THURNBY AND BUSHBY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council cordially invites all residents to
THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MONDAY 16 MAY 2016, 7.00 – 8.30 PM
HILL COURT COMMUNITY CENTRE, MAIN STREET, BUSHBY

AGENDA

Approximate timings

7.00 pm 1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Introduction to Parish, District and County Councillors

7.05 pm 4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 May 2015
5. Matters arising from the Minutes
6. Chair and Clerk’s report on behalf of the Parish Council

7.15 pm 7. Report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team on policing issues

7.25 pm 8. Traffic calming and pedestrian safety management and parking issues

7.35 pm 9. Community buildings in Thurnby and Bushby and plans for their development

7.50 pm 10. A Neighbourhood Plan for Thurnby and Bushby

8.00 pm 11. Update by County and District Cllr Simon Galton on LCC and HDC issues to include planning developments, the HDC Local Plan and the Electoral Review of Harborough District

8.15 pm 12. Questions and general discussion
13. Date of next meeting

Patricia Chamberlain

Patricia Chamberlain
Chair of the Parish Council
May 2016
This year’s Parish Council report provides an overview of some of the key activity over the last 12 months. For more detail, residents are invited to view the minutes of monthly meetings on the Council’s website at [http://thurnbyandbushby.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/](http://thurnbyandbushby.leicestershireparishcouncils.org/) Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, commencing at 7.00 pm. Meetings are open to the public and include a standing agenda item for residents to raise issues. In addition, the Parish Council provides an article for the TABS newsletter, addressing topical issues during the year.

At last year’s Annual Parish Meeting it was announced that the Parish Council had a vacancy following the elections in May 2015. James King put his name forward and was subsequently co-opted. Later in the year, Debbie Childs resigned, due to other commitments and the Parish Council included an invitation in the winter edition of the TABS newsletter for residents to put their names forward. We very pleased that Simon Brown made contact and was co-opted at the meeting held last Monday 9 May 2016. So, once again the Parish Council is up to full strength. At the same meeting Pat Chamberlain was elected as Chair and Haydn Gopsill as Vice-Chair and Councillors were nominated to represent the PC on the Memorial Hall and TABSASA committees.

As in previous years, much of the PC’s time has been spent considering and commenting on planning applications made to Harborough District Council. During the year this has mainly comprised applications relating to individual properties within the parish. However, the Parish Council has also commented on an application to build on the field known as Manor Field South, adjacent to Grange Lane. While the application was withdrawn before it went to the Harborough Planning Committee, the PC is mindful of the need to fight development on this area which is designated as important open space. The PC also supported Scraptoft Parish Council in objecting to the proposed Gladman development off Beeby Road, but unfortunately the application was approved.

As previously stated, the Parish Council recognises that there has to be residential development to meet housing needs and difficult decisions will have to be made about where this should be. The Parish Council is making sure that it responds robustly at all stages of consultation on the emerging HDC Local Plan. The Local Plan will provide certainty about where development is to take place across the District and hopefully put a stop to large scale planning developments at the behest of developers rather than in locations preferred by the local community. Cllr Simon Galton will speak later about progress of the HDC Local Plan.

On the related matter of a Neighbourhood Plan for Thurnby and Bushby, we are also pleased to announce that sufficient residents have put their names forward to join a Steering Group. Harborough District have approved the designation of the entire parish as a Neighbourhood Area and the Steering Group will be convened during the next few weeks. The Parish Council would still like more people to get involved – this could range from being a member of the Steering Group; joining sub-groups to look at specific aspects; to other tasks such as distributing questionnaires. The key point is that the Neighbourhood Plan should be developed by the community for the benefit of residents of Thurnby and Bushby.

The Parish Council continues to make grants to local groups and in the last year granted
£3,000 each to the Memorial Hall and TABSASA. In addition, the Parish Council was itself successful in applying for s106 funding towards the cost of a bench in memory of former Parish Councillor John Taylor who sadly died in 2015. The bench has been installed on the A47 at the western extremity of the village and provides a resting spot for those walking to and from the shops on Downing Drive.

The Parish Council appoints tree wardens and is very grateful to them for the work they do around the parish. We were sorry that Judith Lord resigned last year after many years as tree warden and would like to formally note its thanks for her contributions to all things “environmental”. At last week’s PC meeting Nigel Garner and Alex Keller were nominated as tree wardens and will be joined by a third recruit, James King.

Thanks are also due to Amanda Burrell and her colleague for running the Parish Council Information Centre (PCIC) on Wednesday mornings, during term time, 9.30 to 11.30. Free access to the internet and advice on issues relating to information technology are available. Also, should you wish to view particular planning applications, do get in touch with Sue Bloy, the Clerk, who will arrange for them to be available during a PCIC session.

We are pleased to announce that the Parish Council is on the move. This evening’s meeting is the first to be held in its new “home” in Hill Court. After several months of negotiation, the lease is to be officially assigned by Harborough District Council to the Parish Council during the next few days. It is hoped that this new location will provide the PC with a higher profile base for its monthly meetings and for the weekly PCIC sessions referred to above. The Hill Court Community Centre was in danger of being closed and the Parish Council is delighted to be in a position to ensure that it remains a community resource for local groups. It will also continue to be used as a Children’s Centre.

The move to Hill Court does not mean that the Parish Council is abandoning its commitment to the Manor Field Pavilion, which has been used by the PC for meetings since 1991. Together with the Humberstone Rangers football team, we joined forces with St Luke’s Church to commission a feasibility study on how best to develop the pavilion. St Luke’s have indicated that they might be able to raise the majority of the funds needed to support improvements to the pavilion and the Parish Council will continue to be involved in developments and in ensuring that the building remains a community resource alongside the Memorial Hall, Wadkins Pavilion and Hill Court.

Finally, in order to carry out their function as the third tier of government, parish councils have a statutory “power” to raise funds to support this through a levy known as a “precept”. The precept enables parish councils to fund services which are specifically targeted to meet the needs of the local communities which they serve. The precept is collected by the local billing authority (Harborough District Council) as an additional sum which is separately itemised on householders’ Council Tax bills. The financial year 2015/16 saw a substantial overspend and an increase in the precept for 2016/17 was agreed to address this, and also to fund developments at Manor Field Pavilion; taking on responsibility for the Hill Court Community Centre as a community asset; and to fund the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. The percentage increase of 41.2% seems substantial, however, it adds only £13.53 to the annual bill per household.