

East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council Newsletter

Spring Edition 2010

April 2010

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Chairman's Message

Dear Friend and Neighbour

I count myself privileged every day to be living in this beautiful part of the world where we have open spaces, fresh air and abundant wildlife. Although we grumble about some of the issues that we face here in East Carleton and Ketteringham, you only have to look at the news on the TV every morning to realise how fortunate we are.

Some of the issues that regularly face us are traffic, speeding and road maintenance, development and planning, flooding and renewable energy as well as trespassing and fly tipping. Fortunately no volcanoes! We debate these issues and make our representations regularly at meetings and follow them up through the clerk with letters expressing our concerns. There are times when we manage to achieve our aims and there are times when we do not. But we continue to strive together for the common good. I hope to think that, going forward, we can also achieve this with the quarry project.

There has been a recent surge in interest regarding the quarry project and it is heartening to see so many more people taking a keen interest, which has not been the case up to now. However, there has been some misinformation being circulated within the villages that has been less than helpful and that may have compromised some of the excellent progress that has been made over the last five years.

The transfer of the land is, and never has been, up for debate. It is on our patch and will become ours as the two Parishes. The planning permission has been submitted as agreed by the Parish Council. Parishioners have every right to challenge this if they so choose but please do so in the full knowledge that, if not approved, that any costs associated with securing the land and maintaining it may have to met by increases in the Parish precepts. Quite simply, it will have to come out of your pockets.

I urge you all to put your own personal interests aside whether it be conservation, adjacent dwelling, trees, wildlife etc. and look at the quarry as a community opportunity and not as a threat to your own piece of peace and tranquility. We have to work together on this for the common good and not just for ourselves. It would be a shame if the quarry site was left to deteriorate and become a target for gypsies and travellers, crime or vandalism

Whilst the focus of the Parish Council has been placed upon the issues of the quarry, some very fundamental issues have arisen and been sidelined. There are plans for the development of several thousand houses between Ketteringham and Wymondham, which, if passed, would have a huge impact upon our environment, and the gap on the A11 is to be closed which will have a significant effect on the traffic through Ketteringham and down Cantley Lane.

Please put the quarry into perspective and let us not allow it to overshadow other extremely important issues that will more significantly affect our daily lives.

Yours truly

Angela Jordan - Chair of East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council

The quarry - a brief history

Many local residents will be aware that the twin parishes have been generously gifted 36 acres of land arising from the closure of the sand & gravel quarry located between East Carleton & Ketteringham. The land is to have full public access, and is for the amenity of both villages.

Recently, your Parish Council has become aware that some residents feel that they have not been kept fully aware of proceedings, and that rumours have circulated suggesting that the land might be used for undesirable purposes. This note is a summary of what has happened so far, and what is currently being planned.

It all began in 2000, when the Parish Council first agreed to the land being gifted by Middleton Aggregates to the parish. The area concerned is the land formerly used as the quarry, set back from the road and screened by the privately owned woodland known as Ladybelt Woodland. The transfer was to be in phases as the site was progressively closed for commercial use, with a gift of maintenance funding until 2013 and grass cutting until 2018; after these dates the ongoing costs would be borne by the parish.



A car park would be formed on the site, and a rather complex arrangement to share the access road through the woodland was designed. This wasn't ideal, but was the best that could be achieved in the circumstances. The grassed area, which includes the historic Ice House that used to serve Ketteringham Hall, was to be a public open space and could be used for things like walking, a children's play area, nature watching and so on.

In 2006 the Parish Council formed a steering committee to look at how best the plans could be taken forward. This committee was informally structured, and so was able to call on different local residents who could offer specialised help & advice in

their particular fields; it reported back to the Parish Council regularly.

Consultation with residents began in 2007, with a parish plan questionnaire followed by 4 parish plan events across both villages. Updates on progress were issued via leaflets, parish and church newsletters, posters, the parish council website and, later on, 5 events were held on the site at which everybody attending had an opportunity to see the plans and to leave any comments or suggestions they wished. All the comments made were recorded by the steering committee and listed. Some were more appropriate than others, and possibly those that have not been taken forward have given rise to the rumours about less desirable uses.



In 2007 & 2008, the economic downturn caused Middleton Aggregates and Mobile Concrete Supplies to ask the Parish Council to consider extending the handover period, subject to planning permission, up to 2030, with a commercial rent being paid to the parish. The prospect of avoiding a financial burden on the parish precept was most welcome. Also, further negotiations resulted in Ladybelt Woodland being acquired on behalf of the parish, and included in the deal, increasing the area of land to 54 acres. This is the 'revised scheme', which is currently being considered for

planning consent.

Including the woodland in the scheme gave many advantages. With a nature-oriented parkland being planned, the previous private ownership of the woods allowed shooting to take place, considered undesirable and now under Parish Council control. The access road through the woods was no longer needed, so the parking area - essential for those who don't live close by - could now be close to Hethersett Road and open to view, increasing security and enabling vehicle access to the main site to be closed off. Instead of unrestricted dog walking over the main site, zones for dogs could be set up clear of grassy play areas.

Further advantages of the modified scheme are, quite importantly, that local people would have access to the parkland much sooner than before - potentially this year - and the increased area means that an improved balance between nature conservation and public amenity could be achieved, enabling the Parish Council to implement more of the suggestions already received from residents where these are considered appropriate.

To sum up, there are two versions of the scheme for the twin parishes to take advantage of this generous gift.

The first, which is already approved and is in hand, gives us less than ideal and limited access which is shared with the commercial operator until 2013, after which there will be a steadily increasing maintenance cost which the Parish



Council must pay for. Commercial operations would, however, end earlier.

The second scheme, which is currently being considered for planning approval but has been approved in principle by the Parish Council (in September 2009), offers financial stability without burdening the parish precept or the need for fundraising, increased security of access and sufficient space more readily to accommodate the diversity of desirable uses that have already been identified. Commercial users will remain on the site for longer, but their daily presence would help with security and of course the rent received is the basis of the financial advantages.

We hope that this necessarily abbreviated summary of what has been, and continues to be, a very complex process will help you to understand what has been happening so far. Members of your Parish Council, and others, have worked tirelessly over several years on the residents' behalf to provide the best financial security, support and sustainability for this much-needed community open space in order that all can enjoy it. We will of course continue to welcome residents' comments and take these on board whenever possible, so that the future development of the site is in line with residents' wishes.

If you'd like more details or plans of what's being proposed, these are readily available via our parish clerk, Carole Jowett, who will put you in touch with the relevant person.

Volunteers Required

The Parish Council is going to establish a sub-committee to help to manage the quarry project and wants volunteers to become involved. A diverse membership is necessary to represent the community effectively and a variety of knowledge and skills would be very welcome. It is expected that approximately 7 members would be required and would meet on a regular basis to take the project forward. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more please contact Carole Jowett on 01603 812708, 07918 656568 or email : carole.jowett@btinternet.com

Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council is the Annual General Meeting this will be immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting on 26th May 2010 at Ketteringham Village Hall from 19:30.

The meetings for the rest of the year all commence at 19:30 and are listed below:-

28th July 2010, St Mary's Church, East Carleton
29th September 2010, Ketteringham Village Hall
24th November 2010, St Mary's Church, East Carleton

The important thing is not to stop questioning

Albert Einstein



Bluebell Walk at Ketteringham Hall 8th & 9th May 2010

At Ketteringham Hall on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th May, in aid of the Care For Life At Home Fund, in association with the Priscilla Bacon Lodge Support Group, we are staging a Bluebell Walk through the Inner Park Wood. A breathtaking sea of blue is created by a carpet of bluebells throughout the lovely 40-acre wood of oak, ash and beech.

The event is being promoted locally and it is hoped that at least a few hundred people will attend over the two days. Visitors will be invited to make donations to the Fund. Refreshments will be available in return for donations.

We hope very much that you can come along; the bluebells are spectacular and should prove very popular, as they did on the previous occasion in 2008.

Whether you can make it or not, the most effective promotion for the event is by word of mouth, so please pass on the details to anyone you can think of.... and ask them to pass it on in turn!

Refreshments will be coffees, teas and soft drinks, together with cakes and biscuits; to this end any contributions on the baking front would be gratefully received.

Fingers crossed for the weather!

With love from the Hepworths, Paytons and Chapmans.

If you need larger print let us know - Ring 01603 812708

A11 Gap Closure

The gap on the A11 at Station Lane, Ketteringham/Hethersett will be permanently closed this summer. It is a recognised high accident black spot and these changes have been planned for some time. The changes will include a deceleration lane for south bound traffic turning left to access Station Lane from the A11 and an acceleration lane for traffic accessing the A11 from Station Lane travelling south bound towards Wymondham.

There will be a few occasions where traffic accessing the various businesses at the end of Station Lane will need to be diverted through Ketteringham, this will be at night only and on a maximum of 10 nights although it is hoped to limit this to 2 or 3.

The changes will also see the weight restriction zone change and will start immediately after the entrance to White's and the waste disposal site. There will be access only for vehicles over 7.5 tons beyond this point.

Norfolk County Council has granted the traffic regulations for these works to proceed and these have been published, as required in the local press.

Shooting in Ketteringham

A number of Ketteringham residents have raised issues with hearing gunshots in the late evening up until about 21:30.

Shooting is necessary to keep the rabbit population to reasonable levels and in the last year 2450 rabbits have been culled this way. Shooting is the most humane method of dealing with the control of the rabbit population and whilst it is recognised that rabbits are cute cuddly creatures if left to their own devices they reproduce at an alarming rate and cause many problems. Some walkers and their pets have suffered serious injuries caused by rabbit holes in the woodland. More seriously, the damage done to farms and gardens is significant and very costly.

To help reduce the inconvenience for residents a shooting coordinator, David Crowdy has been appointed for shooting in the immediate area. Although there are no restrictions on how often shooting can take place and the time restriction is 23:00, agreements are in place to only shoot on Tuesday evenings and to finish by 21:30 or 22:00 at the very latest. This has been done so that residents will know when shooting is going to take place and what time it will end.

Further efforts have been made by the landowner to reduce the inconvenience to residents, a new shotgun called a moderated shotgun has been purchased which is much quieter and it is hoped that this will help residents.

If anyone has any concerns please direct your issues to The Shoot Coordinator, David Crowdy, No 2 Ivy farm Cottages, High Street, Ketteringham NR18 9RU. Telephone 07791 010818 or email davecrowdy@yahoo.co.uk

Consultation and Communication

At recent Parish Council meetings it has become clear that people do not feel as though they have been fully consulted on plans for the two villages sufficiently. In the next few weeks a full survey of the villages will take place, which will give everyone the chance to give their views on what they would like to see at the new quarry site and how people would like to use, access and be involved in the site going forward. Please take a few moments to return the survey as all views are valued and the more people who take part the better so the right decisions can be made for the long term future of this wonderful gift.

It's what you learn after you know it all that counts
John Wooden

Parish Council Contacts

Chairman

Angela Jordan	Petalouda, Ketteringham, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9RY	01603 811792
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Councillors

Ingrid Fairman	South Barn, Cantley Farm, Cantley Lane South, Norwich NR4 6TF	01603 504400
Roy Walmsley	2 Church Road, Ketteringham, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 9RR	01603 811686
Sam Mealing-Mills	The Old Post Office, East Carleton, Norwich NR14 8HT	01508 578821
Tim Cave	Carleton Cottage, Wymondham Road, East Carleton, Norwich NR14 8HY	01508 571295
Roger Youngs	Beech House, Meadow Way, East Carleton Norwich NR14 8HZ	01508 570472
Teresa Hill	Hilbrooke, Hethersett Road, East Carleton, Norwich NR14 8HX	01508 570951

Parish Clerk

Carole Jowett	29 Churchfields, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3AF	01603 812708
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Visit Our Parish Council Website

<http://www.parcouncilinvolve.net/east-carleton-and-ketteringham-parish-council/>

Don't forget to tell us if there is anything you would like to have published on this website please contact the clerk or come to a Parish Council meeting and let us know what you would find useful.