

Costessey Town Council



Costessey Contact

Your Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 76 Autumn 2015

Councillors met at a public meeting in October to agree a Four Year Plan that sets out priorities for improvements to the facilities and recreational areas that we manage, including the resources required to maintain them to a high standard.

Pride in the appearance of our open spaces and cemetery has always been a top priority and, with a view to acquiring some parcels of land from South Norfolk Council, we now have two full-time grounds staff who are dedicated to the upkeep of the areas we manage. We also maintain the St Edmund's closed churchyard on behalf of the Diocese. Upkeep of our highway verges and specialist tree work is carried out by our contractors, but you still need to contact us with any concerns. We are within budget this year and the 2016/17 precept will reflect the estimated costs associated with our priorities.



Free-to-use interactive games like these are proposed at the Longwater Lane Multi Use Games Arena.



Extension to the Cemetery to include a Natural Burial Site.



New Nest Swing at Breckland Park.



A worthy restoration project; contact us if you can help with fund-raising activities.

Improvements are starting soon to the young children's Breckland Play Area that will see new equipment, fencing and restoration of the rocking horse. The new nest swing and repairs to the skateboard ramp and safety surfacing were funded from the insurance settlement following last year's arson attacks. The offender has been prosecuted for his actions. The project will be phased as funds dictate and see new seating in other parts of the grounds. Not so visible to hirers and users, but as important, are upgrades to drainage at our Longwater Lane Grounds and improvements to The Costessey Centre Plant Room.

The Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane, Costessey, Norwich, NR8 5AH

Telephone: 01603 742958 Email: info@costessey.org Web: www.costessey.org.uk



www.costessey.org.uk is up and running and is the first place to visit for our up to date information and latest news. We also have a What's On guide and 'Tweet' information and upcoming events so follow us @CostesseyTC

We welcome views and suggestions for improvements to Costessey. It's nineteen years since the first issue of the 'Costessey Contact' and annually we spend £3,200 on printing and delivery to over 6500 households. Would you like to see any changes? It's your Council Tax we use to fund it at 12 pence a copy, four times a year. Of course you can see it online first along with all of our other information such as Agendas & Minutes.

We were delighted to team up with Age UK (Norfolk) to celebrate Silver Sunday, an initiative led by The Sir Simon Milton Foundation. It celebrates the value and knowledge older people contribute to our communities while combating loneliness and isolation. South Norfolk Council kindly awarded a grant for the refreshments, and local historians Paul Cooper, John Denby and Roy Howard were pleased to be able to share some images of Costessey to enable us to reflect on our memories. A further £300 grant has also been awarded to purchase a lap-top computer that will enable them to collate more images and visit local community groups who are interested in our history. We were also pleased to welcome Barbara Howard and Peter Lillystone as Community Connectors employed by the District Council to help our residents with early help and support.



Well done to Des King who won our website launch competition by sending us the above picture taken on West End. Over the summer volunteer Town Councillors Patrick O'Connor & Paul Cooper spent time arranging pictures and paintings from Costessey at the Rymarz Gallery on the first floor of The Costessey Centre. Come in anytime and take a look, or visit our website gallery with many more images.

Des King with Cllr Paul Cooper in the Rymarz Gallery.

EBS Copiers Ltd kindly provided the ipod shuffle prize.



Grove Avenue in the late 50's



Cossey Hall (West) circa.1890



Silver Sunday celebrations

Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May 2016 - Costessey Fete is here again...!



Volunteers took a break this year, but are back to make the 2016 fete bigger and better, with an earlier start time of 12 noon. Five Councillors formed a working group to focus on new ideas and attractions but still require additional volunteers to help on the day. There is increased capacity for stalls that are £20 each (£10 for charities) and to book you need to complete a form available from costesseyfete@yahoo.co.uk



**Saturday 21 November 9:30am to 12 noon
at The Costessey Centre, Longwater Lane**

In order to raise funds to cover the costs of the fete, Councillors have volunteered to run this event which may become a regular fixture if successful. The cost is £5 for a table with two chairs and to book you need to email GaryBlundellcpc@yahoo.co.uk It's a great opportunity to have a clear out at home and make some pocket money...!

St Edmund's Church, Costessey: Celebrating the Past – Ensuring the Future

St Edmund's Church is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a Stage One Development Grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out urgent repairs and conservation work to its roof. As well as the repair and conservation work, the project will involve creating new resources for the community – such as an exhibition telling the history of Costessey over time and a new Heritage Detectives Trail.

Please give us suggestions on what you would like to see, do and experience in the church and how you would like to discover the heritage of Costessey through this exciting project. An online survey is available via our website giving you a chance to tell us what you think so that St Edmunds can respond to your needs. Costessey Town Council supports the Church by maintaining the Closed Churchyard. For more information email: saul.penfold@btinternet.com



Community Speed Watch was launched in 2007 and is empowering communities to tackle the problem of speeding. Groups are issued with a speed radar gun to carry out speed checks in 30 and 40 mph zones. Volunteers have been active on Sir Alfred Munnings Way and are seeking additional help to work in other parts of Costessey. Contact Sharon Blundell on 01603 741097 or your Police Safer Neighbourhood Team on 101. Training is at West Costessey Hall.

Access and improvements to our infrastructure

The Town Council works with other organisations to ensure we improve and maintain our infrastructure and street furniture. We often report defects and work to shape improvements even when it's not our responsibility. Here's a selection of activities we're involved with this year that make for a better quality of life.

- Bollards (pictured) on West End to alleviate inconsiderate parking (50% funded by the Town Council)
- New slip road heading towards Norwich on A1074 near to the new Next Store
- Widening of the A1074 (last small section near roundabout due for completion)
- Protocol for use of the Queen's Hills Bus Lane in an emergency
- Improvements to access points along the Marriott's Way
- New Grit Bins (Town Council supplies and installs, County Council re-fill them)
- Quarterly tours with the Highway Engineer to identify concerns
- Continue to lobby for a second exit from Longwater/Queen's Hills area
- Following the introduction of the Community Levy Infrastructure in May 2014, the Town Council has £2,330 to spend on the maintenance, provision or improvements to our infrastructure. Any ideas?



New Recruits and Acting Beat Manager

Louise Kneller, Costessey Town Councillor

Following Alex Todd's move to Ireland we advertised a Casual Vacancy on our website and notice boards.

Louise Kneller was the only applicant and was co-opted onto the Town Council at a public meeting on 1 September. Louise's background is in the legal sector and she is currently employed by a mid-sized UK charity as part of their in-house legal department. She has lived on Queen's Hills for just over 3 years. Louise is keen to support both her residential area of Queen's Hills and the wider Costessey community and hopes that her skills and experience will enable her to contribute to the future development of Costessey, for the benefit of all residents.

Steven Lester Groundsman/Handy Person

Steven joined us in October after 10 years contracted to Norwich City Council. He has lived in Costessey with his wife and son for the past seven years.

We now have two full-time grounds staff who also undertake maintenance work in our premises.



PC694 Gary Owen

After two years as a Volunteer Special Constable Gary joined the constabulary as a Response Officer covering areas around Diss & Long Stratton. Later he became an investigator within the Custody Investigation Unit but is now dedicated to policing Costessey whilst PC Natalie Cooper is on Maternity Leave. We wish Natalie well and look forward to working with Gary and his Safer Neighbourhood Team.

TOWN COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

John Amis 96, Olive Road 746665
Mark Bedford 32, Bottom Breck Close 749833
Stephen Burton 43, Sunny Close 510842
Gary Blundell 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097
Sharon Blundell 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097
Paul Cooper 47, Tower Close 747468
Tim East 7, St Walstans Close 743241
(Town Council Chairman)
Libby Glover 78, Middleton Crescent 748374
David Gunby 15A, Grove Avenue 280651
Sheila Hannant 88, Longwater Lane 743444
Louise Kneller 58, Redpoll Road 742035
Duncan Lister Holkham House, Townhouse Rd 271279
John Newby 6, Carr's Hill Close 746328
Patrick O'Connor 144, Gunton Lane 748339
(Town Council Vice-Chairman)
Reg Piesse 1, Longwater Lane 744233
Helen Prochera 23, Bawburgh Lane

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR COSTESSEY

New Costessey Ward

John Amis 96, Olive Road 746665
Vivienne Bell St Mary's, 8 Smithdale Road 743366

Old Costessey Ward

Sharon Blundell 37, Kestrel Avenue 741097
Andrew Pond 11, Folly Road, Wymondham 01953 607267

COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR COSTESSEY

Tim East 7, St Walstans Close 743241

COUNCIL STAFF

Town Clerk - Hilary Elias
Deputy Clerk - Nigel Bailey
Clerk's Assistant - Margaret Voza
Clerk's Assistant - Emma Savage
Meet & Greeter - Debbie Bowles
Head Groundsman - Barry Barber
Groundsman/Handy Person - Steven Lester

*Published by
Hilary Elias, Town Clerk, Costessey Town Council*