

TWIGWORTH NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone!

Twigworth Green - Royal Mail Post Box

We promised that we would keep everyone updated on our request for a Royal Mail Post Box at Twigworth Green, after the original decision was refused by the Royal Mail, we appealed to the Postal Review Panel, they then stated that it was because of a land ownership issue on where it was proposed to be sited!

So, we wrote to Robert Hitchings Ltd and Vistry, who we believed to be the landowners at the Local Centre, to see if they would allow a Royal Mail Post Box on their land.

Robert Hitchings Ltd failed to answer any of our enquiries!

Vistry Cotswold however responded and explained that although the land at the Local Centre was not theirs, they kindly offered to accommodate a Royal Mail Post Box elsewhere on their land - result!

We have now proposed a location, near the bus-stop in Ironbridge Road (see photo above); this has met with approval from Vistry, so we have now re-applied to the Royal Mail and are currently awaiting their response - we shall keep pushing for this until we are successful!



Village Gateway Signs

We are sure that everyone who lives alongside the A38 in Twigworth will be concerned about the volume and speed of traffic that passes our properties daily.

The Twigworth Parish Council agrees and we will keep lobbying Gloucestershire Highways to have the traffic speed through our village reduced and provision made for the safe crossing of pedestrians, unfortunately this is easier said than done and always takes a great deal of patience.



We are considering purchasing Village Gateway signs (see photo), these would be positioned at each end of the A38 entry into our village, these signs will serve to remind drivers that they are entering a village area and will also help provide our village with some identity.

We would like to have our own unique village identity displayed on these signs and we were thinking that maybe the children of Twigworth could come up with a design that represents our village at its best, so come on kids, show us your thoughts and give us your best designs!

Please send your designs to: cllrredfern.twigworthpc@gmail.com

What we are doing in 2024!

The Twigworth Parish Council have got their work cut out in 2024 delivering for the residents of Twigworth!

- ✦ We will continue to hold the Tewkesbury Borough Council to account on the delivery of the S106 Agreements for the new housing developments, to bring the much needed infrastructure to our growing community eg. School, Multi Use Games Area, Children's Play Areas, Bus Shelter, Dog Waste and General Litter bins.
- ✦ We are currently working on a 4-Year Plan for our community and we shall be seeking residents views by way of a consultation. More news of this will be published on our website and social media page, in the coming months.
- ✦ The Parish Council is looking to apply for a Local Council Foundation Award to show that we meet a set of minimum standards to deliver effectively for our community. To achieve this award, we have to demonstrate that we have all the required documentation and information in place for operating lawfully and according to standard practice.
- ✦ Defibrillator... our application has been accepted and we are currently waiting to hear if we have qualified for a Gloucestershire County Council "Build Back Better" fully funded grant to provide for a Defibrillator at the Local Centre that we mentioned previously.
- ✦ Dog owners who consistently fail to clean up their dog waste or dispose of it correctly, can expect to be targeted by the authorities, it is unacceptable and has no place in our community.
- ✦ Anti-Social Behaviour has no place in our community either and residents can expect our support in dealing with it, in all its forms!

What's On - Locally?



12 January

at the
Everyman Theatre
Cheltenham



13 January

at the
Everyman Theatre
Cheltenham



15 January

at the
Everyman Theatre
Cheltenham



16 January

at the
Everyman Theatre
Cheltenham

New Year Quiz

Answers on back page

1. Who wrote the song 'Auld Lang Syne'?
2. Chinese New Year 2024 is the year of the?
3. Which part of the world celebrates their New Year before anyone else?
4. Where does the "ball drop" in the USA on New Year's Eve?
5. Which country celebrates New Year in September?
6. What is a Yotka?

Twigworth - Village life only a few years ago!

The place-name 'Twigworth' is first attested in 1220, as 'Twigeworth', and is thought to mean 'enclosure made of twigs'.

The population of Twigworth in 2016 was about 380 people, then in 2017 Planning Approval was granted for 725 new homes for the "Twigworth Green" development that we see being constructed today... this was quickly followed with a further planning application for 74 new homes at "Fallow Fields" which is currently nearing completion.

This year another planning application was made at "Chestnut Tree Farm" for a further 85 new homes, which has recently been the subject of a Public Inquiry and we are waiting the outcome of this.

So the population of Twigworth has already more than doubled within 5-years and will continue to increase further over the coming years.



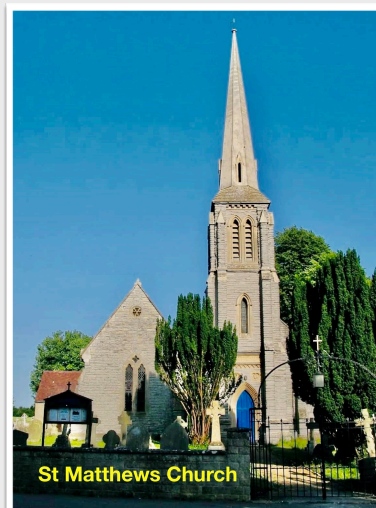
Former Church of England school at Twigworth

Twigworth once had its own Primary School, the former Church of England school, the building is still there today, along the Tewkesbury Road and is now a private residence. The school was built in 1854, with the chief promoters being the curate Benjamin Claxson and Mrs. Clarence Saunders who gave a small endowment. The school was scheduled for closure in 2008, but did not reopen after the Gloucester floods in July 2007.

Twigworth Parish Church was consecrated in 1844, is dedicated to St Matthews, sadly, it has been closed for a couple of years now, as on Sunday December 15th 2019 Bishop Robert and the Benefice clergy presided over a service at St Matthews to mark its closure, it is now currently on the market to be sold by the Church Commissioners.

It was closed due to the building being in a bad state of repair, there are no mains water supply or drainage.

The Churchyard and Cemetery are still accessible and maintained by the benefice, the travelling community care for their loved ones with colourful floral displays all year round.



St Matthews Church



Former Twigworth Post Office & Village Shop

Twigworth once had its own Post Office and village shop, located along the Tewkesbury Road, the building is now a private residence.

Strange how that Twigworth once had all of this when the population was relatively small and now, with the new housing developments, increase in people there is no Post Office, Church or School... not even a new Post Box!!!

We have much to do if we are to put Twigworth back on the map - we are not just a housing development!

Twigworth - Village life now!

The Parish of Twigworth, is situated in the Borough of Tewkesbury approximately 4 miles from Gloucester, 7 miles from Tewkesbury and 9 miles from Cheltenham, it is one of the smallest rural Parishes in the Tewkesbury Borough, along with our neighbouring Parishes of Norton and Down Hatherley.

The Three Parishes are distinctly rural in appearance and character covering an area of over 1,300ha with a population of 1,162 (Census, 2011)

Twigworth is a rural village split by the A38 Trunk Road, with traditional village homes and new housing developments taking shape, changing the village scene which will begin to grow over the coming years.

It is an attractive area with important landscapes, vistas and natural features; on one side of the road, beyond the "Settlement Boundary", rural life continues with unabated views across beautiful countryside, beyond the River Severn and Vale of Gloucester, towards May Hill and The Malvern's... if you have walked down the Nature in Art lane to Wallsworth Hall you will know what we are talking about.

Unfortunately, the landowners, developers and planning authorities have decided what is best for our community, no one can really object that as a country we need to be building more houses, that's fine when the infrastructure is put in place at the same time but here in Twigworth that has not happened yet.

Currently, we are still fortunate to have some Public Rights of Way to escape into the countryside, even the Gloucestershire Way is on our doorstep, so we need to protect these and other green areas from any further developments.

With nearly 2/3's of the land already handed over to development for new housing, there are more proposals for further housing developments at Chestnut tree Farm and Brook Lane, with a vast solar farm which have all yet to be decided...on the positive side at Twigworth Green, there is promise of a new primary school and a multi-use games facility but how many of the new residents have struggled to find a doctors practice to sign on to.

Twigworth has started to lose its identity as a village, surely it is more than just another housing or development opportunity but without its own Village Hall, School or Church, we have no community facility where residents can come together socially, thankfully, we have the Local Centre with the Co-Op and Janes Pantry but we are struggling to fill the remaining retail units, we would love to have a Pharmacy, Hair Salon, may be even a fast food outlet or traditional fish and chip shop which all residents can use... we don't even have a traditional village pub but at least we do have our own local... The Tipple Bar!

We are currently waiting to hear from the Royal Mail to see if we have been successful in our application for a Royal Mail Post Box near the Local Centre.

Twigworth Green now has its own bus stop, we even have an official bus stop flag to go with it and more recently, we have even had road markings defining the bus stop... in time, we shall have our own bus shelter to keep our residents dry in the wet weather... great... but sadly, we have no Sunday service, no direct service to Cheltenham and the service to Gloucester/Tewkesbury stops before 20:00 hrs ... with no late buses at all.

Twigworth - Village life - what's your vision for the future?

As residents, we have all made a decision to live here in Twigworth for whatever reason, so many of us will have a view of what we would like to see change in order to create a characterful community where people can live safely, work, play and enjoy for generations to come, as well as protecting and enhancing our village rural areas and landscape.

One Vision could be:

- Local health facilities to be accessible for everyone in the local parishes
- Local Primary and Secondary schools that allow children to walk and cycle safely to school from the local parishes
- Developing The Local Centre into a neighbour hub, utilising all the available retail units, such as a Pharmacy, Hair Salon, Food outlet with improved car parking facilities
- Improved road safety throughout our village, including speed reduction, pedestrian and cyclist safety, crossing points, regular cleaning and maintenance of roads and signage
- Provision of safe travel routes that promote walking, cycling and public transport over private cars
- Improved bus service with earlier and later timetable, every day, including direct access to Cheltenham and other areas; enabling sustainable access to employment centres in the area
- Provision of high speed internet access to all new properties to support digitalisation for home workers
- Protection and development of Public Rights of Way to improve access to the countryside beyond
- Protection of mature trees, hedgerows and walking paths, to open up green spaces for everyone to enjoy
- Creation of a new sports/community facility (MUGA) that can deliver fantastic play, leisure space and social activity affordable for all residents to enjoy
- Building new homes that reduce the need for energy, including the use of energy-efficient building materials and "Passivhaus" design techniques, smart monitoring of water use, energy use and waste generation to preserve precious resources; including the use of renewable energy through Photovoltaic (PV) panels, heat pumps or similar on all new buildings and the use of permeable materials that help to reduce water run-off in extreme weather events

What's your vision?

Residents will soon have an opportunity to exercise how they would like to see Twigworth evolve over the coming years, as the Parish Council are busy working on a 4-Year Community Plan and part of this exercise will involve consulting with residents.

In the meanwhile, please visit the Twigworth Parish Council Website and Facebook page - take a look, there is plenty to see!

New to Twigworth and looking to register with a Doctor?

Following several concerns from new residents who are experiencing problems trying to register for a local Doctors Surgery Practice, we recently contacted the NHS Patient Advice & Liaison Service in Gloucester to ask for their help.

Here is the response that we received:

"All practices within the county will have crossover boundaries, so a particular house number could be in a different boundary area to their next-door neighbour or even different from a resident across the road.

The primary care team have a mapping tool where they can confirm which properties come within a certain area for GP registration.

If residents would like to contact our team directly, giving their full postal address (it is important to give house number and postcode) we can check on the system and advise of the choices available.

The systems are still being updated and is likely why some are being declined.

The team are aware of this and working alongside practices in that area to rectify this.

We are sorry we cannot be more specific at this time; however, our team are more than happy to help those who are finding it difficult to register."

Local Surgery Practices:

- Longlevens Surgery – 19B Church Rd, Longlevens, Gloucester GL2 0AJ
- The Alney Practice – 16 Cheltenham Rd, Gloucester GL2 0LS
- Churchdown Surgery – Parton Rd, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 2JH
- Kingsholm Surgery – Alvin St, Gloucester GL1 3EN

Have you visited our Website?

The Twigworth Parish Council website has a lot of information to help residents - from Doctors, Bus Timetables, Schools, Bin Recycling dates, Gyms, River Severn Bore times, who to contact at Tewkesbury Council and much more!

Visit: www.twigworthparishcouncil.com

Next Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 1st February @ 19:00 - 21:00



This meeting is open to the public if you wish to hear what's going on in and around Twigworth or to raise any issues or ideas.

Planning Applications

**23/01065/FUL Premier Travel Inn
Tewkesbury Road**

The Construction of a three-storey extension to an existing hotel to create 53 additional hotel bedrooms (Use Class C1) with associated additional car-parking and landscaping

Answers to Quiz

1. Robert Burns
2. Wood Dragon
3. Kiribati (Samoa, Tonga)
4. New York, Time Square
5. Ethiopia
6. A Russian Xmas / New Year Tree