



### Mansfield Road/Forest Lane Junction

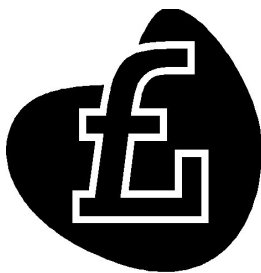


As many of you will now be aware, work is finally underway to improve this junction. The Parish Council has been pressing for several years for improvements to be made. We have recently been informed that traffic signals will be installed, a reduction in the speed limit imposed and street lighting erected.

The works are scheduled to last three months, with everything complete by January 2012. Please be aware that during the progress of these works Forest Lane will be closed to through traffic for a period of about six weeks. This will obviously involve disruption to traffic, with inconvenience particularly keen for Mansfield Road residents, who will need to travel via Blidworth Way to get into and out of the village. We understand that temporary traffic lights will be in place at Blidworth Way's junction with the A60 but delays and additional traffic will also be a problem along Main Street and Blidworth Way whilst these works are in progress.

Once complete, with traffic signals controlling the junction, there will be two lanes for traffic leaving Forest Lane, one for vehicles turning left, the other for those wishing to turn right. There will be a right turn lane and filter light for traffic turning left from Mansfield Road into Forest Lane. Hopefully, these arrangements will see an end to the lengthy delays experienced by many people in leaving Forest Lane at peak times.

The reduction in the speed limit on Mansfield Road will be from the current 50mph down to 40mph. There will also be a short section of Forest Lane subject to the same limit. On Mansfield Road this will be effective from just south of the Seven Mile House to the first bend north of Forest Lane. This limit is being imposed due to the physical constraints of the junction between the railway bridge and bend and particularly by the limit on visibility imposed by the railway bridge's western parapet which cannot be moved.



### Finance

As a consequence of Gedling Borough Council's decision to cease providing revenue support to parish councils our income for 2012-13 will be significantly reduced. During the current financial year we have received £3,623 by way of revenue support from Gedling. This had already been reduced by 13.8% from the previous year. Most of our remaining income, £6,765 came to us directly from parishioners by way of our precept from the Council Tax. Such a massive drop in income has meant that we have had to review our expenditure more carefully than ever. We also have to take into account inflation at 5%.

The Council's Finance Committee held its annual meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October. We were faced with tough decisions - especially as expenditure is rigorously reviewed each year leaving little room for additional savings. There are certain items of expenditure that, by law, we have to meet, such as liability insurance and auditor's fees. This means that optional items have had to take a disproportionate share of the cut-backs.

£ - We will save £250 by ending donations we make to parish organisations.

£ - We will reduce still further the sum we spend on being members of bodies associated with parish councils.

£ - We maintain a fund for long-term Playing Field equipment renewal and propose saving £1,500 by not putting money aside for this purpose. This means that once the existing equipment comes to the end of its useful life we may not have money to replace it.

£ - It is proposed to further reduce the issue of Newsletter from three to two editions per annum.

£ - We hope to make additional small savings by reducing maintenance of Playing Field equipment, securing a better deal on our I.T. contract, and not renewing licence fees.

Unfortunately, despite these reductions to our budget, the Finance Committee will be reporting to the Council's next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November that it will be necessary to increase the precept to £8,580. This represents a substantial 27% increase for 2012-13, one we would prefer not to make but which we consider essential if the Council is to continue functioning effectively.



**Visit our BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY - Village Hall**  
**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Gates open 6.30pm**  
**see separate leaflet for details.**  
**(No sparklers or private fireworks please)**

## Audit

The Council's accounts are audited each year, both by an internal and then an external auditor. We have been given a 'qualified' report rather than the 'unqualified' result we obtained last time. However, this does not mean that the Council's accounts are in any way out of order, the qualification simply having been issued because they were not signed by the Chairman at a Council meeting until 13<sup>th</sup> July. We had until 30<sup>th</sup> June in which to submit the accounts for external audit. The delay arose as a consequence of not having a clerk in place to work on the audit until April and we struggled to meet the audit time-scale this year. Hopefully, now that everything is in place next year's audit will be easier all round.

## Diamond Jubilee



The Parish Council have been considering a number of possible activities to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June next year. No firm plans have been made yet but some of these events are likely to be held in conjunction with the Papplewick and Linby Leisure Enterprise Group and Linby Parish Council. Ideas so far have included a children's sports day, parish cricket match, band at the Village Hall, barn dance, best kept garden competition and the issue of jubilee mugs. Further details will be issued next year but if anyone wishes to contribute ideas or help, please contact either the Parish Council or Leisure Enterprise Group.

## Parliamentary Boundaries

Proposals have been advanced to re-design the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in certain parts of the country. One such new constituency would be called Nottingham North and Hucknall, taking in the parishes of Papplewick, Linby, Bestwood and Newstead.

Over the years Papplewick has received some considerable support and engagement from our MPs, notably Andy Stewart and then Paddy Tipping. At present, our Chairman, Cllr. David McCracken, meets every so often with Mark Spencer MP to discuss matters of importance and to get our voice heard. We are concerned that under the new proposals an MP would be more

involved with matters affecting urban Nottingham residents and have no empathy with rural communities such as our own. Both Mark Spencer and Graham Allen, current MP for Nottingham North, have expressed their opposition to the Boundary Commission's proposals. They are due to come into effect from 2015 but hopefully will be dropped well in advance of that date.

## Pavement Parking

The old problem of parking vehicles partially onto the pavements has returned again in certain parts of the village, especially on Main Street. We are informed that some new residents have recently moved in and who may not fully appreciate the difficulties and inconvenience that parking a car or van partially onto the pavement can cause.

Apart from damage to the pavement itself, which can lead to the elderly and infirm tripping over, pavement parking puts pedestrians in great danger. Being forced to walk in the road puts people at risk of being hit by passing traffic. The police issue fixed penalty tickets for this offence. If the problem persists we will ask them to intervene again.



## Lorrywatch

The Papplewick and Linby Lorrywatch scheme was nominated by Trading Standards for the Jean Varnam Community Award. Each year Nottinghamshire Police Authority gives the award for a different aspect of policing that makes a difference to the quality of life in communities. Mrs Varnam, a former magistrate member of the Authority, felt strongly about policing matters in the community and the award is made in her memory.

We understand that a very strong group of nominees were put forward for the award this year and unfortunately our scheme was not successful but the Police Authority have passed on their thanks for the "commitment and hard work" that volunteers have shown, "and wish them every success for future volunteering."



## Aligned Core Strategy

Once again Gedling Borough Council are proposing to take large tracts of local countryside for development. You may recall the parish councils of Papplewick, Linby, Bestwood, Ravenshead and Newstead putting up a stiff fight against such proposals between 2004 and 2005. We advanced several persuasive arguments against development but Gedling did not listen to the views of their residents. Only the recent economic downturn has prevented these proposals from becoming a reality.

This time, they intend to allow 500 houses at Top Wighay Farm and a further 600 on land North of Papplewick Lane. Both proposals will have a significant impact on Papplewick residents. The reasons against such developments remain unchanged - and so does our opposition. Unfortunately, it seems likely that Gedling will give the same regard to the wishes of local people that they did previously and allow this destruction of our countryside.

## Are you concerned about the speed of traffic in your village?

If so, have you thought about receiving training in handling a joint community/police speed gun? Residents of the parish and its immediate surroundings are invited to contact Cllr. Gill McCracken on 0115 963 2940 for further details.

## Do you know where your child is?

Anti-social behaviour and vandalism - do you want it outside your house? No, of course not, and neither do your neighbours. Over the last few months there have been instances of such criminality around the parish, often caused by youngsters who live in the parish. If you have children under 18 years of age, do you know what they are up to?

Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders can be used to hold parents responsible if their child gets into trouble with the law. The Parish Council uses CCTV to capture instances of criminality on the Playing Field and we will press for a full range of penalties to be imposed where offenders are apprehended by the police.

## Volunteers Wanted

The Village Hall Day Centre are looking for help each Friday between 10.30am -3.30pm. Can you lend a hand serving drinks and lunches or with driving? Contact Jane Watson on 0115 963 0169.

## Road Accidents

Following concerns raised by parishioners, the Parish Council have obtained data relating to the incidence of road accidents in the parish over the last three years. The County Council grades accidents according to the severity of injuries sustained, either slight, serious or fatal. The following data covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2011:

Road/Junction	Accident Category	Number of Accidents
Mansfield Road	Slight	20
	Serious	1
Mansfield Road/Forest Lane Junction (included in above)	Slight	14
Mansfield Road/Burntstump Lane Junction (included in above)	Serious	1
	Slight	2
Burntstump Lane (Papplewick only)	Slight	1
Ash Lane	Serious	2
	Slight	2
Forest Lane	Fatal	1
	Slight	6
Blidworth Waye	Slight	3
Main Street	Slight	1
Crossroads	Slight	3
Papplewick Lane (Papplewick only)	Slight	1
Moor Road/Papplewick Lane Junction	Slight	4
Total		45

A significant number of accidents occurred at the Mansfield Road/Forest Lane junction. Hopefully, the toll here will be substantially reduced by the works now in progress. Otherwise, the parish suffers relatively few road accidents in comparison with other areas. It is also noteworthy that not one of the above accidents involved a pedestrian. However, the Parish Council will continue to monitor the incidence of accidents around the parish and press for highway engineering solutions whenever they are likely to either prevent accidents taking place or reduce their severity.

**Next Council meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 7.15pm**

All parishioners welcome

Email [clerk@papplewick.org](mailto:clerk@papplewick.org)

Papplewick Parish Website: [www.papplewick.org](http://www.papplewick.org)

This edition edited by Colin Womble