**CHAIRMAN’S BLOG**

**MAY 2019**

Well it’s Spring, soon to be summer, and as I write this it’s raining! It can only get better!! We’re through the election period now and your Parish Council is getting ready for another year of work in our fabulous village.

We’ve got a number of ambitious plans firming up. The Neighbourhood Plan is with Charnwood Borough Council awaiting an independent review before hopefully proceeding to a village vote to see if there is a majority in favour. This has the potential to be a strong support to us in our efforts to control the expansion of the village which I know is important to a lot of people. As well as, of course, mapping out our plans to improve and develop Sileby to be a great place to live and work over the coming years. We’re also at the point of getting some expert advice as to how we might develop the Pavilion on the Memorial Park to enable it to be used by more people and in a more flexible way. Most importantly we want to make it available for a wider range of activities for the young people in the village. If you’re particularly interested in this aspect then The Sileby Project is holding a Youth Club Planning Meeting on 17th May, 7.00 – 9.00pm at the Pavilion and needs volunteers to bring ideas for getting an Open Event ready for the Sileby Youth Club.

Your Parish Councillors are acutely conscious of concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour in the village. We have been working with our Police Officers and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) to ensure we work together effectively to reduce incidents. I’m conscious that there have been a couple of particularly upsetting incidents recently. Please be assured that all of our CCTV cameras are working and are maintained extremely well. If ever they do break down then they are repaired as a matter of urgency by our security providers. The cameras are situated in the following locations:

* Sileby Convenience Store where Swan St meets Ratcliffe Road
* Pavilion on the Memorial Park
* Tescos, High St
* King Street Car Park
* Parish Council Office, High St
* King St/High St
* Cemetery

Councillors met with NHW and our Police Sergeant to pull together a strategy that ensures we are all aware of our respective responsibilities. The strategy will further ensure that the things we are supporting, like the Neighbourhood Plan and The Sileby Project, will contribute to a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the village. We’ll publish the strategy shortly but in the meantime there’s one important thing we can all do and that is to report each and every instance of crime and anti-social behaviour to the Police. This is critical to us influencing the level of Police support we get in the village. It’s also a gateway to other support services from the Police and Leicestershire County Council. You can report via the non emergency line 101 or online.

As I’ve already mentioned, future expansion of the village is an important issue to a lot of people. On this point please be aware that the appeal against the Barnards Road development is to be held in Loughborough from 6th August and could go on over a few days. I’ll let you have more details nearer the time but if you could spare some time to come along it would be welcome. It really helps to show the strength of feeling in the village.

Your Parish Councillors are passionate about improving the quality of life in Sileby and we need to know what’s important to you so don’t forget that you’re welcome to join us at our fortnightly meetings. See our website for dates and agendas etc.

Finally, Sileby Parish Council was successful in securing a substantial lottery grant to provide a free Sports Holiday Club at the Memorial Park for 5 – 12 year olds. Again, check out the website for details or contact the Parish Office. It should be fantastic! Qualified sports coaches will coach various sports and activities including football, tennis, athletics, cricket, boxercise, dodgeball, gymnastics, dance and lots more fun games. Not to be missed!!

Lot’s going on!! Enjoy!!