**Planning for village events**

Castle Donington Parish Council has spoken to various authorities and bodies, read copious guidance on Covid-19 considering its responsibilities in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic and has, with deep regret, **cancelled** the key usual village events for the remainder of 2020, including the Annual Wakes, Remembrance Parade and Christmas Cheer.

It cannot realistically see a way to allow the events to happen due to the close proximity of all the properties, many entrances to the site area and the inability to be able to control crowds or arrange the correct social distancing.

All three events take months of planning and the Parish Council says it needs to make decisions now to focus efforts on alternative celebrations and avoid incurring costs which cannot be recovered.

Cllr Colin Burton, Chairman of the Council said: “*Parish Council meetings are not the most of fun meetings to attend, but to present to fellow councillors a recommendation to cancel our much loved and supported village events is something that has never been done, but as many people say “these are unprecedented times.*

*By October/November events of any kind are going to need to be carefully managed, and we cannot say what social distancing guidelines will be in place by then. Looking after people’s health and wellbeing is paramount.*

*We recognise the importance these key events have in the diaries of local people, and for the businesses and local groups and therefore we will continue to work with the local organisations and businesses and look at alternative ways to encourage people in to the village centre in a safer way”.*

The Plans so far include:

The Annual Wakes Showmen’s Guild street fair **will not** be happening in October as there is no way to allow social distancing to take place for the attendees of the fair, the residents living in the area or the businesses.

Unfortunately, the annual parade has been **cancelled** however, the British Legion may be looking at other ways to commemorate the act of Remembrance. Local groups and charities will be approached regarding the displaying of the wreaths at the War Memorial in due course and it is hoped that the street poppies can be displayed throughout the village with a display on Pinfold Gardens too.

The Christmas Cheer lights switch-on event will be **cancelled** however, the Christmas lights in Castle Donington will be switched on and sparkle bringing a welcome bit of Christmas cheer. The Parish Council is looking to work with the Traders Association to support late night shopping over several weeks running up to Christmas. Other festive activities may take place including kids’ competitions and charactors.