

RAVENSHEAD PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Corona Virus – Covid 19 - Vaccinations

Covid 19 vaccinations are being increasingly rolled out across Nottinghamshire and as I write Over 65's (Category 5) and the Clinically Vulnerable (Category 6) are being invited to book their appointments for their first dose. As someone who is themselves over 65, I booked my own appointment via the 'swiftqueue' website which took only a couple of minutes and by choice attended Kings Mill Hospital. I was in and out within 25 x minutes (including the mandatory post jab 15 x minute sit down) and the whole process was quick and efficient. I strongly recommend that if you have missed your earlier opportunity for Categories 1 – 4 or qualify in Category 5 that you book an early appointment online or by telephone (online is quicker) at any of the many centres open around the City and County, including locally Kings Mill Hospital, the Ashfield Health Centre (Kirkby in Ashfield) or the former Wickes store site on Chesterfield Road, Mansfield. As things stand qualifying Category 6 individuals are being contacted by letter, following examination of GP/Hospital Medical Records and invited to book an appointment (Proof of Eligibility is required). The sooner that the bulk of the population is vaccinated, the sooner that life can get back to normal, schools can re-open, the hospitality industry can emerge from hibernation, shops can start selling and we can (hopefully) look forward to our summer holidays. In the mean-time people - **Keep Safe.**

Parish Precept

Most residents will be aware that your annual GBC Council Tax bill contains a number of different elements, including precepts to fund the services provided by Nottinghamshire County Council, Gedling Borough Council, Nottinghamshire Police and the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service. Additionally, there is a charge to fund the local services delivered by Ravenshead Parish Council, which include the Leisure Centre and grounds (Children's Play Park, Football Pitches, Tennis Courts, Petanque Pistes, M.U.G.A., Skate Park etc.) plus the children's play parks at Abbey Gates and Haddon Road, Grit Bins, Jitty cleaning, Village Signs, Christmas Lights, Remembrance Poppies and Events etc.) Each year Parish Councillors have to set a budget and work out how those services will be paid for and despite Covid, this year is no exception. Some of you may be forgiven for thinking that with many of our facilities at the Leisure Centre currently closed owing to the pandemic, that there shouldn't be an increase in the precept this year, but unfortunately many of our costs are fixed and still have to be paid despite the lockdown, including Business Rates, Utility charges, staff costs, insurance and many others and these rise every year. As well as the precept, the Parish Council also relies on income from the lettings of rooms, courts, pitches etc. and our income this current financial year is down from a projected £90,000 to just over £20,000, so we have been left with little choice, but to make a small adjustment to a standard Band D precept charge, from £49.96 (2020/21) to £51.02 (2021/22) an increase of £1.06 per year. With plans to upgrade and renovate the Leisure Centre building, once lockdown has passed, hopefully residents and users will see the benefits to the community for years to come.

Haddon Road Park

In my last article I mentioned the sad loss of Ron Brookes, our Haddon Road Park gatekeeper, but I am delighted to say that we have now secured the services of a new voluntary gatekeeper to look after the opening and closing of the park and we were

overwhelmed with the number of other residents who came forward to offer their services from across the village. Thank-you one and all, without such community spirited people we couldn't continue to offer the facilities that we do.

Ravenshead Leisure Centre – Tree Damage



In my last article, I made reference to the fact that 'Ravenshead Commoners' together with Parish Councillors have been busy planting some additional trees on the site, by the orchard approach, adjacent to the tennis courts and alongside the arena football pitch'. Well, the ink wasn't even dry on the page before some idiot decided to take it upon themselves to rip the branches off one of our new trees. Quite what satisfaction or pleasure is to be had by this sort of wanton vandalism is quite beyond me, they must be really proud of themselves!

Whilst on the subject of trees, which I know is of some interest and concern to many residents who have previously written in to the Newsletter and the Parish Council in recent weeks, I would like to just add the following in respect of 'Tree Protection Orders (TPO's).

Tree Protection Orders

Ravenshead has historically had an abundance of trees, indeed some of us originally moved here for that reason. However, over time, a large number of our trees have been cut down, whether for new development, back garden infill or simply through their age and/or disease. All the more important therefore, that we look after and protect those that remain and, as above, plant new trees where possible. Where individual or groups of trees are significant, Gedling Borough Council (GBC) have placed Tree Protection Orders (TPO's) on them, controlling their damaging or unnecessary pruning and restricting their felling. We have however recently had cases, whereby landowners or developers have deliberately ignored those TPO's and taken down perfectly healthy trees to make way for potentially as yet unauthorised new development. RPC takes this matter very seriously and will **always** work together with GBC Enforcement Officers to support re-planting orders and/or prosecution in appropriate cases.

Dog Fouling

I have recently received a large number of complaints regarding an increase in dog fouling within the village, the Ravenshead Local Facebook Page itself has several references to it and I have to say that in my travels around during lockdown, I have seen many instances where dog owners have failed to clear up after their pets. Whilst I know that most owners take their responsibilities seriously, there are an inconsiderate few that fail to do so and leave not only unsightly, but potentially (for a child at least) unsafe deposits on our pavements. Whilst disappointing, unfortunately this is not unique to us and GBC has now taken out the following order which applies to the whole borough, including the village of Ravenshead and the Leisure Centre site:

Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Fouling) 2020

Prohibition of Dog Fouling

‘If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this order applies and the person who is in charge of the dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence’

‘Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces, shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.’

‘A person who is guilty of an offence under this order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 3 on the standard scale.’

So, for those irresponsible few, please, irrespective of the order, respect your community and other residents and pick up after your pets. Thank-you.

Chris Barnfather
Chair of Ravenshead Parish Council