

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

NEWSLETTER



Winter 2022

Parish Councillor Responsibilities

Chairman: Cllr. Fincher

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Richmond

Allotments: Cllr. Richmond

Apiary and Tranquillity Garden Projects: Mr Perks *

Bus Services/Norton Connector: Cllr. Waizeneker

EnviroSort Community Liaison Group Members: Cllr. Pollard

Finance, Staffing and General Purposes:

All Parish Councillors, Responsible Finance Officer (Mrs. J. Greenway)

Flooding and Drainage Matters: Cllr. Arrow

GDPR Matters Leads: Cllr. Pollard, Clerk (Mrs J. Greenway)

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group/Parish Aspirations Review:

Cllr. Arrow, Cllr. Pollard, Cllr Waizeneker

Parish Hall Project Working Group Members:

Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Pollard, Cllr. Waizeneker

Parish Hall Representative:

Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman & Chair of the Parish Hall Trustees)

Planning Matters:

Cllr. Richmond (Lead Councillor), Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Pollard

Playing Fields/Recreation Areas: Cllr. Dawson, Cllr. Richmond

Police Liaison: Cllr. Job

Public Rights of Way: Worcestershire County Council Parish Paths Warden

Social Media and Website: Cllr. Pollard

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review/Infrastructure Matters:

Cllr. Fincher, Cllr. Waizeneker

Superfast Broadband Matters: Cllr. Waizeneker

Worcester Norton Community Interest Company Representative:

Cllr. Fincher (Parish Council Chairman & Chair of WNCIC)

Worcester Norton Regiment Group Liaison: Cllr. Job



* co-opted members (non-Parish Councillors)

Our Newsletters

Thank you for your feedback about our Parish Council Newsletters, which is available for you to read online via

<https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/newsletters/>

or by hard copy upon request (as detailed below).

A small supply of our Newsletters will also be placed in locations around the Parish (e.g. Parish Hall, Garden Centre, Norton Connector, etc.).

Our online publication schedule is Spring edition – 1st March, Summer edition – 1st June, Autumn edition – 1st September and Winter edition – 1st December. We will highlight when each edition has been published online via our Parish Council Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil> and on our Parish Council noticeboards.

We are continuing to develop our Newsletter to serve our community and if there is anything that you would like to see (or not see) in future newsletters, or you would like to contribute, please let us know.

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If you wish to register to receive a hard copy of all future editions of the Parish Council Newsletter and have not already notified us, please email the following details to Mrs Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, NJKparishclerk@aol.com or return this slip by post to : Mrs Jane Greenway, 18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW

Name:

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Address:

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Please take a moment read the council's privacy notices, which explain how we use and look after your information, and your rights. They are available on our website:

<https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/privacy-statement/>

Business Directory

Free Advertising for local businesses!

Find that local plumber, electrician, accountant etc.

Adverts are now published in a separate online only Business/Services Directory, with adverts being free of charge. If you would like to advertise in this Directory, or amend/remove your existing advert, please let us know.

The Business/Services Directory can be found using the following links (by business category or business name):

<https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/business-directory/business-categories/>

and

<https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/business-names-a-z/>

If you are a local business and want to advertise on our website free of charge contact the Parish Clerk
at NJKparishclerk@aol.com

or by post to: Mrs Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, 18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcester WR5 2PW.

All you need is one side of up to A4 as a pdf or jpg and tell us a business category name for your listing

Parish Council (PC) Chairman's Report – November 2022

Since my last report, I regret to inform you that one of our Parish Councillors has passed away. Councillor Doug Lucas had been a Parish Councillor for many years, leading many projects for the betterment of the parish, but perhaps his greatest achievement as a Councillor was leading the team that created the Neighbourhood Plan. Having agreed it was a good thing to have one for the parish, a Working Group was created with Doug at the helm, and following several years of painstaking and meticulous work, the plan they produced was adopted in a parish referendum. It's now being quoted by Wychavon District Council (WDC) in their approval or rejection of Planning Applications within the parish and is a fitting legacy for Doug and the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. Our condolences have been sent to Doug's family. He will be missed

Sadly, we have also been informed of the passing of two previous members of the Parish Council, Charles Ives and Ray Richardson. Both Charles and Ray were Parish Councillors for many years and made significant contributions to our community. Again, our condolences have been sent to both families.

On 3 November we held our second public briefing regarding the South Worcester Development Plan Review (SWDP Review) <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-review>, followed shortly by a WDC roadshow at the Parish Hall on 9 November. The SWDPR is planned to deliver 5,000 new houses between 2030 and 2040, with a potential further 5,000 out to 2060, as the 'Parkway Garden Town' on land on either side of the B4084 adjacent to Worcestershire Parkway station, bounded by the M5 and Stoulton (a new town the size of Droitwich). The purpose of the briefing and roadshow was to alert residents to the Regulation 19 public consultation that commenced on 1 November and until 13 December 2022. **This is your chance to have your say regarding what is being planned under the SWDPR and I would encourage everyone to understand the implications for our community and make your voices heard.** Once the Regulation 19 period is over, it will be submitted to and examined by the Planning Inspector (summer 2023), adopted by the three councils (early 2024), with building commencing soon thereafter. The maps used for the briefing remain available in the Parish Hall Coffee Shop, the presentation is posted on the Parish Council website <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/swdp-review/> and copies of the full SWDPR documentation is available from WDC. **Please make yourselves aware of what is going on and comment appropriately, once the plant machinery appears, it will be too late!**

The issues regarding the Active Travel Corridor (ATC) linking St Peters and Worcestershire Parkway Station remain outstanding:

- The need for waist-high, way-finder lighting in the lower section of Brockhill Lane as it emerges from the bridge over the A4440.
- The condition of the Grade II listed (by curtilage) wall running along the upper part of Brockhill Lane, the restoration of which WCC has taken responsibility.
- Traffic calming in Church Lane.
- The lack of a footpath in the narrowest part of the ATC after the Woodbury Lane humpback bridge at The Retreat.

Within the last week, the constant pressure that the PC has continued to exert on Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has led to them properly protecting the public using the ATC from the collapsing wall running along Brockhill Lane, and we now also have a date for a meeting with the WCC Cabinet Member for Transport (Councillor Mike Rouse). The PC remains adamant that if the ATC were to be properly completed it will be a benefit to the community, but at present, it is a long way from being properly completed.

Having been unsuccessful regarding Community Legacy Grant (CLG) funding for our Tranquillity Garden project (the project to link up and make better public use of several areas of PC-owned green space), we continue to look for other ways of funding it. One exciting possibility is carbon offsetting some of the land, which many large construction companies are looking to engage in and pay royally for. Notwithstanding carbon offsetting, there is also next year's CLG round, for which WDC were keen for us to re-present our plan. One way or another, I remain confident that the Tranquillity Garden project will progress.

Regrettably, with the passing of Her Majesty the Queen the planned unveiling of The Sentry statue on 19 September by HRH The Princess Royal was cancelled, as were many other similar events across the country. However, we have been informed that we remain on the 'catch-up list' and are hopeful that the unveiling can be rescheduled for 2023.

In the meantime, the improvements to the 'gateway to the parish' at Brockhill, i.e., the roundabout by the garden centre and the area around it continue, now that the land ownership issues and necessary permissions have been addressed.

- The roundabout itself has now had Planning Permission granted and has been sponsored by a local company, and we are hopeful that as we emerge into the 2023 growing season, it will look so much better than it did under County Highways maintenance. Hopefully, you will already have seen a huge improvement.
- On the piece of land nearest the roundabout (same side as the statue), the central raggedy-looking hawthorn has been removed and a self-seeded oak tree from the Parish Hall has been planted in its place. A circular tree seat will soon be placed around it, with a plaque commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- The area around The Sentry statue will be landscaped over the winter, again in the hope that spring will deliver a more convivial environment.

The Norton Connector continues to offer a full timetable. Details of how to use it and the timetable can be found here <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/norton-connector/timetable-and-how-to-book/> Funded via CLG from WDC and with contribution from Cllr Adams' WCC Divisional Allowance, The Norton Connector currently has funding for around another year, and we continue to seek other sources of funding/sponsorship for the future (if you know of any potential sponsors, please let us know), but to make it self-sustaining through your use would be by far the best way to fund it. The charity that runs the Norton Connector on our behalf (Worcester Wheels) was also used to good effect as a shuttle service for the park and ride during the Parish Hall fireworks, with four buses shuttling between St Peters Garden Centre and the Parish Hall. The Fireworks Night was a great success, with lots of positive feedback regarding the fireworks themselves and the changes the Trustees had made to the previous year's format to control numbers and generally make it more enjoyable for families.

We currently have Shop@WR5 and Coffee@WR5 and we may shortly have Honey@WR5, with the NJK Beekeepers working hard to process the honey that the bees have produced over the summer. While it's not quite ready to sell yet (registration, filtration, compliant labelling, etc...), it will hopefully appear in Shop@WR5 and Coffee@WR5 in the not-too-distant future. In parallel to getting the honey to a saleable state, the beekeepers are also working on how to include more parishioners in what they do and how to engage with children regarding pollinators generally. They have also been successful in their first grant application, receiving a small but important grant from Great Western Railway (GWR).

Shop@WR5 continues to be successful, proving popular with the local community, and other Parish Councils who are considering similar. The items on sale continue to be adjusted based on demand and the feedback forms in the shop are offering plenty of ideas. Keeping it stocked continues to be demanding, but having recently appointed a Shop Manager, it is hoped that it will soon become more manageable.

Many of you will have noticed that the two huge conifers on the right of the entrance into the Parish Hall have been removed. Some of you have mourned their loss (particularly some for who they were the first trees they climbed!), and others have welcomed their removal. The PC recently undertook a survey of all trees on the land that it owns, and among many others, they were deemed close to becoming unsafe and therefore required removal. We are intending to restore the area around where they were before next year's growing season, and investigate getting the stumps carved, or similar.

I seem to have been reporting that Worcester Norton Community Interest Company (WNCIC) continues to seek a lease from Worcester Norton Sports Club Ltd (WNSC Ltd) forever, but things have moved on. Over the summer the original project was deemed no longer deliverable (original requirement too extensive, rise in building material costs, etc...) and a new streamlined design was commenced. WNSC Ltd has had to pay for this re-design from its funds and this has helped to emphasise what they stand to lose if they delay further, e.g., the imminent loss of the first tranche S106 money (£167K). There is still no lease, but negotiations are ongoing, and the mood is more positive. Fingers crossed.

Our parish has a good volunteering ethos with volunteers running the Parish Hall, Coffee@WR5, Shop@WR5, Honey@WR5, Norton Theatre Group, community events at both the Parish Hall and Sports Club, and acting as Trustees, Councillors and CIC Directors, but we can always do with more! Everyone is welcome, including younger members of the community seeking Work Experience or Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers. If anything in this report makes you think that you would like to become involved, please contact us; **it's your parish and you can make a difference!**

If you have any comments regarding what you would like to see in our subsequent updates, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Cllr Kevin Fincher
Chairman
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Update

The South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) covers development requirements out to 2041. It calls for a further 14,000 new homes across the three South Worcestershire Councils (Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon) by 2041. Of these and with a major impact on Norton-juxta-Kempsey, 5,000 will be in Parkway Garden Town – mostly to the east of Worcestershire Parkway Station (WPS) - together with associated infrastructure – town centre, roads, schools etc... A further 5,000 homes are intended after 2041.

There has been a final six week public consultation period from 1st November until 13th December 2022. **If you are reading this before December 13th 2022, you still have an opportunity to comment on the final draft of the SWDPR before it is submitted to the Government Planning Inspector for examination.**

The documents for submission to the Planning Inspector for examination are available on the SWDP website <https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org> . You can also read printed copies in the public library.

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council held a parish briefing on 3rd November for the Parish Council to share its understanding of the proposals and enabled discussions and questions with our residents. On 9th December we hosted the SWDPR team at Norton Parish Hall when residents from the five parishes most impacted by the proposed Parkway development were invited to see the concepts and question the SWDPR team.

As the consultation period ends, the SWDPR team will make final changes based on comments received and then submit the plan. Examination will take place during 2023 and, assuming the plan passes the examination, formal adoption of the SWDPR by the three councils is likely to be late 2023 or into 2024.

Some thoughts for you:

- Probably none of us are in favour of the (eventually) 10,000 homes development around Parkway station on top of the 2,500 homes already committed to between Norton Road and the A38. We are told repeatedly that England needs many more dwellings than currently exist to house a growing population and because of inadequate provision in past years. While we can (and do) attempt to influence the plans for the development, it is unrealistic to expect to stop them altogether.
- Local Plans such as the SWDPR, together with our parish Neighbourhood Plan, are essential to protect us from runaway construction wherever and whenever a developer sees an opportunity to make a buck. Imperfect as these plans may be, they are a great deal better than nothing at all. We may not like the scale of the proposed Parkway Garden Town, but without the SWDPR and the Neighbourhood Plan we would likely be a great deal worse off.
- In many ways for us the worst part of the proposed Parkway development will be the disruption to our lives over the next many years – development traffic, noise and pollution, rat-running cars, impact on the hospital and other existing infrastructure etc. These are things we can fight against by making sure we all (individually and collectively) complain loud and long whenever we see a failure to meet an SWDPR commitment or see planning conditions not being enforced.

Councillor John Waizeneker
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

31st October 2022

Parish Information

Our parish has a good volunteering ethos with volunteers running the Parish Hall, Coffee@WR5, Shop@WR5, the Community Apiary, Norton Theatre Group, community events at both the Parish Hall and Sports Club, delivering The Sentry statue, and acting as Trustees, Councillors and CIC Directors, but we can always do with more! Everyone is welcome, including younger members of the community seeking Work Experience or Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers. If anything in this makes you think that you would like to become involved, please contact us; **it's your parish and you can make a difference!**

Other Parish information, including details of events for both the Parish Hall and the Sports Club, can be found elsewhere in this magazine, on the Parish noticeboards, or the following sites:

www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org

www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil PC

<https://www.facebook.com/nortonparishhall>

<http://www.nortonparishhall.co.uk/>

<https://www.wncic.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/worcesternortoncic/>

If you have any comments regarding what you would like to see in our subsequent updates, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Contacting Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

If you would like to contact the Parish Council concerning Parish matters, this can be done in the following ways:

By contacting the Parish Clerk directly:



Mrs Jane Greenway,

Clerk to the Parish Council Email: njkparishclerk@aol.com

Tel: 07955 756528

Post: 18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW

By visiting our new website: www.nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org

Via our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil

Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

2023 Meeting Dates

19 January, 16 February, 30 March, 27 April,
25 May (Annual Parish Council Meeting),
22 June, 20 July, 28 September,
26 October and 30 November.

Annual Parish Meeting: 11 May 2023

All dates are subject to confirmation.

If you would like to take part in the public question time session or observe the Parish Council meeting, please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com or Tel: 07955 75652

Disclaimer Notice

Please note that the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council or of any individual Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council does not have responsibility for the accuracy of articles or adverts included within this newsletter

The Norton Connector and Other Bus Services

It is very pleasing to be able to report that the Norton Connector community minibus continues to provide essential transport for those members of our parish without cars. The service operated for the Parish Council by Worcester Wheels is carrying between 50 and 70 passengers each month. Not a very large number, you may say, but for some of our residents, this is a lifeline.

Through the excellent flexibility of our friends at Worcester Wheels, the funding we originally had has now been stretched to subsidise the minibus until at least halfway through 2023. Beyond then we will have to look at alternative ways of supporting the service. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) were unsuccessful in their bid for government funds to enhance county bus services, but despite that, we understand they are still looking at ways to support community transport. Should this not happen we will have to look at alternative ways of subsidising the bus. For example, we could add the cost to the Parish precept, we could look for commercial sponsorship or in theory we could raise the fares fivefold to recover the costs. I do not seriously suggest the latter is remotely sensible, it would only drive our passengers away. Another approach might be for every resident to donate £3 each year. If we all did that the costs would be covered.

What do you think we should do??

On a more cheerful note, by the time you read this we will have had four (yes, four) buses shuttling people to the parish hall fireworks on November 5th which should greatly reduce the parking gridlock suffered by Littleworth last year.

Other nearby bus services, the X50 and 32 continue to operate much as before at the edges of the parish. Although the 32 appears to be a half-hourly service now, half the frequency of pre-covid times. You may even have seen the occasional 54 creeping through our villages – this is primarily aimed at getting students to and from Pershore High School and only runs on schooldays.

And if you would like to make use of the Norton Connector, call Worcester Wheels on 01905 450654.

Councillor John Waizeneker
Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council
28th October 2022

Norton Connector Timetable from 2nd December (* Mon, Wed & Friday only)

Crowngate Bus Station*			13.10	15.10
Asda/B&M Lowesmoor*			13.15	15.15
Lidl Newtown Road*			13.20	15.20
Haresfield House Surgery*			13.20	15.20
Worcs Royal Hospital*			13.30	15.30
Tesco St Peters	08.40	10.40	13.40	15.40
Tiree Avenue	08.42	10.42	13.42	15.42
Grasshopper Drive				
Regiment Close 1	08.47	10.47	13.47	15.47
Regiment Close 2				
St Peters Garden Centre	08.49	10.49	13.49	15.49
Mandalay Drive	08.51	10.51	13.51	15.51
Gazala Drive				
Church Lane				
The Retreat	08.55	10.55	13.55	15.55
St James Close				
The Hideage				
Littleworth Parish Hall	08.57	10.57	13.57	15.57
The Hideage				
St James Close				
The Retreat	08.59	10.59	13.59	15.59
Woodbury Park*				
Parkway Station*	09.05	11.05	14.05	16.05

Parkway Station*	09.10	11.10	14.10	16.10
Woodbury Park*				
The Retreat	09.16	11.16	14.16	16.16
St James Close				
The Hideage				
Littleworth Parish Hall	09.18	11.18	14.18	16.18
The Hideage				
St James Close				
The Retreat	09.20	11.20	14.20	16.20
Church Lane				
Gazala Drive	09.23	11.23	14.23	16.23
Mandalay Drive				
St Peters Garden Centre	09.26	11.26	14.26	16.26
Regiment Close 2	09.28	11.28	14.28	16.28
Regiment Close 1				
Tesco St Peters	09.35	11.35	14.35	16.35
Crowngate Bus Station*	09.45	11.45		
Asda/B&M Lowesmoor*	09.50	11.50		
Lidl Newtown Road*	09.55	11.55		
Haresfield House Surgery*	09.55	11.55		
Worcs Royal Hospital*	10.00	12.00		

* REQUEST ONLY STOPS (single fare = £2 or £1 w/bus pass)

* REQUEST ONLY STOPS (single fare = £3 or £2 w/bus pass)

Norton-Juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

<u>Financial Year to 30 September 2022 (6 months)</u>	Actual to Date £	Annual Budget £
INCOME		
Precept	59,733	59,733
Allotment/Ground/Garage/Playing Field Rental	2,520	5,673
Grants & WCC Lengthsman Reimbursement	2,945	4,359
From Reserves re planned expenditure (items * below)	0	65,037
Other Income incl. bank interest & VAT reclaim	1,222	12
TOTAL INCOME	66,419	134,814

EXPENDITURE (NET OF VAT)

Capital Items

Provision for Community Assets *	1,052	6,750
Expenditure re developments within the Parish *	0	2,000
Community Legacy Grant - Parish Hall developments *	0	22,854
Play area replacement/refurbishment (future plan) *	0	10,000
TOTAL	1,052	41,604

Community Services

Community Legacy Grant Project: Norton Connector*	2,748	11,250
TOTAL	2,748	11,250

Parish Maintenance *

TOTAL	29,656	39,711
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Administration

Donations/Grants/Events Support	805	3,850
Newsletter/printing & website/social media	495	1,150
Audit/professional fees/legal fees *	1,114	6,425
Neighbourhood Plan *	0	500
Parish Officers' costs	10,622	22,463
General Administration/subscriptions/insurance	1,278	5,776
Other Miscellaneous	1,049	2,070
TOTAL	15,363	42,234
TOTAL EXPENSES	48,818	134,799

VAT paid on expenses - recoverable	5,430	0
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NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	17,601	15
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Community Events - Norton Parish Hall, Littleworth

Date	Event	Details / Venue
12 to 14 January 2023	Snow White Pantomime	Norton Parish Hall See newsletter advert for more details including a discount code for online bookings. Tickets are on sale via: www.nortontheatregroup.wordpress.com

The Church article within this newsletter also includes details of local Church services, activities and events.

If you would like a community event added to this calendar, please email details to:
NJKparishclerk@aol.com

Rob Adams
District Councillor

Christmas is fast approaching and I wanted to say a big thank you to all in Norton and Whittington for the support you have given me over the last 12 months, especially in the last month with my wife in and out of the hospital. Your kind wishes have been a great comfort.

I know times are hard, and continue to be, but please let me continue to help where I can and where Wychavon can point you in the direction of help, be it heating, eating, business or debt. Get in touch, it's good to share a problem – you must not feel alone.

Leaders' announcements to the Wychavon Executive Board on 16 November:

- The public consultation on the South Worcestershire Development Plan Regulation 19 Publication Document is currently underway - the deadline for responses of 13 December. Please encourage your communities to respond to that consultation. We have now carried out 4 consultation events for each of the strategic sites.
- You may also have seen that the Boundary Commission for England has made proposals for parliamentary constituencies for final consultation. There are some proposed changes affecting us. The district wards of Dodderhill and also Harvington and Norton will both move into the Redditch Constituency. Mid Worcestershire Constituency without the 2 wards just mentioned will become the Droitwich and Evesham Constituency.
- With regard to the Norton and Whittington Ward this will be amalgamated with Drakes Broughton, Wadborough with Pirton to make a two-member ward. This is driven mainly by the reduction of 45 district councillors to 43.

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A Free Christmas Adventure comes to Wychavon towns:

- Visitors can take part in a free festive adventure with Wychavon's augmented reality trail. Wychavon has teamed up with High Street Safari to run the 'Hunt for the Lost Toys' trail in Droitwich, Evesham and Pershore from now until early January. Players will be guided on their trip by The Luminauts, a team of superheroes who have lost their Christmas presents.
- To hunt down the missing presents players will need to scan 10 QR codes at locations around the towns using their smart devices. They will make story choices in a choose-your-adventure at each stop. Scanning the code releases the cheeky Christmas Imps who will burst to life in augmented reality on their smart device.
The trail takes less than an hour to complete and can be completed in more than one visit. It's completely free to take part, and if completed a digital fun pack can be won. While the trail has been designed so there is no need to go inside the venues, some participating businesses are offering discounts/vouchers to those who are taking part.
- To find out more about the trail, visit www.valeandspa.co.uk/christmas/

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families and friends.

Any problems over the Christmas period just shout – I am at home.

Rob

Tel: 01905 345223

rob.adams@wychavon.net

**Linda Robinson
County Councillor**

Season's greetings to you all.

It is now 18 months since I became your County Councillor which has proved to be quite a steep learning curve. Despite having already served on Wychavon District Council, getting to grips with County issues such as Highways (which seem to take up much of my time) has been quite a challenge.

I am pleased to take up the offer made by your hard-working Parish Council of contributing to this newsletter.

Unfortunately, we are currently experiencing challenging times with the cost of living and energy crisis compounded by the war in Ukraine. It is a struggle for many to feel upbeat even with the festive season approaching but we still have so much to be thankful for.

As your County Councillor, I constantly see the power of our rural communities and how much we can achieve if we pull together for those less fortunate. My thanks to all of you who either through your work or volunteering are already actively involved.

The message from Worcestershire County Council is that they are 'here to help' and as your local representative, I am happy to signpost anyone affected towards available support. We need to recognise that 'it's alright not to be alright'.

So please check on the vulnerable and lonely amongst us, especially as we go into the colder weather. Together we are stronger and can make a difference!

Feel free to contact me if I can be of help.

Linda Robinson
County Councillor

Tel: 07720 076040

Email: lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Report from Nigel Huddleston M.P.

The world of British politics has been turbulent over the last few years, but with the appointment of Rishi Sunak as our Prime Minister, I am confident we have a compassionate leader with the right skills to address the challenges we face. From the cost-of-living crisis triggered by Putin's invasion of Ukraine to the latest COP27 summit, it is important that no matter where the problem arises, we develop uniquely British solutions, suited, and tailored to our market and our needs.

I was delighted to have been reappointed as a Lord Commissioner of HM Treasury (Government Whip) and appointed as a Minister in the Department for International Trade in the recent reshuffle. I look forward to serving in Rishi Sunak's new government in these dual roles, formed in the name of our new monarch, King Charles III.

Turning to local issues, I want to encourage constituents to ensure you make your voice heard in the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) consultation. You have until 13th December to make a submission, and it is important for the councils to hear as many views as possible. The review covers policies that are aimed at local business growth, rural communities, climate change, and the need to build more than 26,000 in the area. This is a clear opportunity to be consulted before these homes and other facilities enter the planning process.

Following on from the SWDPR I will be supporting the parish in its work to ensure that the improvements to highways infrastructure as set out in the Henry Harbord plans is delivered to a standard that is acceptable for active travel purposes. The route down Woodbury Lane needs particularly urgent attention and I shall be meeting with Worcestershire County Council soon to push this issue with them.

As always, if there is anything I can help you with – especially during this cost-of-living crisis, please don't hesitate to get in contact with my office via the usual email address: nigel.huddleston.mp@parliament.uk

**Nigel Huddleston MP, Member of Parliament for Mid Worcestershire
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**

Email: nigel.huddleston.mp@parliament.uk Tel: 0207 219 5814

Allotments Report – Winter 2022

After an exceptionally mild autumn, it's time to plan and prepare your plots for next year's growing season.

Perhaps not the most enticing time of year to be outside on your allotment, but please remember that plots still need to be maintained. Let's hope for some bright, sunny days ahead, even if they are much colder!

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions relating to the allotments, please don't hesitate to contact our Assistant Clerk, Katy Watkinson, Email: njkassistantclerk@gmail.com



St James

How does Christmas change your world? Think about that for just a moment. How will your world be different on December 26, January 18, February 12, or March 23 because of Christmas? Will you be happier? Will you have more peace in your life? Will you be a better person? Or will you simply have more things and owe more money and have to work more hours to help eliminate the additional strain that debt puts on your budget? If we are completely honest, this season does not really change our world all that much. Even for Christians who believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son and the Saviour of the world, Christmas does not change our lives that much.

There are those who ignore any commemoration of December 25, citing its origin as a pagan holiday and reminding everyone that we really do not know when Christ was born. Then there are, in this day and age, the politically correct who pass this time of the year off as a winter holiday season, refusing to acknowledge any religious significance of it, as they fight to have manger scenes removed from public property.

But despite all this – Christmas DOES still have an impact on us, and like Ebenezer Scrooge, even the hardest hearts continue to be touched by the Christmas story.

Back in December 1884, Ellen White wrote: “Christmas is coming. May you all have the wisdom to make it a precious season.”

The angels in the Christmas story tell us that the arrival of Christ in our world, Christmas as we now know it, is to be joyful. It should be something that helps quell our fears, and it should be something that brings us peace. Yet most of us today would not say that this day quells our fears, brings us true joy, or that it truly brings us peace. No, I would guess that most of us would be hard-pressed to see just how Christmas changes our world, but it should and it can.

Christmas has changed our world and can continue to do so because of the life and ways of the one whose birth we recall at Christmas, Jesus of Nazareth had radical ideas for his time. One of his ideas was a different way to think, see, and live. He treated his fellow man with deep compassion. He told people to love their enemies. He introduced the world to a new view of God, one that invited intimacy.

The purpose of Christmas continued to change the world as Jesus grew up, spread his ideas and demonstrated what he said, before laying down His life in the ultimate demonstration of how valuable God considered humanity.

The Christian writer Brian Zahnd puts it like this: *Nothing has done more to confer dignity upon the individual's person than the Christian doctrine of the incarnation, (God becoming man). If God can become human, then we must reconsider how we treat our fellow humans. The incarnation had, without question, made the world a more human place by raising the dignity of every individual.*

The Jesus of Christmas elevated the value of the poor, the sick, the weak, the outcast, the marginalized, and the victimized. It could even be argued that before Christmas, there was no such thing as human rights! That first Christmas compassion was born in people's hearts because they saw it on display in the life of Jesus.

Boris Pasternak in his novel Dr. Zhivago puts it like this: *And then in this tasteless heap of gold and marble HE came, light and clothed in an aura emphatically human, deliberately provincial, Galilean, and at that moment Gods and nations ceased to be, and MAN CAME INTO BEING.*

The remarkable festival of Christmas has survived to come down to us through the ages and that is because it is all about the words and actions of Jesus those that were so powerful and convincing in his time remain so today. Jesus had the courage of his convictions and offered compassion to those whose only response to his words was betrayal or violence. And, most importantly he did not stop loving those around him, especially when they doubted him or his message, even unto death.

At Christmas, we are encouraged to engage in the holiday spirit that lets us forget about ourselves and give rather than take. In this spirit, we want to shed a light on special stories about compassion, altruism, and kindness from the gaming community – and put us in the giving spirit of the season.

While it is nice to hear about such stories around Christmas, we should all be reminded that kindness and care are not restricted to being given during this season. In fact, it should serve as a reminder to make a change to act after these principles all the time. And that is the way of Jesus and if we live according to his ways each day then our world and the world around us can indeed be changed.

Rev Canon Mark Badger

<https://www.severnsideparishes.co.uk/index.php/churches/st-james>

Parish Council Social Media/Website Communications Report

Although we realise that not everyone is a Facebook fan it has developed into a very good means of quick communication with a large number of people. Our page now has 608 followers up by 13 since the autumn newsletter which is over 25% of the adult population of our Parish.

The Facebook page concentrates on local news and public information and has become an important source of information, including for people outside our Parish. For example, the new tree seat installed on Corookbarrow Road had 873 views and a whopping 214 engagements. Over 14,000 people in total have read at least one of our posts so far in 2022, with an incredible 8,147 people viewing one particular post about a local road closure.

To complement Facebook we also publish our news and information on our website, in quarterly newsletters and via free “Parish News” email subscriptions. Additionally, we use local notice boards and banners when it is appropriate. We are always looking to improve our communications further so please let us know if you have any ideas for opportunities to extend our coverage to even more local residents.

Follow us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/NJKParishcouncil>

You can read all our News and quarterly Newsletters which are published at the beginning of March, June, September and December by visiting our website at:

Website: <https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org>

While you are there hit the subscribe button at the bottom of the page to keep yourself up to date with local news directly to your email inbox. We have a growing list of subscribers which is good to see and you can unsubscribe at any time.

The website continues to attract a large number of visitors averaging around 1,500 per month. Why not pay us a visit? It's packed with lots of local history and information including all our Parish Council meeting minutes and other publicly available documents.

The online publication of the quarterly Parish Newsletter is now well established but that doesn't mean we are neglecting those of you who prefer to read a printed version. We still print and deliver a limited number of copies directly to homes, as well as placing some for general distribution in the Parish Hall, the Retreat, St Peters Garden Centre and on the Norton Connector bus. If you or someone you know wish to receive a printed version, this is available upon request, by contacting Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk by email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com or by sending a request by post to: Jane Greenway, Parish Clerk, 18 Corunna Close, Norton, Worcs WR5 2PW.

Finally, if you are a local business then you can advertise FREE on our website Business Directory. Almost every day there are social media posts from people asking "Does anyone know a good local plumber/carpet fitter/electrician etc." We want to make our website the "go-to" site to find local businesses. If you are a local business or know someone that would like to advertise with us, then please let us know. The Business Directory (with a listing both alphabetically and by category) could develop into a useful resource where people could get the details of local businesses and tradespeople which might not be easy to find anywhere else.

Councillor Martin Pollard

Social Media & Website Communications November 2022

Care for Your Area

The Parish Council has been advised that garden and other residential type waste is being dumped around the Parish, with this reported along public rights of way, in ditches, under hedges and on grassed areas.

Please remember that fly tipping is an offence and those tipping waste, including green waste, may be fined.

All waste should be disposed of using your wheelie bins, the Wychavon bulky item collection service or by visiting a licensed household recycling centre. A garden waste bin can be arranged via: <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/garden-waste-collection-service>

A bulk collection can be arranged via:

<https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/bulky-waste-collection>

Details of household recycling centres in Worcestershire can be found via:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/hrcworcestershires>

If you spot any fly tipping, please report this via the following link: <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/streets-and-toilets/street-care-and-cleaning/fly-tipping>

Thank you.



Privacy Statement

The council's privacy notices, which explain how we use and look after your information, and your rights, are available on our website using the following link:

<https://nortonjuxtakempseyparishcouncil.org/privacy-statement/>

LITTER PICKING

If you notice any areas within our Parish that need litter picking, please advise the Parish Clerk: Mrs Jane Greenway

Email: NJKparishclerk@aol.com

Tel: 01905 763515 or 07955 756528

Wychavon Information Updates

Would you like to receive updates from Wychavon District Council on subjects such as refuse collection dates and planning applications within the Parish?

If so, please visit www.wychavon.gov.uk and click on the 'Sign up here' button on the home page (shown below) to start receiving alerts.

WYCHAVON



**SIGN UP HERE
to receive alerts**



Home

About us

Pay it

Report it

Request it

Jobs

News & Alerts

Events

Contact us

More services



Reporting of Highways/Footway/Footpath Issues

If you notice a problem relating to highways/footways/footpaths, please report this directly to Worcestershire County Council Highways using online reporting or by phone.

Online report: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/homepage/98/report_it

Tel: 01905 765765

Examples of reportable items include:

Overgrown vegetation/hedges overhanging the carriageway, footway/footpaths

Overhanging, damaged or fallen trees

Potholes (carriageway, footways and footpaths)

Damaged/loose kerbs and slabs

Blocked/damaged highway gullies, culverts and grips, loose/missing gully covers

Non functioning/damaged street lights, traffic signals, zebra crossing beacons

Damaged/missing road signs, highway railings, bollards and marker posts

Faded/missing road markings

Highway flooding

Gritting and snow clearance (including grit bin enquiries/grit bin filling)

Thank you for your assistance

Reporting of Bins that Need Emptying

If you notice a litter or dog waste bin that needs emptying, you can report these directly to Wychavon District Council as follows, and they will aim to empty these as soon as possible.

Email: client.services@wychavon.gov.uk

or

Tel: 01386 565018

Thank you for your assistance.



If you want to find out when the games are on, or to see our latest results, please click on our website at:

www.worcestercc.play-cricket.com

As well as new cricketers, we also welcome new volunteers and sponsors. There are many opportunities to help in fundraising, coaching, social media, communications and groundwork etc. Being part of a voluntary organisation with a vibrant social side can be a rewarding and energising experience, if you are interested in being involved in club life please get in touch. All Club volunteers receive training and are vetted according to the DBS scheme. Please contact our chairman – his details are below.

Finally, just to wish you all good health and continued well-being and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Terry McMichael, Chairman

Tel:- 07799 326178

Facebook: @WorcesterCricketClub

Web: www.worcestercc.play-cricket.com

Twitter: @Worcester_CC

Public Rights of Way Report

Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has prime responsibility for maintaining and improving access to the Public Rights of Way for the benefit of the residents and aims to appoint a Parish Paths Warden in each Parish.

WCC is keen for all issues relating to Public Rights of Way (e.g. overgrown hedges, broken/missing stiles/gates, blocked routes) to be reported via its website using the following link:

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/online/reporting/FindLocation.aspx?FaultType=8>

WCC has recently installed new Public Rights of Way roadside signposts around our Parish but if you notice one that's missing, please report it via the link above.

If you would like to find out more about Public Rights of Way or to view an interactive map of the Public Rights of Way within our Parish, please visit:

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20237/public_rights_of_way

Mrs Jane Greenway

Clerk to Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council

County Mobile Library Service

Enquiries about this service should be made as follows:

Tel 01905 822722

Email: mobilelibraries@worcestershire.gov.uk

Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk
and search for "mobile library"

The mobile library visits St Peter's Garden Centre on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Worcester Norton Shooting Club

Affiliated to – MLAGB - UKPSA - NRA

Norton Barracks Brockhill Lane Norton Worcester DY5 2PP

NEW Web Site: www.wnsc.co.uk



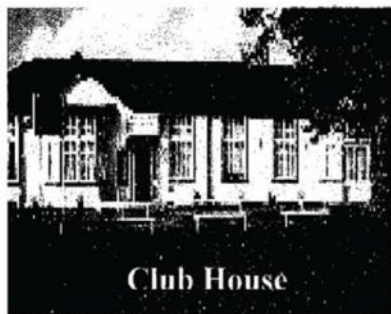
Worcester Norton Shooting Club as part of Worcester Norton Sports Club Limited have been operating since 1982 and are pleased to offer a variety of facilities for the use of air gun, small bore & full bore shooting plus limited shotgun opportunities.

With nearly 300 members covering an age range of 6 to 70+ we offer a friendly, safe and welcoming Club environment for all shooting interests. Our Club Range Officers are CRB vetted and many hold National Rifle Association additional qualifications.

If you wish to visit our club please contact either the Chairperson or General Secretary through the Clubs Website.

Worcester Norton Sports Club Limited also includes a Cricket Section and Social Membership.

Our main Club House facility is licensed and has function rooms available. Applications for Social Membership are open to all residents in the Norton area.



Call in & see what you're missing!

NORTON THEATRE GROUP PRESENT

A FAIRLY WICKED,
FUN FILLED FAMILY PANTOMIME

Snow White

THURS 12TH * FRI 13TH * SAT 14TH JANUARY 2023
(7.15PM) (7.15PM) (2PM & 7.15PM)

Norton Parish Hall

Littleworth, Norton, Worcestershire, WR5 2QB

Adults: £10 Child/DAP: £7.50

10% DISCOUNT

FOR READERS OF NJK NEWSLETTER!

USE PROMO CODE NJK23 WHEN YOU BOOK ONLINE

FACEBOOK.COM/NORTONTHEATREGROUP

NORTONTHEATREGROUP.CO.UK

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Friday 9th December

Bar Open 7.00pm, 1st question 7.30pm

£1 per player, 6 players per team



**Christmas
Jumpers**



Hot Food On Sale

Burgers £3.50

Hot Dogs £3.00

Come and have some fun!

Worcester Norton Sports Club

The Clubhouse

Brockhill Lane, WR5 2PP



Further information relating to Here2Help, including how to access support, can be found on the WCC website page:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help>

If you are unable to access this information, or to complete the online form, support is available by phoning 01905 768053 and selecting option 3.

Lines are open Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm.

Please see the range of support and resources we offer below



Cost of living support



Children, young people and families



Looking after someone



Healthy lifestyle



Money matters



Mental wellbeing



Recreation, activities, and things to do



Volunteering



Work and learning

Parking in Littleworth

Please can drivers park considerately and safely to ensure the safety of our children, residents and those using the village

Cars are being parked on yellow lines, at junctions, blocking drives and pavements, and are potentially causing access problems for emergency vehicles.

Please remember that the car park at the Parish Hall remains open for use for school time parking, as does the car park at the Retreat.

We have received reports of parking issues across the Parish and hope that the following helps to clarify how these can be reported (including vehicle registration numbers where possible).

Parking on double/single yellow lines (where the time is restricted and it is within the time period relating to the restriction) : Contact Wychavon DC Parking Team 01386 565009 at the time or email details to: parking@wychavon.gov.uk

Parking causing an obstruction (where not on yellow lines). Phone the Police at the time using the 101 non-emergency phone number (unless it is an emergency when phone 999).

If the parking appears related to the school, also contact the school to highlight the situation by phoning 01905 820420.

We appreciate that the majority of drivers park considerately and thank you for this.

COFFEE AT WRFIVE, NORTON PARISH HALL OPENING HOURS



MONDAY 9.30AM - 11.30AM

WEDNESDAY 10.30AM - 12.30PM OVER 50s COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 3PM - LATE

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 3-6PM

We always
need
volunteers!
Please get in
touch if you
can help!

Contact: [njparishhall@gmail.com](mailto:njkparishhall@gmail.com)





NORTON Brockhill Village NHW

A neighbourhood watch scheme exists to serve the Norton Brockhill Village area. The objective of this group is to share information on neighbourhood issues within the local community and encourage members to stay vigilant and report incidents.

The scheme is run by members of the West Mercia Neighbourhood Watch team working in partnership with West Mercia Police, Norton-juxta-Kempsey Parish Council and the Pershore Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team.

The group are using digital technology to monitor, report and respond to incidents. WhatsApp and Facebook groups are used by members to communicate in real time, which allows the community to spread the word instantly if issues or incidents are reported. For more information, or to join the Norton scheme then please see our Neighbourhood watch website or Facebook pages for more information:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/36764/norton-crookbarrow-road/>

Thank you for helping to keep Norton a safe area for local residents!

In partnership with the West Mercia Pershore Rural North Safer Neighbourhood Team



DOG WALKERS

We have received reports of dogs being walked off lead in fields where livestock is grazing.

Please can walkers ensure they only use public rights of way and also keep dogs on leads when walking in areas with livestock present.

Thank you.

SHEEP GRAZING IN FIELD

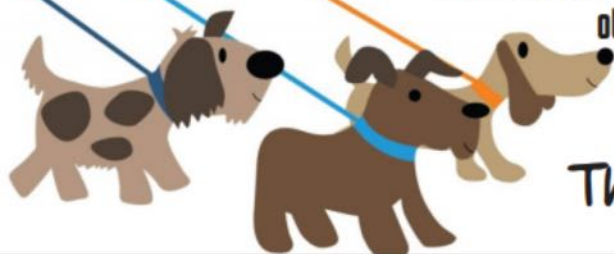


**PLEASE
KEEP DOGS
ON LEADS**

Dog Walking in Littleworth

**Please note that the public right of way that runs along the back of the allotments does not extend into the field behind the allotments.
This is a private field and should not be used for dog walking.**

**The access point that has developed is being removed
and walkers are asked to respect this and also
not to remove the farmer's fencing,
otherwise sheep will
escape from the
field.**



Thank you

Reporting of Police Matters

The Pershore Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) is working with partners to tackle the issues causing most concern in your neighbourhood which could include subjects such as anti-social behaviour and speeding.

The Road Safety Team is looking to return to Church Lane to carry out enforcement and the SNT has been to Littleworth to carry out speed checks. Regular patrols have been carried out throughout the area and the Team has also visited NJK CE Primary School to address the constant issue of parking and our 'parking people' were on display during the Autumn Term.

The Pershore SNT has undergone some changes in the last 5 months including PCSO Faye Allen-Carter moving on to Malvern and PCSO Ashleigh Smith joining Pershore in a hybrid role, covering both Pershore Town and Rural. Student police officers will also be assisting in the area as part of their training. PC Daren Riley remains as the PC for the area.

We encourage residents to register on our Neighbourhood Matters alert system <https://neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/> which allows everyone to get up to date information as to what is happening in their area including crimes, community engagements, good news stories and crime prevention advice.

If you need to contact the Police:

For crimes in progress call 999

For non-emergencies report online: <https://www.westmercia.police.uk/>

To contact the Pershore Rural SNT email:
pershorerural.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Pershore Rural North and South Safer Neighbourhood Team

Non-Emergency Telephone No: 101

Facebook: PershoreCops

Twitter: @PershoreCops

Mowing of Grass Verges at Brockhill

Despite this seeming quite a straightforward activity, due to the complexities of who owns and is responsible for various areas of green space/verges, it, unfortunately, isn't.

In response to feedback received regarding the mowing of the small areas of grass at Brockhill (those that are situated between the pavement and the road), we are seeking to clarify the situation. These areas are Worcestershire County Council (WCC) highway verges and are the responsibility of WCC to maintain, however, the WCC mowing schedule is not frequent enough to keep these areas tidy within their setting. We are very grateful to those residents who mow the small verges that are in close proximity to their homes, as this helps to reduce costs to the Parish Council, but we appreciate that this isn't something that all residents are able to do.

To keep these small areas of grass tidy, the Parish Council arranges for mowing as a top-up to the WCC maintenance schedule during the growing season. We ask motorists not to park vehicles on these verges as this destroys the surface and makes mowing difficult.

This Parish Council-arranged work doesn't extend to 'service strip' areas that form part of, or are adjacent to, residents' gardens and generally fall within property boundaries.

Help with Overgrown Hedges

Please can you check any hedges/trees in your garden (or on land that you own), to ensure that these aren't encroaching onto pavements, public rights of way, or roads, creating access, visibility and safety issues.

To ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles can pass safely, please can you carry out any maintenance work that may be required.

Thank you for your assistance.



The Royal British Legion

Littleworth and District Branch



**NEW MEMBERS
NEEDED
YOUR
LEGION
WORKING IN
YOUR
COMMUNITY**

We would welcome any new members and currently hold our meetings approximately every 8 weeks at Norton Parish Hall, Littleworth.

If you would like further details, please contact us on the phone numbers below.

CONTACT:

David Field 07858 399 415 david.field@sky.com



Norton Pre-School

Offering high-quality care for children
9 months - 5 years.

***Flexible hours *Secure garden**
***Forest School * Experienced staff**

Funded places available for eligible 2 & 3yrs old,
15 or 30hrs per week.

Open 0800 - 1600 Mon - Fri

Look at our website for full details

www.nortonpreschool.org

Or call Helen Hope on 07813 343545

Visit us at the rear of Norton Parish Hall,
Wadborough Rd, Littleworth. WR5 2QB





Norton Baby and Toddler Group

Thursday from 10am-11.30am (term time only)

Norton Parish Hall

A friendly and welcoming group run by parents for babies, toddlers and their parents/carers.

Activities, toys, crafts, singing and refreshments for adults and children included.

£2 (plus £1 for each extra child).

Norton Parish Hall, Wadborough Rd, Littleworth Nr Norton,
Worcestershire WR5 2QB

Find us on facebook Norton Toddler Group

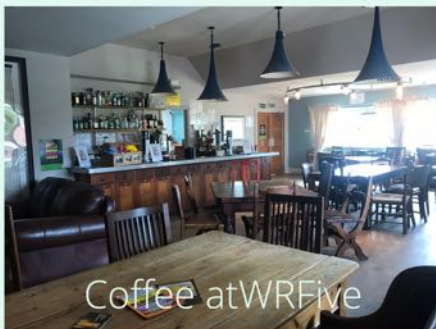


NORTON PARISH HALL

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 508249

Our facilities include:

- The Freeman Windsor Hall and kitchen - a large room which can hold up to 200 people. Ideal for parties, wedding receptions, exercise classes and more.
- The Littleworth Suite - a purpose built meeting room that can be split into two smaller rooms ideal for meetings, smaller exercise classes, baby groups and small parties. It has its own external entrance, toilets and small kitchen area.
- Coffee at WRFive - a beautiful family friendly facility run by volunteers that can be hired outside of opening hours for certain private functions.
- Large children's play area
- Free parking for over 100 cars
- Playing fields, tennis court and MUGA



Coffee at WRFive



Freeman Windsor Hall



Littleworth Suite



Would you like your photographs to be considered for a Parish Newsletter?
If so please email them to NJKparishclerk@aol.com. We would like
photographs to show something about the parish or of local interest if possible.
Front and rear photos are courtesy of Peter Morgan and Dave Watson.