

Witherley Parish Council

Serving the villages of Atterton, Fenny Drayton, Ratcliffe Culey and Witherley

Papers for the Council Meeting: Thursday November 10th 2022

County Councillor Report:

Thanks to those of you who got in contact over the past month with questions in relation to updates I've provided in person or through my newsletter. As always, please continue to stay in contact with me should you have an issue that needs addressing and I will investigate it as quickly as possible.

NatureSpot • We work in partnership with local wildlife charity @NatureSpot to increase interest in and improve biodiversity • NatureSpot features 7,220 different species that are found in Leicestershire and Rutland! • This number grows all the time as it receives more records from the public. • You can get spotting today here: <https://crowd.in/8J6NSq>

Topic Requests: • Each month some of you get in contact with me requesting more information on areas of council business. • As we head into the last two-months of 2022, and the New Year, I'd really like to know what areas of the County Council's business you may like more information on? • If you could please let me know via email I would be most grateful. • Please can you put in the subject of your email: 'Newsletter Topic Request'

Environment Matters • Want to stay informed with the Council's latest waste, environment & NetZero news? • You can read the Autumn edition of Environment Matters and previous editions on our website • Sign up today to receive future quarterly editions here: <https://crowd.in/AyvJiN>

Noise Camera Trial • Earlier this year, with the support of our MP Dr Luke Evans, myself and local Parish Councils applied to the Department for Transport to take part in a Noise Camera Trials along the A444. • Unfortunately, we haven't been successful on this occasion which I appreciate will come as a disappointment to you as it has to me. • I would like to thank you all for all the hard work that went in to putting our application together. If any similar opportunities arise in the future, Luke has promised to keep us informed.

Budget Update As with last month's update, I'd once again like to share the below information on the County Council's budget.

- Leicestershire County Council's budget gap is set to grow from £8m to £28m next year – and could even top £140m by 2026 - as the 'dire' financial situation affecting local authorities intensifies.
- As the Leader recently stated. "Our financial situation is frightening, worse than the years of austerity. We've lost £230m a year in spending power since 2010. We're very lean so it's not possible to balance the books without impacting front line services. We pride ourselves on doing the best we can with the money we have but we will have to make some tough decisions. Nothing is off the table. As the lowest funded county council under the

Government’s funding system, Leicestershire will always be sensitive to financial shocks. But the challenge currently being faced will put even the best funded local authorities under pressure.”

- More information on the Councils current financial situation can be found using the following link: The latest LCC press release: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/sobering-report-sets-out-dire-financialchallenge>
- And to a cabinet paper which lead member Cllr. Breckon presented at Cabinet roughly a week ago: <https://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/b18075/Supplementary%20Report%20-%20Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Strategy%20-%20Latest%20Position%20Friday%2023-Sep-2022%2011.00%20.pdf?T=9>
- also to the following document which gives an overview of the Council’s current service costs: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2022/9/20/Our-servicecosts.pdf>

Borough Councillor Report – to be received at the meeting.

Correspondence

- Letter to Red Gate re sewer on A444
- Wording of paragraph to legal support team. Initial advice received, and escalated the case to another officer for clarification.
- Email from Witherley resident:

I am writing to you to inform you of the lack of roadside maintenance in Witherley.

A local man has just cut down Branches hedging etc to allow wheelchair access for the disabled members of our community. The footpath opposite Mythe lane was previously unnavigable in a wheelchair. I am having some building work done and fortunately there was room in my skip for all the branches etc and other people have filled there wheelie bins. My point is if it wasn’t for the good heartedness of local people the village would be in a bigger mess than it is. As a band E council tax payer I would expect some interaction from the council to clear footpaths etc to make them useable. I have only lived here for just over a year, but have realised we are forgotten as a village. Surely the Parish councillors walk around the village and note the things around them, if not why not, please take your blinkers off and observe the surroundings.

I have responded with:

The kind resident who does a lot of work around Witherley village does it of his own volition and kindness.

Parish Councillors do walk the village while walking dogs and visiting friends, and they do report issues around the village for rectification. However, if ever you see a problem yourself you can always report it to me as you have in this instance, and I will report it to the necessary party for action.

The Parish Council does maintain and cut the grass verges for the parish and on behalf of the County Council as a subcontractor. We have just revisited the areas of grass to be cut for the next tendering process and discussed with residents about the verges near their homes and took those comments into consideration.

I hope this helps build the true picture of how hedges, trees and the grass cutting jobs are managed, and you see that Witherley isn't neglected. Unfortunately, some work doesn't get done as quickly as residents/we would like, and it is difficult to please all the people all the time.

I thank you for bringing the issue to our attention though, I will raise it with the Council under the Correspondence section at the meeting to be held on 10th November in Witherley Parish Room, everyone is welcome if you would like to attend.

Clerk Update

Atterton

- Defibrillator training dates to be confirmed

Fenny Drayton

- Trees in playing field dealt with as an emergency response due to bad weather conditions.
- Trees in Rookery Close reported to LCC

Ratcliffe Culey

- Defib training dates to be confirmed
- Gate completed
- Tree branch near slide removed

Witherley:

- Demolished post on Mill Lane reported to LCC for replacement

Parish:

- Grass cutting contracts out to tender.
- Traffic issues across the villages reported t LCC Highways
- Hi Res images for NDP has taken a lot of sorting finally with specialist help from 2Commune to create filter links to images via website.

Planning Applications: Can also be seen via [Planning Applications | Witherley Parish Council](#)

22/00882/OUT MIRA South of A5 development

22/00918/DISCON Atherstone Hunt Kennels, Witherley

22/00957/TCA St Peter's Primary School, Witherley

22/00985/TPO 39 Old Forge Road, Fenny Drayton

22/01033/TCA 4 Mill Lane, Witherley

22/00004/TPORD Witherley Memorial Playing Field, Witherley

Finance:

This month's payments for authorisation are in white boxes.

Date	Chq/ ref	Payee	Staff Costs	Training & Travel	Ground Works	Maint'ce	Prof' & Subs	Admin	Projects	NDP	VAT	TOTAL
10/11	U053	M & BG Limited				500.00					100.00	600.00
10/11	U054	Screatons Ltd						14.20			2.84	17.04
10/11	U055	A Forsyth		10.53				15.00	8.97		0.00	
10/11	U056	HMRC	14.39								0.00	14.39
10/11	U057	L Burchell			559.35	245.00			1135.00		0.00	1939.35
10/11	U058	HBBC				251.68					50.34	302.02
10/11	U059	Lexis Nexis						138.99			0.00	138.99
10/11	U060	Witherley Memorial Playing Field Trust							2606.40		0.00	2606.40
		Tree surgeon				200.00					0.00	200.00
												0.00
		Expenditure to date:	5537.24	255.61	4562.71	2968.68	872.86	2071.57	8780.04	250.00	1753.56	27052.27
		Allocated Budget	8,700.00	425.00	12,052.00	4,337.00	2,190.00	1,880.00	8,200.00	1,786.09	1753.56	41,323.65
		Remaining	3,162.76	169.39	7,489.29	1,368.32	1,317.14	-191.57	-580.04	1,536.09	0.00	14,271.38

Grant Award Policy: to be amended to allow retrospective applications to be considered. **Decide**

The stipulation: No monies will be awarded retrospectively

Should be amended to read:

Applications should in all instances be made in advance of project commencement, however some awards may be granted retrospectively in exceptional circumstances.

Grant Application from Witherley Memorial Playing Field Trust: Decide

Due to threatened incursion by unwanted squatters the playing field committee had to move quickly to install security gates on the playing field incurring large unforeseen costs. See the application form.

Trusted Third Party Status – **Decide**

The Clerk has repeatedly raised unresolved reported issues with LCC Highways Dept, who appear to be resistant to undertaking some vegetation works. This has been frustrating for the Parish. There is a proposed solution where the Parish is given the Trusted Third Party status and carries out local work to trees and hedges as required. There are some reporting and procedural issues to be ironed out, but before the Parish Council commits budget and resources to this 1 year trial project it must be agreed by the Council members.

The positive outcome for the Parish is that trees and hedges can be dealt with locally and quickly without reporting to LCC. These are the main issues affecting the villages which appear to be stuck within the LCC system. Clerk recommends allocating a budget for the trial for 2023/24.

Council to decide if the project is agreeable, and decide an amount to be allocated in the next budget.

Civility & Respect Project– Pledge adoption of the principles - **Decide**

[Civility and Respect Project \(nalc.gov.uk\)](http://nalc.gov.uk) 2 pages also emailed to councillors laying out the pledge

Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

Budget setting, Decide grass cutting and maintenance suppliers.