



Hello. My name's Revd. Sara Davies, and I am the new Priest in Charge of Beckingham as well as Leadenham, Welbourn, Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe. I have also now taken over seven of Revd. Stuart Hadley's churches from what was the South Cliff Group of Churches, following his retirement. We are now known as Loveden Central Group of Parishes. I have been making various visits to people planning a wedding, baptism or funeral which is an important part of my ministry. Over the last few months, I have mourned a much-loved father-in law, welcomed a first grandchild and prepared for my daughter's wedding taking place at the beginning of September. My journey has been one of grief, joy and hope for the future, much the same as that which we follow in the New Testament of the Bible. As Christians we lament Jesus' death on the cross, rejoice at his resurrection and acknowledge the hope of eternal life. As individuals we can struggle as we work through that cycle of life, but faith in Jesus helps us to move forwards.

Life in our rural villages is one of cycles and seasons. Our farmers are hard at work harvesting in the fields at all hours, going home for rest and nourishment. Within the church we are planning our Harvest services, giving thanks for all that has been provided for us by God, and for all those that are involved in the production of our food. We also remember and seek to make some provision for those who are currently struggling to feed their families in a time of financial difficulty.

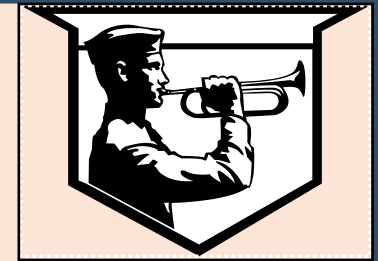
We would love to welcome you to one of our Harvest services taking place at different times and places; Beckingham's will be at 11am on 8th October. Our general service pattern will be for Beckingham to have a service of Morning Prayer on the second Sunday of the month at 9.30am. We do have Remembrance Sunday and Christmas approaching so please check on the church noticeboard.

As your parish priest I am here for everybody, those with faith or no faith at all so do feel free to contact me. Every blessing Revd. Sara Davies 07768706952

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The Beckingham & Sutton Bugle



September 2023

Beckingham and Sutton Village News and Information



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For more village news and to stay up to date with the latest Parish Council business visit the Village website at: www.beckinghamvillage.co.uk

From Tom Woodcock—the project manager in charge of the LV (Low Voltage) undergrounding scheme beginning in Beckingham on the 11th September 2023 until 17th October 2023. (previously in charge of the LV Overhead Line refurbish on Chapel Street).

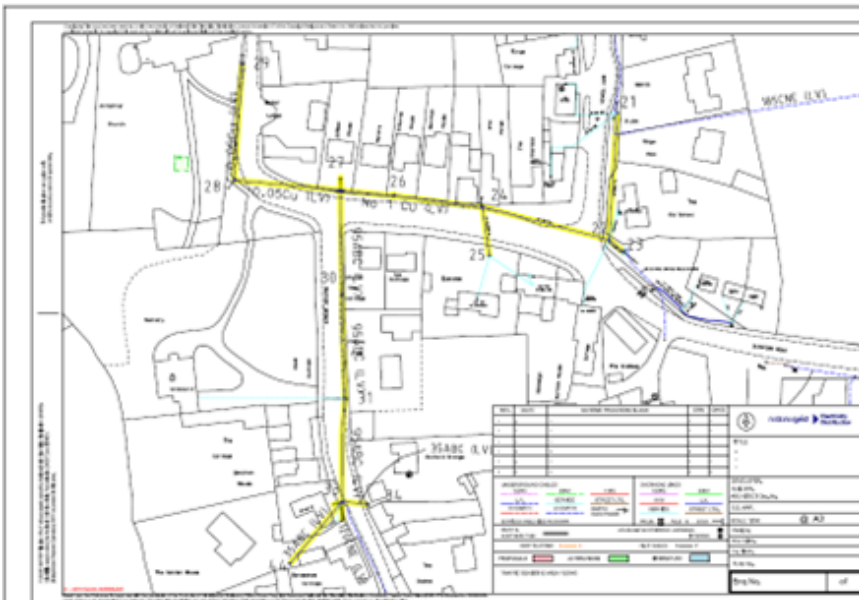
The electricity network along Sleaford Road, Rectory Lane and School Lane is ready to be renewed/upgraded.

This scheme benefits all within this area of the village, both aesthetically and electrically. The new network will comprise of a larger main, fresh connections and new switching points which in turn will make it more reliable, efficient and aesthetically pleasing for such a village.

There will also be fresh street light columns in place, which will replace the old lighting on the existing poles.

We will be trenching approximately 375 meters of 185mm² three phase cable into the footpaths/roads, excavating joint holes to make new connections to the customers premises and remove old poles and wire. There may be slight disruption with the traffic management that will be in place throughout the job. The approved contractors (Network Plus) will be doing the dig and lay of the cables, and the jointing of the cables will be done by National Grid.

Attached is a plan and the highlighted network for undergrounding. *The one span of overhead power line down the side of the church will remain overhead, due to feeding the service to the church.*



Solar Farms—Marianne Overton's thoughts.....

The Chris Skidmore Report recommended that renewable energy be **part of a planned land use strategy**, as we do for other developments such as our Strategic minerals plan or our Local Plans. Currently solar power development is very arbitrary, often overloading areas within 10 miles of a future point of connection into the grid. The importance of the **cumulative impact** changing the nature of the landscape should be included in the NPPF.

Connection to the grid from smaller renewable energy sources should be required to be cheaper, thus making connection possible. This would also reduce the need for batteries.

Projects of national significance still need to protect or enhance **locally significant features**. **Land grades** 1, 2 and all of 3 a and b are growing food. The difference between 3a and 3b is too fine, requiring chemical analysis of the soil. This artificial division between 3a and 3b leads to significant confusion where applicant and Council survey are significantly different in the percentage of soil type 3a and 3b. Testing needs to be more numerous than the once per hectare currently used. Since 1-3 grade land grows food, it should be retained in that production.

A sequential test should be applied, where rooftops, brownfield sites and poorer soils are shown to have been considered first.

Developments over 1000ha should be required to be broken into smaller **units**. Miles of industrial development in open countryside creates an unacceptable change in the nature of the landscape from growing food to all-year metal and glass. **Smaller solar developments** are more likely to benefit more local land-owners. Smaller solar developments have been shown to be well received by the public, especially when situated close to the industry they are serving.

A community benefit should be required for new renewable developments, as we require for housing or other energy developments. Cheaper electricity or making local homes more energy-efficient would be suitable. There are clearly significant profits here and a system of giving out a fair proportion to local people should be required. Renewable energy companies should be required to allow some community ownership as in Wales.

Visual intrusion for mobile solar panels will be greater than 2km, especially if they are overlooked from higher ground. **Cables** should be underground, where possible.

Research needs to be undertaken to properly identify what conditions are needed to be certain of **battery safety**. Whole life Carbon cost needs to be calculated and included in the assessment of solar panels versus alternatives. We have to weigh up land use to solar panels against growing food and food security. Clearly most efficient of all is to cut down on energy use using methods to increase energy efficiency.

Continual research is needed to update our priorities to always achieve the best solution to our shared goal of cutting our carbon emissions. I understand big offshore wind turbines are in progress in the Celtic Sea which may make much of these solar arrays superfluous and in need of dismantling. There needs to be a requirement for a **bond**, index-linked to the end of the 40 or 60 years that these developers expect to retain the solar arrays.

Electoral Register checks - Annual Household Canvass

Each year it is a legal requirement to contact households across the District to check the electoral register is up to date so that everyone who has the right to vote in upcoming elections can have their say.

NKDC is now undertaking the annual canvass of all households to help identify any residents who are not registered to vote so that they can be encouraged to do so.

The next scheduled elections will be in May 2024 for a Police and Crime Commissioner and a General Election must be held by January 2025.

NKDC are contacting over 50,000 households with quick and easy instructions to follow to ensure those eligible to be registered are and able to have their say at elections.

This is the fourth year NKDC will be contacting some households by email, where this information has been supplied by electors. Paper forms are being sent during July and early September to households where this information is not held. Personal visits to non-responding households will then take place in the autumn.

The most important thing is that residents carefully read the contact they receive, as it will outline the steps required.

People who have moved recently are being asked to check the details held for their address. If people are not currently registered, their name will not appear in the communication. Research indicates they are less likely to be registered than those who have lived at the same address for a long time.

If no one is eligible to register to vote at a property, the form must still be returned to confirm they are a resident (even though they cannot register to vote) and that there are no new people to add.



Please come to the Parish Council meetings

Wednesday October 4th 7pm

Wednesday November 15th 7pm

Wednesday December 20th 7pm

In 2019

what to do with the Playing Field has been a question that has occupied many minds in Beckingham for quite a considerable number of years!!!

At the 2019 Annual Parish meeting Cllr Andy Brewer proposed that the northern two thirds of the field be adapted as a woodland walk way, separated from the Play Park itself with measured paths for active walkers and also suitable for the walking of dogs.

The Woodland Trust could help with this by providing both the advice and the trees to create what could be a quite exceptional space.



And so in 2023 where are we



All contributions for the next Beckingham Bugle welcome. The deadline for the next December 2023 issue is November 12th 2023

A report on the The Public Enquiry for the Appeal hearing against the refusal of 17 Planning Applications to site 17 caravans on land bordered by the A17 commenced on Tuesday 4th July in the New Life Conference Centre in Sleaford

Present a Barrister and one or two expert witnesses for the appellants and a Barrister and up a total of 6 witnesses for NKDC. Present, as requested by NKDC were two members of Beckingham Parish Council. The Planning Inspector opened the Enquiry in the presence of members of the public totalling around 18 to 20 persons. She was dissatisfied with the submission by the Appellants of site plans and drawings that were contradictory and late. She stated that the application ought to have been submitted as one Application for 17 sites rather than 17 Applications for one site each, therefore there will be 17 decisions. She requested further plans showing where each of the 17 plots were "exactly". Four plots appear to have encroached on Highways land and plots 1 and 13 are not as submitted. The site was stated to have been of Equestrian use but she determined that it was not Equestrian in a legal sense. The size, location and previous usage of the access point to the land was discussed at length, LCC Highways had requested certain information at the planning application stage that had not been forthcoming.

Submissions were made by both sides, the Appellants stating that it was vital to have this development as the families concerned had nowhere else to live and face having to camp on road-sides to the detriment of their safety and the health of the seriously ill adults and the children with special needs. NKDC countered with a very strong case to dismiss the now 21 caravans under planning guidelines. The appellants appear to resort to any specific point by stating that this can be resolved by granting permission under a "condition" that will be adhered to in the future. The first of the Statutory Consultees was the Ministry of Defence. The witness for the MoD outlined the history of the Firing Range and it's current strategic importance to the Armed Forces and stated that noise issues and a swathe of technical regulations meant that ... "The Secretary of Defence is against this appeal"...

Councillor Philip Wells was invited by the Inspector to make a statement on behalf of the Parish Council. He outlined the history of the village, it's rural small village nature, the need to rely on private car ownership. The A17 traffic levels, volumes, HGVs, holiday traffic, speeds, the bunching effect caused by slow agricultural vehicles all contribute to making the A road unsuitable for easy access/egress to the carriageway. He made reference to the PC's discussions with the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership that occurred prior to Covid. He was thanked by the Inspector and she brought up the Road Traffic Survey that the PC had arranged as part of the original submission and appeared satisfied with it.

The Inspector asked what was the reasoning behind the design of the site's layout, the appellant's barrister stated that they had no idea as they had only recently been appointed and the original submission was made by an unqualified agent. She asked a specific questions "Are all the sites the same size?" answer, "Yes", "The submitted plans show that the 4 sites adjacent to the river are smaller?" answer, "Yes" Ecology. LCC's Wildlife Diversity Policy reveals that the proposed site encroaches by a 20mtr x 20mtr patch into an area not available for development. The appellants countered by saying that the Inspector was wrong and that as retrospective planning is allowed there is no need for such a study

The Inspector started with the PC's Road Traffic Survey in regard to the accessibility of the entrance to the site from the A17. The appellants countered saying that their own traffic survey did not support our findings, the Inspector dismissed this as their survey had not been submitted. Cllr wells was again invited to speak on traffic. The appellants stated that his words were not supported by facts. She then criticises their criticism of Cllr wells. They further argued that as the current entrance to the site has been used on a regular basis by large slow moving farm vehicles, tractors as well as large horseboxes without any recorded accidents or incidents there is no reason to refuse planning on the grounds of an unsafe access point. The appellants should have submitted a Transport Strategy to LCC, which has not been received.

Drainage: The Environment Agency. The EA supports connection to Mains Drainage in all regards. Discussion followed around the merits of Septic tanks, Cess Pits, and a new dedicated Sewage Farm purely for the site. The EA have apparently spoken with Anglian Water who stated that the current Village Sewage Facility is at capacity, old and is not subject to any plans in the future for upgrading. The EA finally stated that the only solution to the situation on the site is mains connection and that the EA would not issue a Licence for any another system, therefore the EA is firmly against the appeal.

Surface Water: The Inspector asked that in the submitted documents there is no reference to surface finish on sites or roadways. The appellants answered that this could be resolved by a "condition". The Inspector replied that she will see the condition of the site during the site visits to the Firing Range and to the proposed site.

Lawrence Tatton



A quiet place to read your September Bugle!!!