



***Longwick-cum-Ilmer
Parish Council***

This newsletter, which is being delivered to every property in the Parish, will I hope be the first in a number of communications to let you know what is happening in regard to the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) moneys that are beginning to accrue to the Parish Council as the new housing developments in Longwick progress.

Existing residents will know of the broad outline of our ideas which were set out in the Parish Neighbourhood Plan which attracted a 'yes' vote of some 89% of the voting electorate. To new residents, can I let you know that the Plan is available to view on our website.

The first and most obvious sign of new infrastructure is the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) that has been put in, in the playing field, just over by the skate park and zip wire. Completion has been held up by the almost constant wet weather but by the time you are reading this the lining out which is the final outstanding item should have been finished. Adjacent to the MUGA has been erected a range of outdoor fitness equipment, for use by all ages above 13 years old.

For Longwick School, we have funded the relaying of part of their playground area and then lining out for netball and tennis courts when they hope this will lead to the formation of a local netball club for children in the parish who presently have to travel to High Wycombe or Aylesbury. We have also given a commitment to fund the construction of an eco-friendly classroom which will lead to the setting up and running of a Forest School within their grounds but await further details and costs.

We have also given some funding towards the Pre-school to extend their garden and put in new equipment within that area.

Turning to the Village Hall, both the Neighbourhood Plan and the subsequent questionnaire to parishioners confirmed that some improvements to the building which is almost 30 years old would be welcomed, and we have agreed in principle to fund the costs of any extension/improvements that the Trustees agree upon and for which planning permission is granted. The Trustees are presently engaged in obtaining 3 quotes for the work which is necessary both to ensure that the costs are competitive and will represent value for money, and also to comply with our own requirements which require a minimum of 3 quotes for any work in excess of £1,000.

Also with regard to the Village Hall, it is quite obvious that the car park area as laid out in 1991 when the parish population was about 1,200 is not going to be adequate with the population likely to exceed 2,000 by the time all the new houses are built. As such we have agreed with the Trustees that the wooden fence on the playing field which is life expired and suffers lots of knocks from careless motorists will be removed and a new metal fence put up in its place – the fence is vandal proof and will prevent any attempt at unauthorised vehicle access onto the land. It will be some 2m in to the playing field beyond the old fence and this extra width will enable 2 lines of parked vehicles opposite each other for the entire length of the car park when an additional 1 or 2 spaces can be designated for blue badge holders nearer the post office/shop. Final details must be worked out and we are in the process of obtaining quotes from suitable installers but would hope that the work can start early next year.

On a different subject, when the Neighbourhood Plan was being put together and we consulted with you all on your views, landscape and wildlife featured quite strongly with an acknowledgement that public rights of way in the Parish are well used for leisure activities and should remain accessible after all the housing development. We are working through the Parish with a programme of supplying and installing, free of charge, either field gates or kissing gates to take the place of any stiles which are difficult to cross or perhaps in disrepair, thus improving access to our local countryside. This needs the consent of the landowner of course and councillors are in the process of identifying sites and having a word to see if they are interested.

If you are aware of a particular site(s) that could be improved and have not yet been approached, then for paths in and around Longwick please contact Cllr Rolf van Apeldoorn via email on r.apeldoorn@longwickcumilmer.org.uk, and for Ilmer, Owlswick or Little Meadle contact Cllr Jane Rogers on j.rogers@longwickcumilmer.org.uk.

All the above are ongoing at some stage or another but our focus now is on road safety and speed limits and traffic management etc throughout the Parish, as your concerns on a number of these aspects featured very strongly throughout our consultations. Together with our planning consultant I have had a meeting with Transport for Bucks at County Hall to present our ‘wish list’ as it were, and we are awaiting a response before deciding how to progress matters here. I shall of course update you as soon as there is something to report.

Val McPherson BEM
Chairman