Clerk’s report

Recreation committee updates

1. Potential new skatepark – A number of skatepark providers have shown an interest in this project. Waiting for detailed quotes to be returned for further discussion and approval.
2. Purchase of land behind Moira Dale – This is progressing but is still with the various solicitors. No confirmation of transfer date as yet.
3. Lane behind Moira Dale – Planning permission. NWLDC planning have been approached regarding the need for a change of use from agricultural land to green open space. A four-page report came back outlining all the various policies that will need complying with. This is beyond of the capacity and knowledge of the Parish Council and a quote for a professional planning consultant to undertake this work is being sought.
4. Land behind Moira Dale – Design and landscaping plan – Discussions are ongoing with SEGRO and with LCC regarding progressing this idea to a more detailed stage that will allow for consideration and consultation with something to actually look at.
5. L57 (footpath over Moira Dale playing field to the SEGRO site). SEGRO is still having discussions with LCC about undertaking the work themselves as this work has not been completed by LCC. The section 278, legal agreement, allowing SEGRO to undertake the work on behalf of the LCC is progressing and will need agreeing by all parties including the Parish Council. Waiting for draft document.
6. Foxbridge site – No update and no contact. This needs to be escalated due to lack of response.
7. Broad Rushes/West Meadow. LCC is still looking at the repair work necessary to the steps linking both areas. Clowes are progressing with eh works necessary to bring the land back into public use. The works to this effect should be commencing by the end of September.
8. 3G facility at the College. A planning application has been submitted by the Trust and College. There are still a few bits that need clarifying ahead of NWLDC confirming the application is ready for consultation. It is still envisaged that this project will be progressed in sufficient time s to not lose the UKSF levelling up funding through NWLDC. Legal agreements and management arrangements are progressing.
9. Possible sports hall provision. At the last meeting it was agreed that, if confirmation **was not received** from NWLDC that funds were earmarked for Castle Donington (as implied by Cllr Saffell) and that the consultation in respect of this matter was being progressed in a timely manner, that the Parish Council would undertake its own consultation regarding the need, funding options, site suitability in respect of a sports hall. The response received from NWLDC was not favourable and certainly did not confirm that there was any funding earmarked for such a facility in Castle Donington at this stage. The order for the consultation and feasibility works has now been submitted to the Parish Council’s preferred supplier.
10. Grass pitch use at the college – This agreement is still in place and will allow use of the pitches until at least Christmas, hopefully the end of the season. This is a bit of a moving target, due to the possibility of the College and Trust obtaining planning permission for the 3G which would compromise one of the pitches. The Parish Council wis working with the local clubs regarding the use and any potential future changes.
11. Gym provision is still progressing, but there are still a few issues with badgers and there may be a need to re-submit a planning application before works can commence on this project.
12. Allotments – Works to clear out the ditches and provide a drain to the ditch from an adjoining property have been undertaken. Works to report and make good the boundaries is an ongoing project as is the work to level and keep the potholes at bay!
13. Spital Hillside – Path and steps improvement – works to create a safer walking experience on this concessionary footpath have been undertaken recently.
14. Spital Park – Car park levelling and potholes has been undertaken recently.
15. Spital Park – Ditch on the boundary of the orchard area and been reshaped in a bid to stop the area flooding into the neighbouring gardens.
16. Spital Park – A quote for works to improve the drainage issues on the rugby pitch has been received. Discussions are ongoing with the rugby club as to how this might be able to be jointly funded.

Planning committee updates

Following the non-quorate meeting held to discuss a number of time restricted planning matters, the comments and proposals form this meeting need ratifying by the Full Council meeting in September.

1. Local Plan – The additional comments that the Parish Council submitted were not considered by the Local Plan committee (LPC) as they were received after the original date for consultation. The Parish Council’s original comments were included and considered. The report to 14 August LPC only dealt with policies S1 to S5. These can be viewed from this [link](https://minutes-1.nwleics.gov.uk/documents/s44840/Appendix%20C.pdf). Date of next meetings 26 September and 23 October.
2. New National Planning Policy Framework was out for consultation. The Parish Council was given three weeks to make any responses. When reviewing the documents, it appeared that it was the Planning authorities that should be making comments, not local parish councils. NWLDC planning officers will be attending the Parish Laision meeting in December to give an update on this and also the Local Plan.
3. Proposed conservation area designation for Donington Park. The historic documents and information for this area are under review with a view to designation changes to include it as a conservation area. Discussion with NWLDC conservation officer is ongoing.
4. Chain bridge and water wheels – Discussions are ongoing with the conservation officer, local residents and business. Further report to follow.
5. Traffic calming – Work to the agreed scheme as part of the development off Park Lane is due to start imminently. The LCC is waiting for the final few licences to be agreed to give a definite start date.

Staff matters.

Just as a way of an update, the summer has proved to be a bit of a challenge from a staffing point of view due to booked holidays and health issues, some planned (operation) and some unplanned. This has necessitated in a lot of juggling of duties for everyone, and a delay in finishing other matters. Some of the normal grounds work has had to be contracted out and we have been more reliant on volunteer and other staff time to cover other positions and work. This is going to progress into the autumn and will put pressure on the council staff over the event period. It is anticipated, that with the help of volunteers and other staff stepping up to cover we should see a safe and realistic path through to Christmas! The challenge of running three large facilities is definitely pushing all departments to their limit, and this is something that needs to be reviewed ahead of budget setting, and also the possibility of introducing more apprenticeship schemes into the business plan.

Amenities committee

As ever, the autumn brings with its challenges regarding the event season and this year is no different. A number of changes to legislation and guidance have come into place, that we were not aware about, and this again has necessitated increased levels of stress and work, e.g. the changes in provision of first aid cover for events, health and safety responsibilities including CDM 2015 for events. First aid cannot be provided by the local First Responders due to changes to the regulations within the Purple Book for events. Quotes and discussions with other providers are ongoing. This is likely to necessitate increased costs but is out of our control otherwise the events cannot go ahead. This effects the Wakes and Christmas due to the size of event, numbers attending and level of risk of issue.

1. Wakes is fast approaching, but everything is coming together but is definitely not an easy event dealing with so many separate showmen. If you are able to volunteer some time over the event period, or know someone that maybe interested, please can you let the office know.
2. Remembrance parade planning is progressing. A number of small changes to the arrangements are necessary to help improve the safety and convenience of all those attending. The British Legion were given a very sad blow with the loss of the parade marshal, Tony Bierne who passed away very suddenly. Again, this requires volunteers to help manage the road closures and parade, so if anyone is available, please can you confirm to the office.
3. The Christmas event and other Christmas activity planning is progressing. Ther is a bit of a challenge trying to change and ensuring that the whole community will benefit and enjoy this free festive event. A number of the businesses have expressed concerns that the event is to run during their working hours and that there will not be the ambience of having it fully in the dark hours. It is difficult to please everyone, but the vast majority of comments that have been received to date are very positive and a full plan for the afternoon/evening is progressing. The hope is to involve local groups, businesses, charities and entertainers and create a fantastic event at the start of the festive period. The theme is still focussing on the young people, but with more entertainment and stalls and activities to keep the increased number of visitors entertained.
4. The Christmas lights contractors has been advised of the change of date for the switch-on and is working with the Parish Council to ensure that everything is ready and in place for this new date.
5. Other Christmas activities and events – The letter to Santa is running as in the past few years, and our local volunteer responder (on behalf of Santa) has her pencil sharped and ready to respond to all the children’s requests.
6. Santa’s grotto and Tree festival at the Community Hub are progressing as in previous years, with the Community Café putting on festive fair. This will be enjoyed through the festive period and there will be additional opening days to tie in with other events happening at the Community Hub from the Classic Vehicle event, the Girl Guides craft fair and Friday Group and GrowCookSahre events too.

Parish Council buildings and facilities

1. Fire risk assessments have now been undertaken on all buildings, with the relevant and necessary work undertaken to ensure compliance. All other compliance paperwork and reports are in place. Staff are currently exploring a methodology to streamline and improve the efficiency of the appropriate compliance records.
2. The café has been inspected recently and retained its 5\* rating in relation to food standards.
3. Wall protection covering has now been installed in the Community Hub, Spital Park pavilion and the Village Hall to try and prevent marking and damage to the walls caused by tables and chairs.
4. The Community Hub rendering is progressing. This is a very weather dependant project and has caused quite a few issues with closing certain entrances in the interests of health and safety. The finished work will ensure the sustainability and cost savings from using the coloured Monocouche render.
5. Line marking to the hub car parking area has been re-done during the summer, and a full sweep and tidy up of all boundary areas will be completed once at the messy work from the rendering has been completed in the next few weeks.
6. Bookings for all venues are well on track to achieve the expected income budgets. There are 30 plus regular bookings each week equating to 60 individual caretaking opening and closings. On top of this, there are the one-off bookings for parties and other activities, which can add another 10-20 openings and closings! All three facilities are used **every day** of the week and weekend at least once, and usually two or three times. The caretaking and cleaning staff and contractors ensure that the facilities are in pristine condition and ready for all the bookings.