

# Wick Community Council

NEWSLETTER – July 2019

## Wick Community Council has a new Councillor

Wick Community Council is delighted to welcome Councillor Phil Murphy from St James Gardens as the latest co-opted Community Councillor. Phil has already shown that he is going to make an excellent contribution to the Council. Thanks to all those who expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor, there are currently no vacancies on the Community Council

## Wick Sports Pavilion Update

In our last newsletter we reported that the Vale Council had no further use for the Sport's Pavilion and that the Community Council had been in discussions with the Vale concerning its future use.

It has been provisionally agreed that the Community Council will take a 25-year lease on the Pavilion, a report recommending this will go to the Vale cabinet shortly. It is hoped that the Community Council will take the lease from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. In the meantime, the Pavilion continues to be looked after by Councillors on a voluntary basis.

The roof of the Pavilion is in a poor state of repair and is to be replaced during the summer months. As soon as dates for this work have been confirmed users of the Pavilion will be informed.

The current roof contains no insulation and heating costs are high, this will be rectified with the new one. Asbestos in the building will be removed as part of this work.

Councillors are currently considering various options for the future use of the building once it is taken over. There will be a full consultation with villagers before any decisions are taken.

Bookings for the Pavilion can still be made by email to [wickcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wickcommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or phone 07710209437.

## Play equipment

At the end of the financial year The Community Council received a grant to purchase some equipment to enhance play opportunities for younger children in the Village.

The equipment includes some "Red Tops," seen below, bug hunting and Den Making items, a Quadro play kit and some other items.

The equipment will be put to good use during the school summer holidays but if organisations in the Village would like to borrow it please contact The Clerk, 07710209437 to make arrangements. It can be borrowed free of charge but there is an expectation that it will be returned in good conditions and that losses or damage will be made good.



## Play Rangers

Once again, this year Wick Community Council will be supporting the Vale Play Rangers to deliver sessions in the Village. The Play Rangers will be at the Pavilion on Tuesdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm from Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July until Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August. Play Rangers deliver services for children age 5 to 11 years with older young people welcome to attend and help.

## Community Art Project

Councillors are in regular contact with the Community Art Project team and final details of this project are expected to be finalised soon.

## Wick Village Green

For many years the Vale Council has maintained the Village Green, however the Council now has to make considerable saving and says that, as the Green does not belong to the Vale, they can no longer continue to maintain it, and this includes cutting the grass.

Discussions are in hand with The Vale Council, Wick Cricket Club and the owners of the Green, the Duchy of Lancaster, over future maintenance of the Green, including the Children's Play area, grass cutting and the replacement of the damaged railings and benches.

The Village Green is an important part of our community, used daily for leisure activities. The Community Council will do all it can to ensure that it continues to be kept in a good state.

As part of the Community Art Project it has been proposed to sow wildflower seeds on parts of the Village Green at the edges bordering Trepit Road. The Duchy of Lancaster has given its approval for this providing there are no objections from other users of the Village Green or residents.

If you have any comments or concerns about this proposal or would like further information please contact the Clerk at [wickcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:wickcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

## Council News

This year we were again able to ensure that the Community Council's precept was one of the lowest in the Vale. We have achieved that by careful housekeeping and by the fact that the officers of the council and all of the councillors carry out their roles on a voluntary basis without claiming either salary or allowances. Every penny which you as council tax payers pay towards the Council is spent on providing services for the Community.

## Anti-social Behaviour and crime

Councillors have been made aware of residents concerns over crime and anti-social behaviour in the Village. We are in regular contact with our neighbourhood Policing Team and have been reassured that Wick remains a low crime area.

In particular the Police have given re-assurance that in respect of an incident reported to have taken place recently there were absolutely no firearms or drugs involved and the rumour that premises in the Village are being used for housing persons recently released from prison are untrue.



In the event of anyone having concerns about crime or anti-social behaviour in the Village PCSO Angela Stone can be contacted on 0780530415.

## Section 106 Funding

Meetings continue to be held with the Vale Council over the community funding which has accrued as a result of the development at St James Gardens.

Some of this funding has already been allocated to Wick and Monkash Village Hall and some will be used for the repair of the roof on the Sports Pavilion.

It is proposed that some of the funding will be used to provide a multi-use games area on the rugby field, the lease of which has now been surrendered by Wick Rugby club, with the remaining sum allocated to St James Church for improvements there.

Detailed proposals for how this funding will be spent has yet to be agreed by the Vale Council.