshill Village Hall for 1-2hrs one afternoon a week.**

Sessions will be tailored to individual needs on a 1-2-1 basis to help people do the things they need for their lives – e.g. someone coming home from hospital wanting to order groceries & prescriptions online, a club organiser needing help, somebody about to set up a business, a disabled or retired person wanting to be able to use Skype, Facebook or email, or to expand a hobby, or a jobseeker needing help with a cv - the list is endless.

To register, phone, text or email your contact information to Philip Cooper on **07866 805229** or mail@catshill.online – if you know anybody, tell them now!

Time commitment: 1-2hrs one afternoon a week



LEARN TO DANCE



Thursdays at Catshill Social Club

- 1.15-1.45pm Melody Movers Age 2-3
- 2.15-2.45pm Melody Movers Age 3-4
- 4-4.30pm First Ballet (Ages 4-5)
- 4.30-5pm First Tap/Modern (Ages 4-5)
- 5-5.40pm Beginner Acro (Ages 4-8)
- 5.40-6.10pm Primary Tap and Modern (Age 5-8)
- 6.10-6.40pm Primary Ballet (Age 5-8)

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Christmas Lights Switch On



Fairfield First School Choir.



Stars Dance Academy.

CATSHILL'S first Christmas Light Switch On was attended by over 200 people on Saturday 25th November last year.



Santa meets a fan.

Entertainment was provided by Stars Dance Academy with a range of Street Dancing and Ballroom Dancing, and Fairfield First School Choir who sang beautiful Christmas carols.

The lights on the lampposts, Christmas tree and Village Hall which were switched on by Santa (who appeared from nowhere) really did look magical, and helped spread some cheer over the festive period.

Thank you to all people and organisations that were instrumental in organising this event.

Next Christmas will see even more lights on the lampposts!

Useful Numbers

Bromsgrove District Council: **01527 881288**

Out of hours emergency: **01527 871565**

Catshill and Marlbrook Local Policing Team

01527 583733 / 0300 333 3000

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

Contact Us

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Published by Catshill & North Marlbrook Parish Council