CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

I was honoured to be re-elected at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May and I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Old Catton. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors and the Council staff for their continued hard work.

I would like to thank all those who responded to our request in the last newsletter for suggestions of improvements that would benefit the village. Your suggestions of an asphalt path at the Priors Drive open space and speed calming measures are now included in our longer term business plan. Highways do however, have the final say on whether a speed warning sign can be erected even if the Parish agrees to pay.

Since our last Newsletter some of your suggestions have already been implemented and many of you will have noticed the appearance of a bus shelter on White Woman Lane and a noticeboard on the White Woman Lane/Spixworth Road Junction. I hope that you are finding these useful.

Your Parish Council always welcomes suggestions for new projects, some of which you will appreciate take longer to implement than others. Now is that time of the year when we begin project planning and budget setting for the next financial year and it is therefore the ideal time to contact the Clerk’s office with ideas that you think could benefit the village.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted in 2016, residents requested the inclusion of a new community centre. We are now beginning to make plans for this and would like your help. Please read the article in this newsletter for further information.

Finally I hope many residents will support our Norfolk Day celebrations commencing on Friday 27th July and I look forward to seeing you there.

Judy Leggett

Keep up to date with all Old Catton Parish Council news, issues and events on our website at www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk or follow us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/OldCattonParishCouncil.

Contacting The Clerk’s Office

The Clerk’s office can be found at the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, Church Street, Old Catton NR6 7DS and is open to the public Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

Telephone Number: 01603 423880

E-Mail: clerk@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk (booking enquiries and street lighting faults)
COMMUNITY WELLBEING EVENT—TUESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Top tips on staying happy and well will be available to all residents at the Old Catton Wellbeing Fair on Tuesday 25th September at the Church Hall on Blacksmith’s Way between 10am and 12.30pm. Representatives from local organisations including Age UK, Voluntary Norfolk, Carers Matter, Broadland Police and Broadland District Council will be in attendance providing information on support available to residents including advice on keeping active, money matters and independent care. Full details can be found on our website, the Facebook page and on the parish noticeboards. We look forward to seeing you there.

OLD CATTON CRICKET CLUB

Old Catton Cricket Club is celebrating its 150th year in 2018. The Club has been based in Old Catton since the Victorian times when matches were played in the grounds of Catton Hall, the then home of the Buxton family. Visitors to the Club have included the legendary W G Grace. Post war, the Club moved to its present venue, the Recreation Ground in Church Street, where they have established a valued relationship with the Parish Council. The playing staff, those required to maintain the present 1st, A, B and Sunday teams has swelled to near 50. The Cricket Club also run a junior team and are the only Norwich based club in the All Stars programme for children.

This year, the Club and the Parish Council have attained Alliance status for the ground, with the acquisition of sight-screens and a fenced enclosure. Old Catton Cricket Club are always on the look out for new players. If you are interested, please contact them via their website at http://oldcattoncc.hitscricket.com or send an e-mail to:

Matt Ambrose (Junior Section) - mcjambrose@yahoo.co.uk
Giles Picket (Adult Section) - glp@hotmail.com
Sally Duncan (General Secretary) - theduncans2010@hotmail.co.uk

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 28TH JULY

Catton Park Trust will be hosting a community garage sale on Saturday 28th July. If the idea of standing in a field at 7am deters you from selling your treasures, then the community garage sale may just be the thing for you as it provides the perfect opportunity to sell your unwanted treasures from the comfort of your own home or at least your front garden/driveway.

Prospective buyers wander around the village using a map, available only on the morning of the sale, to visit all the gardens/driveways participating in the sale. The fee to feature your property on the map will be £5. Full details of the event can be found on our website, the Facebook page and on the parish noticeboards.

If you are interested in participating in the garage sale please contact the Clerk’s office on 01603 423880 or send an e-mail to assistant@oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk.

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

The Parish Council remains vigilant in making sure that all the amenities within Old Catton are in good working order but sometimes we do miss things. Please can you help us by reporting any maintenance issues, however small, to the Clerk’s office on 01603 423880 or by e-mail.

Maybe it’s a streetlight that is not working, or is on 24 hours a day, a litter bin that has been vandalised or graffiti on a bus shelter. Or perhaps it is a street name that is broken or missing, a pothole or badly overgrown verge. Whatever it is, please do get in touch and don’t just assume that we already know about it or that your neighbours have reported it onto us.

Please don’t worry about thinking you are wasting our time with trivial issues as that is what we are here for. If it is not the Parish Council’s responsibility we will always report it onto the appropriate authority and monitor the situation until the problem has been resolved.
The Parish Council have recently had to employ the services of a drain clearing company following a blockage in the drains at the Recreation Ground. Can we please take this opportunity to remind you that there is a baby changing unit and bin located in the disabled toilets and can we kindly request that soiled nappies, sanitary towels, baby wipes etc. are disposed of in the bins provided rather than ‘flushed’ down the toilets.

POLITE NOTICE

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Did you know that Old Catton now has its own Community Speed Watch? Our team of volunteers, after receiving the relevant training, can often be seen around Old Catton wearing their reflective jackets with a speed radar gun and clipboard and several incidents, where drivers have been caught exceeding the limit, have been passed to Norfolk Police who then issue letters to the owners of the offending vehicles.

If you know of any streets which you feel the Community Speed Watch Team should monitor (these must be 30mph or over) please contact the Clerk’s office.

We are also looking for further volunteers to join the team so if you are over 18 and have some spare time that you might be able to offer to help tackle the problem of speeding in our community please contact the Clerk on 01603 423880 or send her an e-mail. All volunteers will receive full training and have the support of the Parish Council, Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership and Norfolk Police.

WHAT DOES THE PARISH COUNCIL DO?

Old Catton Parish Council serves a population of 6,100 people. There are 13 Councillors who represent the entire Parish. The services provided by the Parish Council include street lighting (some), the cemetery, maintenance of the closed churchyard and the village sign, the upkeep of the Recreation Ground including the hire of the Pavilion meeting room. Additionally, the Council undertakes via an Agency Agreement with Norfolk County Council the highway verge cutting.

Parish Council meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground on Church Street. All residents are welcome to attend these meetings to hear about the Council’s plans and activities. Every meeting has an adjournment which provides the opportunity for members of the public to speak. A copy of the monthly Agenda is posted on our website and on the village noticeboards.

THE FRIENDS OF CATTON PARK

The Friends are a small local voluntary group who put on a variety of events in and around Catton Park designed to appeal to a broad range of people. Through these events we are able to raise funds for Catton Park Trust to help with the costs of running of the park. This year we were delighted to give £1,000 to the Trust. We are also purchasing four trees for the park as part of the Repton Festival.

The Friends have had a fantastic start to 2018 with a record number of children at the Easter Egg Hunt and a number of events to mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Humphry Repton including a walk led by Professor Tom Williamson from the UEA.

To find out more about the Friends please visit www.cattonpark.com.
OLD CATTON ALLOTMENTS

Old Catton is lucky to have over 100 allotments at Spixworth Road. They are well maintained, with water and parking available on site.

The allotments belong to the Parish Charities who are currently looking for new Trustees to assist with the administration side of the allotments. If this role is of interest to you please contact Ann Chandler on 01508 470388 for further information.

Ann is also the person to contact if you are a resident of Old Catton and would like to apply for an allotment.

Allotments cost £15 per year to rent.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you spare an hour or two a week listening to children read in a local primary school?

Reading time for many children at home and school is often insufficient. According to Government statistics, one in four children now leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

No qualifications are necessary. You will need a good command of spoken and written English and be prepared to commit to the scheme for a minimum of 12 months. For further information please visit the Schoolreaders website at www.schoolreaders.org or call them on 01234 924111.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

You may have heard that there are several new developments proposed for Old Catton including ones at Repton Avenue and between St Faiths Road and Buxton Road.

These proposals incorporate plans for a new east west link road which will eventually link the Airport Industrial Estate with Wroxham Road.

The Parish Council together with our District Councillors are continuing their discussions with the planning authorities to assess and mitigate any negative impacts these proposed developments may have on the village.

Full details of all planning applications relating to Old Catton can be found on the Broadland District Council’s website at www.broadland.gov.uk

REQUESTS FOR GRANTS

Are you a member of a voluntary group or charitable organisation within Old Catton? Does your group need extra funding? If so, then Old Catton Parish Council could help!

Old Catton Parish Council can financially assist non-profit making organisations within Old Catton, where, in the Council’s opinion, the money granted would actively benefit the residents of Old Catton as a whole. It’s not difficult to apply and you could receive the funding boost your organisation desperately needs.

Please contact the Clerk’s office for further information or for an application pack.

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE

Are you in School Years 11 or 12 and does the thought of a long summer holiday, whilst good, also fill you with a fear of boredom? If so, why not kick-start your future with a summer you will never forget by joining the National Citizen Service to take part in residential camps and volunteering projects in your local community. This government backed fun-filled initiative is delivered in our area by the Norwich City Community Sports Foundation.

Full details can be found on their website at https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/programmes/ncs-summer or by calling the NCS team on 01603 761122 or by e-mailing them at ncs@canaries.co.uk
OLD CATTON TEEN CAFÉ (SYEP)

Over the last year S.Y.E.P. has delivered 48 sessions in Old Catton with an average attendance of 25 young people per session. The sessions have provided drop in activities including PS4, table tennis, a pool table and a tuck shop as well as giving youngsters the opportunity to play football, rounders and cricket. S.Y.E.P. have also had movie, chip and pizza nights as well as sumo suit sessions and gone on several trips including visits to Quasar and Thorpe Park.

S.Y.E.P. also deliver positive activities in partnership with Ascend Adventure, which are aimed at building confidence and self-esteem, including bush craft, orienteering, team building exercises, a 26 mile sponsored walk and mountain climbing. They run a young volunteer program where the young people design and deliver community events and last year they won Team of the Year at the Norfolk Youth Awards for a 1950’s tea dance for people living with dementia and their families. If you would like to make new friends, try out new activities or just pop along for a chat, then they would love to see you.

S.Y.E.P. are always on the look out for volunteers to help with their café on a Thursday evening between 6.30pm and 9.30pm. If you feel that this is something you may be interested in they would love to hear from you. Please e-mail them at clyouthworker@outlook.com. All volunteer posts are subject to an interview, DBS checks and a minimum of two references. Volunteers receive full training which can lead to a level one youth work qualification. Please remember that you do not have to commit to every week.

CATTON PARK TRUST

July 1st marks the 4 year anniversary of the Parish Council becoming Sole Trustees of Catton Park. The Trust continues to work hard to promote the conservation and protection of the Park and are once again proud to be considered for the Green Flag Community Award which recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces. Judging is now underway and the Trust hope that they will be successful and have a green flag flying at the main gates shortly.

The Park and Hayman Lodge continue to be well used. There are a number of clubs and organisations who regularly hire Hayman Lodge and offer a wide range of activities to the community including fitness, wellbeing, forest school as well as activities providing adult and children learning opportunities. Hayman Lodge is also available to hire by individuals for birthday parties, family get togethers etc. The Park Run continues to support Catton Park and is very well attended – our thanks go to the Friends of Catton Park for providing refreshments for runners and spectators alike.

Planning and preparation for this years events is underway with Theatre in the Park, Catton Park Fun Day, Heritage Day and Spooks and Sparks in the Park taking place over the summer and early Autumn. Details can be found on the Catton Park website at www.cattonpark.co.uk.

Catton Park Trust are always looking for volunteers to help at these events (stewarding, refreshment sales, ticket sales, etc) as well as with general tasks such as litter picking. If you have some spare time and would like to help please contact the Clerk’s office on 01603 423880 for further information.

OLD CATTON RECREATION GROUND

Did you know that the Recreation Ground is not just available for organised sport clubs? As well as the under 9’s and over 9’s play equipment, we have a selection of outdoor gym equipment and a lovely green area for children to play. During the long school holidays, it makes a great location for families to get together and enjoy the summer sunshine. Did you also know that we have tennis courts available for hire at a reasonable hourly fee of £1.50 per adult and 50p per child? The tennis courts can be booked by contacting the Clerk’s office between the hours of 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday. The Pavilion meeting room is also available for hire to individuals as well as community groups and organisations. Full details on be found on our website.
OLD CATTON CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Have you checked out our website at
www.oldcattonparishcouncil.co.uk

The website now contains details of the clubs and societies in and around Old Catton. If your club would like to be included on the website please contact the Clerk’s office.

The website also includes news, policies and procedures as well as details of the budget and Agendas/Minutes for Parish Council meetings. Our annual accounts and expenditure over £500 are published on the website as well as information on how the Parish Council is complying with the new General Data Protection Regulations.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, FLY-TIPPING AND COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

Sadly, you may have heard, read about or even witnessed acts of anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping in Old Catton. If you notice any acts of anti-social behaviour these should be reported to the police by calling 101 or e-mailing the Safer Neighbourhood Team at sntsprowstonpix-worth@norfolk.pnn.police.uk. Please remember however, that if a crime is in progress, there is danger to life or violence is being used or threatened the number to call is 999.

Residents are also encouraged to attend the quarterly meetings of the Sprowston and Old Catton Safer Neighbourhood Panel (SNAP). These meetings are arranged so that representatives of the Sprowston and Old Catton Safer Neighbourhood policing team, Councillors and residents can gauge an understanding of the issues which are causing concern within the Parish. The Panel then prioritises these concerns into three main areas and then task the Safer Neighbourhood Team to address these priority areas over the next quarter. Details of the meetings can be found on our website, the Facebook page or on the noticeboards.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be mindful of the environment and be responsible in using the appropriate waste bins when disposing of your waste. In the past we have regularly held litter picking events. These events, whilst improving the appearance of our village, can be great fun by providing an ideal opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and make new friends. Why not turn it into a family outing by getting the children involved? If you are interested in volunteering for a future litter pick (full equipment is provided) please contact the Clerk’s office by calling 01603 423880.

Please note that the Parish Council are not responsible for the removal of fly-tipping in the parish. All incidents of fly-tipping should be reported to Broadland District Council via their website or by calling 01603 430534.

WORK WITH US

Old Catton Parish Council are looking to form a Working Group to design, develop and deliver proposals for a Community Centre in Old Catton. Residents highlighted a Community Centre as one of the ‘wish list’ projects for the community as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Period.

The Council wants the Centre to be designed by the residents for the residents. We need you to help form proposals that will provide facilities for all the community. Planning for a project of this size will take time and will include identifying a site, planning the layout of the building and surrounding grounds and project costings.

If you are interested in shaping and developing your community and would like to be involved in this project please contact the Clerk’s office.

Editor: Annette Palmer

Old Catton Parish Council, The Pavilion, Church Street, Old Catton NR6 7DS