

# Hemyock Parish Council

## Newsletter

### Hemyock Tomorrow Consultation Document



**WELCOME to the fourth issue of our Parish Council Newsletter. We publish 2 issues each year in order to keep our community informed of the council's activities.**

**Editor Neil Punnett**

Following open meetings held in order to discuss villager's concerns and hopes for the future, seven working groups consisting of parishioners and parish councillors were set up to prepare reports. Their reports were presented to the Annual Parish Meeting in March of this year.

A discussion document outlining our priorities for the future was distributed throughout the parish in September. Feedback was received from 19 parishioners. Many very positive and helpful comments were received which will be considered within the discussions as a final document is produced next year.

A couple of the responses suggest that some parishioners are unaware of the limited role and responsibilities of a parish council. For example, the Parish Council has no powers over affordable housing, roads, water, sewage or broadband and mobile phone signals. Our powers do include footpaths, allotments, cemeteries, commons, bus shelters, community and recreation centres, war memorials. The Parish Council is a consultee on planning issues. In addition, as you can see below, your Parish Council is taking on the car park and public toilets.

And finally.....despite some suggestions to the contrary, I should point out that parish councillors are unpaid volunteers.

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Hemyock Parish Council now owns and manages the village's car park, having purchased it from Mid Devon District Council in order to ensure its future use.

The Council is seeking to realign the public footpath from Redwoods Close so that it runs straight along the eastern wall of the car park to the road rather than currently requiring walkers to cross the car park.



### At Your Convenience....



Following an extensive re-modelling programme conducted by Mid Devon District Council the village's public conveniences will soon be handed over to the Parish Council. This will ensure that the toilets remain in use at a time when many public toilets are being closed across the country due to budget cuts. The Parish Council will now be responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of the facility.

## Introducing Your Councillors:

### 1. Councillor Simon Clist



**How long have you lived in Hemyock?**

All my life. I was born in the village on the farm where I still live. I was educated at Hemyock Primary School, Tiverton Grammar School and Cannington College.

**What is your employment history?**

Farming since leaving Cannington College.

**How long have you been a parish councillor?**

I was first elected in the 1980s.

**What does being a parish councillor mean to you?**

I am passionate about community and local issues, always seeking to maximize community benefit from housing and other developments within our parish. I actively seek the views of parishioners on issues facing us and try to ensure that the whole parish is represented in the council's discussions and decisions.

**Do you belong to any other organisations?**

**What are your interests/hobbies?**

I am a member of the Devon Countryside Access Forum, Devon Wildlife Trust and the County Landowners Association.

**What are your interests/hobbies?**

My family—I have six children so they keep me fairly busy! Enjoying the countryside and passionate about wildlife and maintaining the habitat. I am also a follower of most outdoor sports.

### 2. Councillor Jocelyn Pritchard



**How long have you lived in Hemyock?**

Twenty years.

**What is your employment history?**

The bulk of my working life has been in education. I've worked in comprehensive schools, sixth form colleges and colleges of further education. I now work part-time for South Somerset Education Partnership.

**How long have you been a parish councillor?**

Since May 2015.

**What does being a parish councillor mean to you?**

It helps me to keep up with what is going on in the village and to represent my community. I hope I can make a difference by getting involved with issues raised by parishioners. I'm now far more involved with a number of local groups across the age range.

**Do you belong to any other local organisations?**

I'm a member of the Management Board of the

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Secretary of the Longmead Management Group, and a trustee of the Blackdown Support Group among other organisations.

**What are your interests/hobbies?**

Sewing, gardening, attending live music gigs, enjoying the outdoors — I have completed a number of long distance walks.

## Reporting Potholes and Blocked Gulleys

Devon County Council's telephone number for the public to report any lights that are not working, potholes, blocked gulleys and any other road maintenance issues is **0345 155 1004**. Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday.

Or report the problem on line - [new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/](http://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/)

## Parish Council Grants

The Parish Council has awarded grants to the Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre, The Blackdown Support Group, the Hemyock Lights Brigade, Tiverton Community Transport and Mid-Devon Citizen's Advice Bureau. The Council is always prepared to consider applications for grants from local organisations. Please see the village website for our grant awards policy and application form.

## Dog Signs Attacked !

In the previous issue of the Parish Council Newsletter we stated that the Council has spent £985 in erecting signs stating that dogs are not allowed on the pitches at Longmead. It is disappointing to have to report that these signs have been attacked and damaged. The long standing signs on the Recreation Ground by the Parish Hall have also been attacked.

We are grateful to the vast majority of dog users who control their animals and clean up and dispose of any mess. Sadly there are a few inconsiderate people who are unaware or unconcerned by the potential impact of their actions.

Let us be clear. Dog mess is not simply unpleasant, it is a health risk. Dog mess can contain an organism which causes Toxocariasis, a condition which **causes blindness**. A trace can remain even when dog mess appears to have been picked up. Our footballers have to spend time before each match removing dog mess from

Longmead's pitch. The situation is becoming so bad that the teams may move out of the village! This would be very bad news indeed as the Parish Council would have to repay the **£162,500** grant it received from the Football Association when Longmead was developed.....

PLEASE do not allow dogs on the pitches and surrounding grass area.

PLEASE remove dog mess and put in the red bins provided

PLEASE let us know if any dog owners are allowing their animals to run free, registration numbers of vehicles, addresses etc.

We want responsible dog owners and other walkers to be able to enjoy the walk around Longmead, but failure to deal with the irresponsible owners will cost us all. A new dog friendly exercise area is being proposed for part of the community land resulting from the new housing north of Culmstock Road.

## Hemyock Tomorrow



Responses to the Hemyock Tomorrow consultation document included:

- Worthy aims but more concrete plans needed.
- Need for floral displays around the village
- Controlling new housing developments, encouraging building within the village rather than beyond the existing boundaries.
- Still no really affordable housing in the village.
- Ensuring that developers' make tangible and effective contributions to the community.

- Help to provide land for self-build opportunities.
- A café, petrol station and bakery are needed in the village.
- HGVs must be discouraged from passing through, except for local access
- Improved bus service with later services to and from Taunton.
- Reinstate the old railway line as a walking and cycling path.
- The village should have its own solar energy field.
- No provision for electric vehicles?

## Update on New Housing Developments in Hemyock

Three new housing projects in Hemyock are at various stages of the planning process:

- 22 new homes on land SW of Conigar Close have received final approval. Site preparation began in early October. The development includes eight affordable homes.
- Outline planning permission has been granted for 38 new homes, including 14 affordable, on land adjacent to Hemyock's cemetery. The developer has committed to including a minimum 3 hectares of community land to be offered to

the Parish Council. **Possible facilities include** allotments, community orchard, dog exercise area, adult gym equipment and a footpath from Longmead through to Culmstock Road and the primary school. If planning approval is gained the Parish Council will be back in touch with various interested groups to formulate plans for the community.

- A planning application for six new homes on the former Hart's builders yard off Fore Street has been submitted to Mid Devon District Council.

## The Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre



THE BLACKDOWN  
**HEALTHY**  
LIVING CENTRE

The parish council owns the building in which the BHLAC operates. Two councillors have recently been elected as trustees of the BHLAC trust (a registered charity). Its purpose is to support the health and well-being of people in the Blackdown Hills – particularly the elderly and isolated. The Healthy Living Centre opened in the old St Ivel milk factory social club building at Lower Millhayes in 2010. It now provides a home for several services including the Cameo Club and Respite Care as well as a growing number of complementary therapists, exercise classes and workshops:

- Chiropodist
- Osteopath
- Chiropractor
- Reflexology
- Massage
- Homeopathy
- Hypnotherapy
- Keep Fit and exercise including Pilates, Yoga and Zumba
- Crafts, play, activities and conversation for parents, carers and pre-school children.

An application has been submitted seeking planning permission for the erection of a 10m high lighting column with a pair of 150 watt LED floodlights to provide emergency lighting for Devon Air Ambulance. The lights would enable the helicopter to land on Longmead recreation ground into the hours of darkness up until midnight every day. The lighting will be used in emergencies and will be operational for the minimum time required to deliver this emergency service.

We are seeking funding from the community to help pay for this very worthwhile installation.  
**Please send any donations to the Parish Council Clerk.**



## St Margaret's Brook

The Parish Council has paid for work to be carried out on St. Margaret's Brook between Hemyock Castle and St Mary's Church. The work involved clearing the stream bed and shoring up the banks. The photos show one stretch of the brook.



## Your Parish Councillors

*Hemyock Parish Council consists of ten local residents who were elected as councillors for a four year term of office in the May 2015 election, five of whom were elected for the first time.*

Hemyock Parish Council Clerk  
Mrs. D Evans  
Park Farm  
Dunkeswell  
Honiton  
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Back Row left to right:

**Roy Calcraft, Nick Moon,  
Simon Clist (Vice Chair),  
Tim Barton, Neil Punnett**

Front Row left to right:

**Jocelyn Pritchard, Penny  
Lawrence, Paul Doble,  
Donna Evans (Parish  
Clerk), Heather Stallard  
(Chair), Lance Povah.**

## Meet Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Forbes Lounge of the Parish Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

One or more of your parish councillors will usually be present at the Hemyock Saturday Markets which are held every third Saturday in the month between 10 a.m. and noon.