

# TWIGWORTH NEWS

*Parish AGM/Assembly/Planning/Community Issues*

## Parish Council Assembly & Annual General Meeting

The Twigworth Parish Council will be holding both its Parish Assembly and Parish Council Annual General Meeting at the Down Hatherley Village Hall on Thursday 9th May and all residents are welcome to attend.

### Parish Assembly Meeting

**Thursday 9th May**

**From: 20:00 - 21:00**

The Annual Parish Assembly is a meeting where all residents of the Parish are invited to attend but only registered electors of the Parish may speak and vote during the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations an opportunity to let local residents know what they have been doing over the past year.

Any registered elector may ask questions of the Council which will usually be answered by the Chair, the Clerk to the Council, or a designated Councillor.

An elector may also make suggestions and comment on anything pertinent to the people of the parish; so this is your opportunity to let us know what you would like us to do for you.

This will be welcomed and is the whole purpose of the meeting.



### Parish Council Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 9th May**

**From: 19:00 - 20:00**

This is a more formal meeting, where residents are still welcomed to attend but may not speak, as the business of the Annual General Meeting is formal and existing Councillors have the opportunity to elect members to the offices of the Parish Council.

## A Year in the Life of a New Councillor - Cllr John W Redfern



Having been elected as a new Parish Councillor in May 2023, this last year has been interesting to say the least, it has certainly been an experience, sometimes surprising, certainly busy and at times... challenging!

At the May 2023 Parish AGM/Assembly, my first ever council meeting, I was nominated and then approved as the Vice Chair of the Council; I also took on the role of Community Lead for the Council, which also entailed the administration of the Website, Social Media pages and Newsletter.

So one of my first tasks was to review the Council website, which had served its purpose over the years but was far from being an ideal user experience, with inappropriate adverts popping up all over the place, an upgrade was definitely required but this would be at a cost, which the Council had no funds to support.

However, during the rebuild of the website, I was able to secure funds from an advertiser who wanted to place an advert on our FaceBook Page and newsletter the Twigworth News, this then enabled the council to upgrade the website to becoming advertisement free - great result!

The Newsletter had previously been published as a single sheet document bi-monthly and it was recognised that the we needed to share news and information with the growing community more frequently, so the composition of the newsletter was overhauled and renamed Twigworth News, with regular monthly publications, shared via email directly to subscribers, published on our website and social media platforms.

This last year, I have also been busy drafting a new set of policies and plans for our Council, based on the Gloucestershire Parish & Town Councils (GPTC) models and other council policies, then reviewing these with other Councillors to prepare for their adoption, the Council have since adopted the 4-Year Plan for the Parish and numerous other policies, all are publicly displayed on our website.

The work of reviewing and adopting the new policies will continue into next year, as we work towards preparing our application for the Local Council Award Schemes (Foundation Level), an initiative that I proposed, which was accepted by our Council.

That all said, my main focus has been supporting the residents of the new community at Twigworth Green, with the many issues that have arisen and required attention, such as:

- Raising the issue of Dog Waste Bins and Signage throughout the development with Vistry and Tewkesbury Borough Council, we now have 6 additional bins compared to the start of 2023!
- Following up on a social media post from a local resident about providing a Defibrillator at the Local Centre, on behalf of Council, I set about applying for full funding and with the approval of our County Councillor Paul MacLain, was successful in being awarded £2500 from the Gloucestershire County Council Build Back Better Scheme and support from Janes Pantry too - an excellent result!
- Creating a regular dialogue with the Developers and others, in matters concerning the general development, these matters are tracked with the Twigworth Green Residents Observation File which is shared with the developers, others and posted on our website
- Assisting and supporting residents experiencing Anti-Social Behaviour incidents, engaging with external bodies, Tewkesbury Borough Council Officers, Police and Housing Associations
- Raising issues with the developers (Vistry/Bloor), such as the need for a Bus Stop and Shelter, Children Play Areas, construction traffic speed/mud, unsocial working hours and flooded paths
- Initiating and arranging the Armistice Remembrance at St Matthews Church, involving the Royal British Legion, Seven Towers Benefice, other Councillors and the community, the remembrance was also attended by members of the armed services

So much has been achieved in my first year but there is still much to deliver for the Parish of Twigworth and together other dedicated Councillors, I will be working tirelessly on this; I would urge residents to contact us if they require assistance on any matter - the Council are here to help you.

My thanks to residents and Council members for their help and support over the last year.

## Fallow Fields

The Wain Homes Fallow Fields development is nearing completion, with nearly all the properties now occupied with new residents, we welcome all to our Community.



Wain Homes - Fallow Fields

Works are still progressing to complete the Children's Play Area, which is located in the centre of the development.

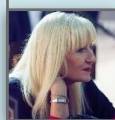
Currently there are no dog waste bins located on the development but there are plans to install these, Cllr Harris has been following this up.

However, there is now a dog waste bin in Brook Lane near the Developers Construction Compound.



### Cllr Rick Harris - Chairman

Together with other Councillors, we have been carrying reviews of our Council documents and policies in preparation for them to be adopted at the next Parish Meeting. All these documents can viewed on our website, whether as an "adopted" document or in "draft" format.



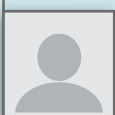
### Cllr Elaine Watson

Nothing to report



### Cllr Graham Bocking

Nothing to report



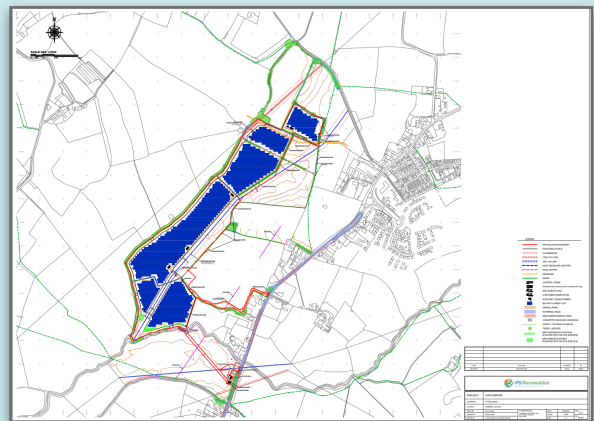
### Cllr Mike Davies

Nothing to report

## Coxs Brook Solar Farm

Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) Planning Officers/Committee have given approval for the installation of ground mounted solar to export up to 16 MW (AC) electricity, comprising photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure and works.

The attached drawing shows the extent of this Solar Farm but the Land Ownership is much larger.



23/00441/FUL Land to the West of Twigworth Court Farm Tewkesbury Road

This planning application and the Bengrove Farm - Solar Farm were both objected to by the Twigworth Parish Council.

Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Committee, met on 23 April 2024 to discuss and consider this application and there was a majority decision for approving.

## Quiz - Pot Luck

*Answers on back page*

1. Which country was the first to give women the right to vote?
2. What time of the day is palindromic?
3. Which company manufactured the Lancaster bomber?
4. Who is Cherilyn La Pier better known as?
5. What type of animal is a vmi vmi
6. Who is buried at the Arc de Triomphe?



## Changes at Twigworth Green!

Has anyone else noticed the increased landscaping activity around Twigworth Green?

There are lots of new saplings and shrubs being planted everywhere, these will take time to mature and with luck, survive the storms we seemed to be continually battered with.

The Parish Council have been reassured that the saplings that have been damaged by the strong winds will be replaced in due course.

This will transform the appearance of the development, from what has been a building site into a green residential area that new home owners can all be proud of.

The Sports Fields have not been ignored either, landscapers have been busy preparing the sports field playing surface as well as planting saplings around the perimeter.

Traffic Islands are also being constructed to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the roads at the Sales Office roundabout.

There are still street lights that need to be connected at the roundabout and the developers are aware of this.

The Children's Play Area has been delayed due to the poor weather which has been outside everyone's control but it is very important that this is completed in a safe manner ready for the children to use.

There is still much to do and finish off for the residents but we shall make sure your voices are heard!

Please contact the Parish Council if you know of any issues that you think the Developers need to be aware of and should be attending to.

## Pride in your Community!

With the weather now beginning to improve somewhat, let us hope that the strong winds and torrential wet weather are behind us.

Now is the time to start venturing outside and get to those little jobs we have all been putting off.

Check around your properties, remove any litter or debris which may have found its way onto your doorstep by courtesy of the weather.

Check to make sure that your utility meter cabinets doors are fitted correctly and that they are locked secure.

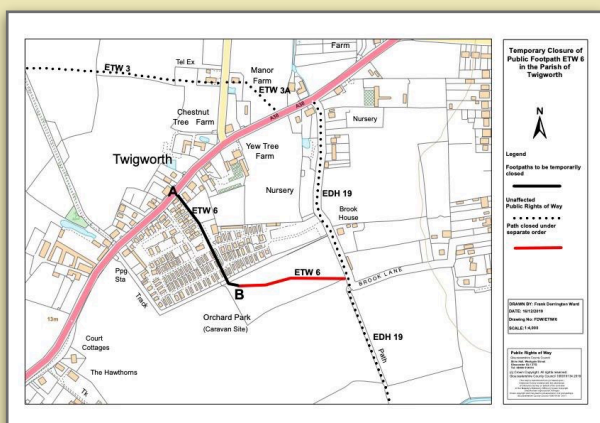
## Watch your Speed!



Neighbourhood Policing Teams are out and about, monitoring and enforcing speed regulations - ensuring that motorists are driving safely, including speed checks and whether drivers are wearing seatbelts or using mobile phones while driving. Local "Hot Spots" - A38 and Down Hatherley Lane.

## Public Footpath Orchard Park

Tewkesbury Borough Council have issued an order, plan and notice in relation to temporarily closing of the footpath below.



Temporary Footpath Closure: ETW 6 Second Part Twigworth Tewkesbury 17/2/20 to 6/20 (originally) 69454

- Answers to Quiz
1. New Zealand
  2. Noon
  3. Avro
  4. Cher
  5. A Pig
  6. The Unknown Soldier