

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER - July 2020



## Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Council

As you are a resident within **GOSFORD AND WATER EATON PARISH** we are sending you this newsletter.

We hope that you are all well during the uncertainty of Covid 19. Please be assured that the Parish Council is still operating as usual and we are holding monthly meetings virtually. Updates are posted regularly on our website.

A reminder of our parish boundary. Although we nestle alongside Kidlington we are a very separate parish and are home to Thames Valley Police HQ, Gosford Hill School, Edward Feild School, Gosford Medical Centre, Oxford Parkway and Kidlington and Gosford Sports Centre.

Many businesses form part of our parish including all of the shops by Fairfax Avenue on the Oxford Road, the car wash, Miller & Carter and Sainsbury's Superstore.



Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council also keep our council tax lower than our neighbour, Kidlington.

If you have an issue within our parish boundary, please contact us directly. We do not have an office but you can call us on our **new telephone number 01865 819863** or email us at [clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk). We are very much here and are happy to help you.

You are welcome to join our monthly meetings. At the moment meetings are held virtually due to Covid 19. Joining details are on our website (and we have a new noticeboard at Cromwell Way play area). Our next meeting is on 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.

### More Housing to be built around us by 2031

*What is this about?*

It's about the new housing proposed for Gosford and Water Eaton by Cherwell District Council.

*What is happening?*

Cherwell District Council wants to build between 1410 and 2000 new homes in Gosford and Water Eaton by 2031. This housing is to meet some of Oxford's unmet housing need. We are currently waiting for the inspector's report – it is due anytime now and we continue to watch out for this. As soon as we hear, we will let you know.

*How many homes and where will the proposed houses be built?*

230 homes may be built on the eastern rural side of Sainsbury's, and along Water Eaton Lane. This is on the so called 'Kidlington side' of A34. 650 homes may be built between Oxford Parkway train station and Oxford, closing the gap between the railway station and the houses in North Oxford. 550 homes may be built on North Oxford Golf course, which will be closed.

### Trees

You may have seen that some trees surrounded by metal caging were removed a while ago and are yet to be replaced on the Gosford Link Road. These were removed as the trees were diseased. New trees will be planted in due course.

We also reported an oak tree that had its protection order removed. See article in the Oxford Mail for further information: <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/18492820.old-oak-tree-cut-protection-order-lifted-kidlington/>

### Cycle Paths

We are in discussions with Oxfordshire County Council regarding cycle paths. We have flagged a concern that the Bicester Road, which runs from the car wash down towards Miller & Carter desperately needs a safe cycle path. This is currently being discussed.

## Children's Play Areas

You will hopefully have seen that we have reopened the Cromwell Way play area following the slight relaxation of Covid 19 restrictions. Bramley Park play area is also open.

We will continue to monitor the situation and our safety checks will continue regularly at both sites. We hope the children enjoy these provisions in the parish!

## Bus Stops & Shelters

Prime Site Media Ltd has taken over provision for the refurbishment of the Council's existing shelters. Work on the refurbishment of some of our shelters has been delayed due to Covid 19 but it is due to commence next month. They will also deal with maintenance and the provision of community notice boards at some of our stops. This will keep costs for the parish down and will ensure they are well maintained. This company already provides this service for some of our neighbouring parishes.

## Healthy Place

**Want to get healthy?** Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre is based in our parish (still closed at the time of writing due to Covid 19). It offers a 25m swimming pool, a 50 station gym, a functional training room, a sports hall, 2 squash courts, a spinning studio, an activity hall and a relaxing sauna and steam room. Contact telephone: 01865 376368.

The Parish Card is available to over 65s currently living within our parish. This entitles you to a discounted swimming membership at Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre. Do visit the leisure centre, when it reopens. To complete a form you will need to visit Kidlington Parish Council (who are checking forms for us) at Exeter Hall with proof of current address and age before the card is issued.

Two local health walks close to us have started again. Both start at 10h30, one on a Monday from the car park at Thrupp, and one on a Wednesday from the Royal Sun pub in Begbroke.

## Concerned about a neighbour?

Coronavirus help. If you are concerned about a neighbour it is ok to knock on their door and ask if they are alright.

Remember to keep a social distance after knocking. If you are still concerned, you can contact Cherwell District Council via telephone on 01295 227001.

## Mental Health Survival Kit

Covid 19 has caused a strain on many people. Use these tips to help your mental health.

1. **Keep to a routine**
2. **Accept what you can't control and take control of small things**
3. **Develop a good sleep routine**
4. **Focus on what's good now**

If you are struggling, mental health support can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/health-recovery-and-wellbeing/mental-wellbeing>

### Join our Mailing List

If you would like to join our email mailing list to receive minutes, updates and newsletters electronically please email the clerk at [clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk) or call.

**For further information about meetings or to get in touch with your council, please contact the clerk [clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk) or telephone us during office hours 01865 819863.**

### Your Parish Councillors

Councillor Clive Stayt (Chairman)  
Councillor Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Merlin Smith  
Councillor Leon Shepherd  
Councillor Nigel Simpson  
Councillor Neil Prestidge  
Councillor Carol Matheson

VACANCY – if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the clerk in the first instance.

Councillors each have individual email addresses of which details can be found on our website <http://www.gosfordandwatereaton-pc.gov.uk/>