

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL. Parish Council meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month in the Council Chamber at the Parish Council office in Stanhope Avenue (except August when the Council doesn't usually meet). There is a 15 minute public forum for anyone wishing to bring items of concern to the Council. The December meeting has been brought forward a week so the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th December.

The Parish Council office is open to the public from 12.30pm until 2.30pm on a Tuesday and from 10am until 1pm on a Thursday; if you are unable to call in during these times then please contact the Clerk on to make an appointment at a more convenient time.

The Parish Council hold quarterly surgery sessions in the library from 10.30am until 11.30am on a Saturday morning, the next surgery dates are 3rd December and 4th March. There will be at least two Parish Councillors at each session to speak with face to face, and any issues you raise will be logged and reported to the Council, we will also keep you informed on what we have done about them.

The names and contact details of our 12 Parish Councillors are listed here, if you wish to contact them direct about a matter:

David Clarke	354330	Adrian Wilson	353852
Rich Sanderson	352155	Jennifer Frost	353372
Graham Keegan	07801661580	Shirley Williams	353880
Linda Sisley	lindasisley@sky.com	Marcus Williams	353880
Terry Clapton	352003 / 07818666488	Isabel Clarke	354330
Spencer Phelan	07835901027	Andrew Hunter	354463

PARISH CLERK

Amanda Bushell Tel: 01526 352461 E-mail: woodhallpc@tiscali.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE 17 Stanhope Avenue, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6SP

Please visit the Parish Council website to view meeting agendas and minutes, information about Kirkby Lane cemetery, and to find out when Parish Council organised events are happening - www.woodhallspaparishcouncil.org

For information about community events and information about local businesses there is the community website - www.woodhallspa.org

Christmas Fayre and Carol Service. This year's Christmas Fayre organised by the Rotary Club, including the Parish Council's inter-denominational Carol Service will take place on Friday 9th December. There will be a procession leaving outside 'Just Desserts' at 6.30pm for Royal Square, where the carol service will begin at 6.45pm. **As the parade passes you, please join in with your family and we will all arrive at Royal Square together.**

Choirs from St Andrew's school, St Hugh's school and Kirkby-on-Bain Primary School will be performing during the carol service, the Mareham-Le-Fen Victory Silver Band will be playing the music for the carols and there will be a collection for the Nomad Trust. We look forward to seeing you there!

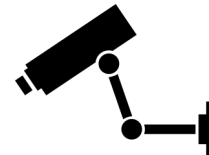
Christmas trees and Lights. We hope you will agree that the village looks amazing again this year with the trees and lights displayed on the businesses. Thank you to all those businesses that have taken part and to all those volunteers who helped put them up.

The trees and lights will be taken down on Sunday 8th January, so if you are available to help please contact Jo Nelstrop on 07795396979 or joanna@thenelstrops.com



2017 Precept We have started drafting the budget for the next financial year which is proving challenging due to the cuts being made by both ELDC and LCC and the need for the Parish Council to take on some services rather than lose them. We will, as always try and keep any increase to the precept to a minimum. The budget and precept will be adopted in January.

Crime Prevention. As a result of a number of incidents in the village over recent months it has been suggested that it would be beneficial to install cameras in the village. The Parish Council has agreed to establish a Working Group to look at the need and ultimately the cost implications. We would welcome your views on the matter and emphasise that at this stage no decisions have been taken. Please contact the Parish Clerk with any comments or suggestions.



Dealing with planning applications consultations. People often get confused about the Parish Council's role in the planning process, so we thought we would provide some information to help residents understand the system and the options available in providing a consultation response to a new residential development.

The Parish Council responds to all planning applications consultations and tree work applications that are in the parish of Woodhall Spa. This brief guide concerns new residential development and aims to help residents understand the system and the options available in providing a consultation response. It is important to remember, for residential planning applications, the decision body is ELDC; all other bodies are purely a consultee. Anyone can provide a response to a planning application; ELDC will post all responses (providing there are no legal restrictions on making the response public) on the ELDC website – <http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/applications> and then navigating the links to the actual planning application. You will need the application reference number; this will be in the form S/215/nnnnn/yr. You can find details of the planning applications to be considered by the Parish Council for the current month on our website under the Planning pages. ELDC decisions can be delegated (i.e. dealt with by a planning officer) or passed to the ELDC Planning Committee, which meets generally every month and is open to the public. There is an opportunity at the Planning Committee meeting for someone who supports, who opposes and for the Parish Council to speak for 3 minutes before the application is considered. The Parish Council exercises its right to speak when we feel strongly about an application.

Residents should be aware that objections to a planning application must be derived from, what is known as, “material planning considerations”; this document can be found on our website under Planning Documents. That document also list examples of what are not “material planning considerations”. However, an objection based on “material planning considerations” is not necessarily a reason to reject an application. Conditions might be placed on the developer or what is known as a s106 agreement might be required where the developer is required to mitigate the condition causing the objection, by providing, for example, a new footpath or pavement or by providing a financial contribution – providing a financial contribution towards the costs of providing additional classroom space in St Andrew's Primary School is a common s106 agreement in the village.

Planning applications can be for outline planning permission or for full planning permission; the difference between the two is that with outline planning permission generally all that is agreed is the site, the number of houses and the access with everything else being referred to as “reserved matters” to be addressed in a full planning application later.

Another, probably unpalatable, fact to be aware of is the inevitability of new development at present. Houses have to go somewhere and in East Lindsey, after consultation, it was decided that new development will be restricted to the towns and large villages; Woodhall Spa is defined as a large village. As such, under the new Local Plan (the consultation results can be found on our website) our village has a minimum target for new houses over the next 15 years. Details of this and the explanations behind the calculations can also be found on our website. The ELDC Local Plan has review stages after 5 and 10 years, and it is then that we may be able to re-engage on the housing figures. Until then there simply is no viable option to say “No” to a development, in a timely and meaningful manner, that meets all the various policies. What we can do is to assess each application against the “material planning considerations” and raise objections where we can to ensure that what development does occur is built to the highest quality, contributes where appropriate to infrastructure improvements, is sympathetic to its surroundings, respects the heritage of the village, provides and maintains suitable green spaces, enhances connectivity to all area of the village with footpaths or cycle paths, provides the types of houses that meet the needs of those wishing to live here, addresses the need for affordable housing and results in a development that we can all be proud of. One aspect of new development that we are deeply concerned with is the need to ensure that the infrastructure of the village can cope with the housing target set by ELDC; we are in the process of engaging with ELDC on the need for an “infrastructure development plan” to run alongside housing development.

The Parish Council website provides a plethora of information and documents on planning. We welcome any suggestions for making information more accessible to residents and we look forward to hearing your views when we consider planning (and tree work) applications at our monthly meetings. The full Council considers applications for more than one dwelling and our Planning Committee considers all other residential applications and tree work applications. Both meetings are open to the public and start with a public forum of between 15 and 30 minutes. The Parish Council has an important role in planning application and consultation in terms of scrutiny, monitoring, advocacy and representation.

Neighbourhood Development Plan – The final sections of the NDP are being finalised ready for submission to ELDC. We hope to be able to achieve that submission before Christmas 2016. The final draft version of the Plan (without maps, graphics and figures to make it easier to download) can be seen on the PC and the NDP sites (the last one at <http://woodhallspaneighbourplan.co.uk>). It is heartening to see how many developers are referring to the Plan in their planning applications even though, as yet, it has not been formally adopted.