

# LONG WHATTON AND DISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Email address: [parishcouncil@lwdpc.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@lwdpc.org.uk)

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## NEWSLETTER

### Flooding—Be Prepared!

Sign up for **FREE** flood warning messages: <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

A summary of the current warnings in place in England and Wales can be found on the Environment Agency website at: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>. This page is refreshed every 15 minutes.

**Practical advice and guidance**  
Information on flooding can be found on the on the gov.uk website (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather>). **Advice is available on what steps to take before, during and after a flood, protecting your property from flooding and information on riparian ownership.**

#### Sandbags

Sandbags are of limited use during a flood and residents at flood risk should be encouraged to purchase purpose-designed flood protection equipment to help protect their home. Local Authorities DO NOT have a statutory duty to provide residents with sandbags to protect their properties. The Council will however assist where possible, with priority given to vulnerable residents.

### Remembrance Day 2021

#### Coming Soon:

In 2020, North West Leicestershire District Council installed poppy artwork in Ashby de la Zouch, Coalville and Whitwick; this was in response to the scaled back 2020 Remembrance Commemorations due to the pandemic, but also taking the opportunity to do something different.

The poppies were very well received by residents of the district and there was interest from other parishes to get involved in 2021.

The Parish Council have committed to be involved in the NWLDC 'Poppy Art proposal for Remembrance 2021' please keep a look out for the following art work in Long Whatton and Diseworth.



### The Plough, Diseworth

Requested by residents of Diseworth, the Parish Council has submitted an application to register The Plough as an asset of community value. This means that once the asset is listed and is put up for sale, the new right will give communities a six month option to acquire the asset enabling an increased chance to save a much loved pubs.

The Plough provides a social gathering place, which is vitally important to residents, old and new, to keep the community alive, providing benefits of social wellbeing of the community.

The Plough hosts different events including quiz night, dominos, darts tournaments, community sports, charity dos, crib teams and it is home to the annual boxing day fun run. It is a place for networking, in both work and social aspects.

Some residents have met and have spoken about the possibility of a co-operative enterprise, if required. The Plough would continue to be used as a public house; however, it has the potential to expand its services throughout the day, to many different people and age groups, which would ensure it would remain financially viable.

## The Methodist Church, Long Whatton

The Parish Council has been offered the opportunity to purchase the Methodist Church in Long Whatton and retain it as a community building.

Careful consideration needs to be given to the uses of the facility and the repair and upgrade works required to the building, including forming an off-road car park.

At the moment the PC has instructed an architect to undertake a feasibility study to see draft plans and costs to understand the extent of the works required and whether it is affordable to do so. Once we have all the information together, along with an estimate of cost, this will be made available to the public in order for the community to make the decision as to whether it would like to see the PC undertake this work.

The main idea is to use the space like a village hall. E.g. small community groups, including the play group, Scouts, Brownies, Karate etc, afternoon teas, art groups, kids parties and maybe wedding receptions from time to time.

***The Parish Council would be very interested to hear from all members of the community regarding this proposed project. Please could I ask you to email [parishcouncil@lwdpc.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@lwdpc.org.uk).***

## Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

A **HUGE thank you** to everyone that took the time to complete the NHP questionnaire — we received a fantastic result in the amount of responses and following this the Parish Council has been able to create a Working Party to assist with the creation of the plan.

All results from the questionnaire are available on the PC website, please visit [www.lwdpc.org.uk](http://www.lwdpc.org.uk) and search Planning and then Neighbourhood Plan.

***'A Neighbourhood Plan provides the opportunity for communities to set out a positive vision to how they want their community to develop over the next 10,15,20 years in a way that meets defined local need and that makes sense to local people.'***

A NHP is a planning document, which is there for deciding planning applications. This plan has legislative weight at the end of the process.

**The key issues identified so far are:** Protecting green space, countryside and conserving the character of the parish villages.

**The role of the Working Group, along with the Parish Council is to** prepare and gather evidence, and get the views of the community on things that are important to residents—It is important that it is 'the communities NHP' which will ultimately be supported by a referendum – therefore must reflect the broad views of the community.

***Please look out and keep up to date with future developments.***

## Overgrown Vegetation

Overgrown hedges, and other garden foliage, continue to be a regular problem in Long Whatton and Diseworth. The Parish Council would kindly like to ask that all hedges are trimmed back; making pathways clearer, safer and easier to access, particularly for the children, especially now the nights are becoming darker earlier.

Most of the problems are caused by privet hedges; Privet hedges are **impossible** to kill with pruning. They should be trimmed at least three times a year to avoid long leggy growth.

If that seems a bit excessive then twice will do – early spring and late summer being the optimum times.

Remember that for every branch or stem that you lop off, two will grow in their place so it will bush out very easily. To avoid a top heavy hedge trim the top narrower than the base. This will also encourage shoots to grow from the base.

If you are feeling bold, and your hedge is in need of a total restyle, and is bare at the base and over heavy on the top, cut it down to about 6" from the ground! This sounds drastic but it will throw up lovely new shoots and become a decent hedge within two years.

Remember to check for birds nesting between 1st March and 31st August. The RSPB recommend that cutting hedges and trees are avoided during these times.

### **Vacancy – Position of Councillor**

There is currently a vacant seat on the Parish Council. Applications are being invited for the position of Parish Councillor in the Long Whatton Ward.

**Why become a councillor?...Could you make a difference to your Parish Council?**

*Do you have any spare time to get involved with your local Parish Council; sharing your knowledge,*

*experience and life skills to serve and enhance your local community?*

*Would you like to have a say about the local issues people care about?*

*Decide how local money is spent in the Parish to improve your community?*

*And want to make a positive difference and be involved in shaping the future of the local community?*

If so and you would like to find out more about becoming a councillor please contact any of the current members or the Clerk at [parishcouncil@lwdpc.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@lwdpc.org.uk).

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