



North Hinksey Parish Council

2022 Newsletter



A beacon of hope for good things ahead



After a dizzying first 10 months as Chairman of NHPC, I am happily reminded that progress is progress, even when it's slow. From our not-quite-emergence from the severe disruptions of COVID-19, this year has brought some important steps and things to look forward to in our community.

In January we welcomed our new Parish Clerk, Linda Morrison Allsopp, to the helm. Linda has already proved her mettle in organizing the work of 14 Councillors who have opinions on everything. She is making the Parish Office (next to the Botley Library upstairs entrance) a welcoming space for all – do drop by to say hello when you get the chance.

The articles in this newsletter give you a taste of the many things that your Parish Council is working towards: becoming a carbon-neutral community by 2030 through local green initiatives, improving safety and air quality through a neighbourhood-wide 20mph speed limit, engaging the community on designs for a new skatepark, building a new Pavilion to make the parish playing fields accessible to everyone, bringing new life to the shopping centre with public art, and planning Platinum Jubilee celebrations (including re-lighting the beacon near Louie Memorial Fields – photo from the Diamond Jubilee lighting).

The Annual Parish Meeting on 17th March is a great opportunity to feed into the Parish Council's work and to raise community issues that are important to you. We hope you enjoy reading these updates and that you'll let us know what you'd like to see from us in the year ahead.

Cllr Caroline Potter, Chairman of NHPC

Annual Parish Meeting

Please join us for our Annual Parish Meeting in person in Seacourt Hall or online via Zoom.

7.30pm, Thursday 17th March

See www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk for the agenda, documents and the Zoom link.

The meeting will include updates on our new pavilion and skatepark projects, plus a presentation by Tim Shickle, Group Manager - Traffic & Road Safety, Environment & Place, Oxfordshire County Council. As usual there will be open sessions for questions on any local issues.

Please send any questions by noon on Monday 14th March to our Parish Clerk, Linda via clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk along with suggestions for other topics that you would like us to cover during the meeting.

Grants up for grabs!

As we approach the end of our financial year we find ourselves with a combined total of nearly £10,000 still available in our small and major grants budgets and looking for a good home.

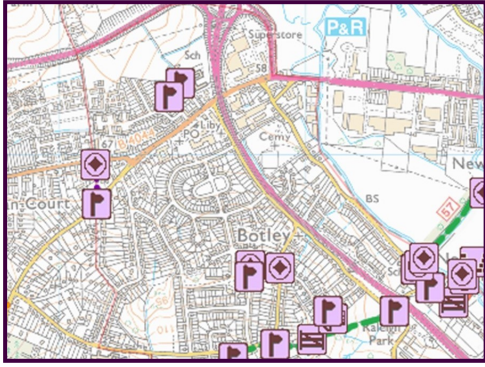
Any local charity or non-profit making community organisation with residents of our Parish making up the majority of their beneficiaries can apply for funds using the NHPC Grant Application Form, which is downloadable from our website at <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/about/grants-to-local-organisations>

Completed forms need to be submitted to our Parish Clerk, Linda (clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk) one week before a full Council meeting. The next one is coming up on the 24th March, so if you're involved in a local organisation that urgently needs funds then get busy and send your form in now!



Help save our footpaths.

Most people are aware of the network of public rights of way across the UK, but we tend to take it for granted, assuming it will always be there. Registered footpaths are protected, but we have surprisingly few in our Parish, so Councillors are keen to hear about others that residents think should be added.



You can find details about all of the current registered paths on the County Council's Countryside Access Map at: <https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/StandardMap.aspx> Simply click on 'Path Number', add the number 311 in the box below it and then click on Search. A listing all 10 registered paths in the Parish allows you to zoom in on that path on the map and then move around the area to see all 10 paths in detail.

Have a think about paths you know about, and if they aren't on the list please send details to our Parish Clerk, Linda, at: clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk

The more details you can send the better, such as the precise location, and the wording of any signs relating to the path or land around it. Although some paths can't be registered there are many more out there that can and should be protected.

This project will help to ensure that everybody can continue to benefit from these rights of way for many years to come, so please join our campaign and help us to save our footpaths.

20's plenty for Botley - Helping to make your streets healthier and safer!

Our Council is always looking for ways to make Botley and North Hinksey a better place for us all to live, work and raise families, and two of the best ways to do that are to **improve air quality**, and to **improve road safety**. A new 20mph speed limit throughout the Parish would help to achieve both of these goals.

The Parish Council has strong community support for this – both the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2021, and the survey shortly afterward, showed a large majority in favour of a 20mph limit.

So now the Parish Council is working closely with our local County Councillor, Judy Roberts, and the County's Highways team to make 20mph a reality. We've applied to be in the Phase 1 programme early in the 2022-23 financial year, and the County Council's Cabinet should agree the budget in February 2022.



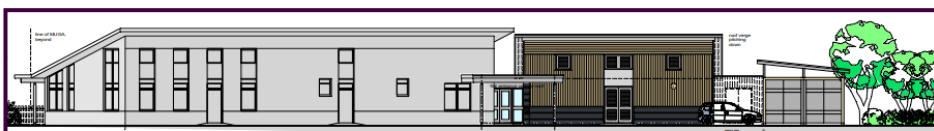
You can find out about 20's Plenty campaigns around the world at www.20splenty.org, and see what Oxford County Council are up to at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic. Look out for further local 20mph news on the Parish Council website.

New Pavilion: all systems go

We started this Council term with a planning application for a new Louie Memorial Pavilion being considered by Vale of White Horse District Council. When permission was granted in July 2019, we thought we'd be doing our big fundraising push that year and enjoying the new space by now. But COVID happened, funding streams dried up, and aspirations for the space got lost in limbo.

Last May we got things moving again, re-engaging potential project partners and doing a reality check on all the work still needed to make the new Pavilion happen. In September we committed funding to meet all the pre-construction planning conditions, and in November we appointed Jessop and Cook architects to lead us through the detailed building designs and appointment of a building contractor. On their advice we've recently appointed a professional fundraiser to help us get the money flowing in.

On that front we've had very exciting news: in February the District Council allocated £250,000 for the new Pavilion in its budget for the coming year. We've still got a lot of work to do and more money to raise before breaking ground, but after such a long wait we're excited to finally see the end goal in sight. We'll review the plans at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th March – please come along and tell us your ideas

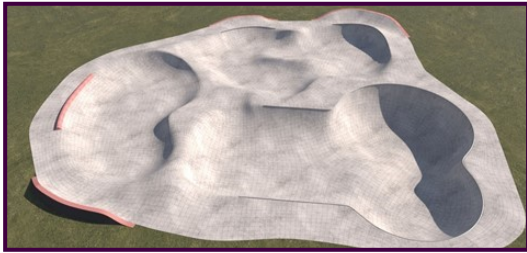


for ways to use this improved community resource in the most welcoming, sustainable way.

Botley Bowl Skatepark – riding into the future!

We have finally made our choice from the six contenders to build our new skatepark. It was a heady process and a hard choice, which came down to two shortlisted candidates. The first offered an elegant clover-leaf bowl set in a ring-shaped park, tilting down into a grassy drainage soakaway area. It had been designed specifically for the site by professionals, some of whom had skated the legendary Botley Bowl when they were young. But that was the problem. The design was too finished!

The other contender (Canvas Spaces) provided a series of carefully calibrated concrete billows – first choice of the majority of skaters, and acknowledged by all as the shape of skateparks of the future. It included elements from the brief such as the bowl and half-pipe, but it was also clear that real changes would be made during consultation to make sure local people had a say in the final design and how it would work.



Overall their tender was a well-defined project, so Canvas Spaces won the day (*see photo*). Everything to look forward to, then, as we move on to the next stages of the process - finalizing the design with further input from local skateboarders - planning application - fundraising - actual build - and a thrilling launch event with professional skaters and prizes, plus follow-up coaching for local boarders to help them make the most of the park's possibilities!

Art works for West Way Square

In April 2021, following a callout and selection process, NHPC commissioned artist Nor Greenhalgh, stone carver Alex Wenham and mosaic artist Clare Goodall to work with the community to create a series of public artworks for the West Way Square shopping centre and the nearby walkway under the A34 flyover. The artworks will be produced using the public art budget allocated as part of the Section 106 contribution required in the planning process.

Since the summer the three artists have consulted local historical material, visited the centre, neighbourhood streets and nature reserves, and held sessions with local groups, schools and members of the community. The three separate yet interconnected pieces are currently in the development stage, and, subject to approval, will offer something for the whole community, with their concepts and designs being inspired by Botley's history, heritage, wildlife and people.

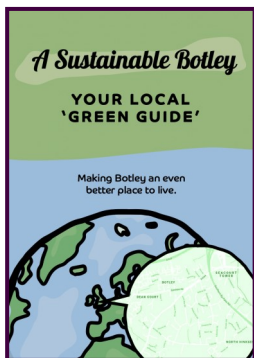
Now we need you to get involved! **Seacourt Hall from 2pm to 5pm on Saturday 19th March**

Please join us at this open event where you can meet the artists, see their proposals, give your feedback and even try your hand at some mosaic and drawing activities!



The greening of Botley

It's over two years since North Hinksey parish council declared a climate emergency. At that time phrases such as lockdown and COVID meant little or nothing and some of our plans have had to change. But we have made some progress, and our initial aims have been achieved.



Our first big event, 'Leap into Action' on February 29th 2020 showed there was plenty of interest in green ideas and action around Botley. That led to the formation of a new, independent group Sustainable Botley (<https://sustainablebotley.uk>), one of several community action groups around Oxford working on green issues. NHPC was happy to support this by paying for the hire of the hall. They have taken on the organisation of the March 12th energy saving day at Seacourt Hall and are hoping to hold a big 'bring and take' event on July 2nd (details TBC).

Last November, with the media attention on the UN climate conference in Glasgow we circulated every home in the parish with our guide 'A Sustainable Botley'. Copies are available from the Parish Council office and <https://northhinksey-pc.gov.uk/greenguide>

This page also lists 25 organisations that can help you get involved working for a greener Botley.

Our next steps include a more detailed look at our own 'carbon footprint' – can we save energy, cut pollution and save money by doing the right green things? We are only a small organisation but we all have a part to play. We are also looking at how we can improve our green spaces and develop a complete map of local pathways. As ever, we welcome your ideas on how we can make Botley an even better place to live.

Botley celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Queen's Jubilee weekend (2nd - 5th June) will see a lot of community activity across the UK – see <https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk>. NHPC welcomes your ideas for local celebrations, so if you are already planning an event please email our Clerk, Linda (clerk@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk) to let us know the details.

On the evening of Thursday 2nd June beacons will be lit across the UK, so join us on the hill above the Louie Memorial Upper Playing Field as it gets dark. We also hope to use the space in West Way Centre (from the Co-op to Seacourt Hall) for an open air celebration street party with stalls and music, along with activities in Seacourt Hall, SS Peter & Paul church hall and Seacourt Bridge pub.

We'd like to work with our schools and residents to look back at our local history with a photo exhibition and perhaps some talks and stories. We'd like to look forward as well – what will Botley look like in 30 years' time? We should also celebrate our fast-developing and increasingly diverse community.

All this will need people to do it! If you'd like to help us to celebrate the Jubilee then please get in touch, or join us at the Annual Parish Meeting where we aim to set up an informal planning group.

North Hinksey Parish Councillors 2022-23



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