

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A word from the Chairman of Groby Parish Council - Cllr. Jim Coley

Parish Council Office
Village Hall
Leicester Road
Groby
Leicestershire, LE6 0DQ

Opening Times

Mondays

11.00am to 2.00pm

Tuesday s

11.00am to 2.00pm

Wednesdays

11.00am to 2.00pm

Thursdays

12.30am to 3.30pm

Fridays

10.00am to 12.30pm

Outside these times by prior appointment

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7.00 pm in the Council Chambers within the Village Hall.

Planning Committee meetings are held every two weeks, usually on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm.

Forthcoming Meetings

March 2015

11th Planning Committee
25th Planning Committee

April 2015

8th Planning Meeting
13th Full Council meeting
16th Annual Meeting of the Parish of Groby
22nd Planning Meeting

May 2015

6th Planning Meeting
18th Parish Council AGM
20th Planning Meeting

All meetings are
Open to the Public.

Well it's nearly the end of this Parish Council's 5 year term of office and those of us still minded to work for Groby Parish Council will be filling in our applications in order to stand again as Parish Councillors.



This can be a thankless (and unpaid) task when things are difficult but can also be uplifting when they go right, but with any public office you have to take the rough with the smooth. In our case the public will decide how well we have done at the Parish council elections on 7th May on the same day as the new Parliament is elected.

Parish Council Finances

As most of you will have probably read in the press, Leicestershire County and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough councils are looking to save quite large amounts of money this year due to cuts in funding to Leicestershire from National Government. Unfortunately this also impacts on money that would have trickled down to your Parish Council, hence when LCC say that they are keeping the increase in Council Tax at below 2% (1.99%) and H&BBC say that they are keeping their Council tax to a 0% increase, they are achieving this by such cuts as the £5K+ that LCC have cut from grass verge cutting in Groby (which GPC are now going to subsidise), the £16.5K Groby PC are raising in order to maintain the Groby library service now that Leicestershire Libraries are withdrawing funding, the reduced payments to Parishes by H&BBC removing payment of the "New House Bonus" to parishes which amounts to a reduction of some £4.3k in the case of Groby PC! All of these measures add up to Groby Parish Council having to somehow *find* or *save* an extra £25k+ for 2015/16 just to maintain the status quo. Plus there is also a promise of further cuts in 2016/17.



All this means that we must either drastically reduce the services provided to Groby Residents OR raise our Parish Precept. This year we have made significant economies in running costs but the only way to maintain the Groby library is to take on board the results of the consultation in the Spotlight last year and raise the precept (by 12.5%) to help finance the emerging Groby Community Library. Hopefully you will appreciate our efforts.

Bloor appeal (Land to the East of Groby Cemetery)

Our Borough councillors, myself and other Parish Councillors attended the Planning Appeal against the building of the 90+ homes on the land to the East of Groby Cemetery in January. The 4 day appeal was complicated and detailed as it was the result of a single point in a Judicial Appeal by Bloor's, following last year's successful appeal against the same development.

For this appeal Groby and Ratby Parish Councils had jointly engaged our Legal representative **Simon Stanion** of Marrons and at the close **Simon's** view was that the decision would be very difficult to judge and was too close to call.

By the time this edition of the Spotlight is published we all may know the latest decision of the Appeal Inspector as we have just been informed by the Planning Inspectorate that we will get the results of the appeal on or about 16th March.