# Acle Village Centre

The Parish Council is keen to support local businesses and to keep the centre of the village vibrant. The parish councillors are keen to see a new business, village service or facility in the former Barclays building, but Barclays have the right under the lease to sub-let the building. We are negotiating with Barclays to get a swift resolution.

The councillors feel that the village would benefit from a Business Association so that businesses and traders could work together to keep up the footfall in the village. If you would be interested in attending an evening event to try to get this off the ground, please get in touch with the parish clerk – details at the foot of the page.

# Acle Men’s Shed

NCC is hoping to set up a Men’s Shed in the village. Sheds are whatever the members (or Shedders) want them to be. Although labelled sheds, they often aren’t sheds at all. They can be empty offices, portable cabins, warehouses or garages. Some Sheds are purpose-built workshops, but they rarely start out that way. Many don’t have premises at all in the beginning and instead form a group that meets regularly for the social connection, company and camaraderie until they can find somewhere to kit out with tools. Many Sheds get involved in community projects too – restoring village features, helping maintain parks and green spaces, and building things for schools, libraries and individuals in need.

The first meeting will be at Acle Library on Tuesday, 24th March from 2-4pm, to gauge what interest there is. Please come along to find out more.

Planning

1. Broadland District Council Planning Committee approved the application for 137 homes on the land north of Norwich Road. The Parish Council had objected to the plans.

Norfolk County Council will be shutting the permissive path from the telephone exchange on Norwich Road to Mill Lane after 27th March as the contractors move on to the site to start work.

2. Saffron Housing have applied to demolish the former Herondale care home and to build 58 self-contained flats for over 55s, to be affordable rented and shared ownership. The Parish Council supports the principle of sheltered housing but objected to these plans as they did not want a 3-storey building on this site.

People who might be interested in affordable rented properties, on any of the new sites in the village, should ensure they are registered with the Housing Options team at Broadland District Council: Tel: 01603 430641
Email: housingoptions@broadland.gov.uk

3. The Greater Norwich Local Partnership has issued a consultation on the next sites proposed for housing. Two sites are being put forward in Acle; one on land to the west of the site with the 137 homes, and the other between South Walsham Road and Mill Lane, to the west of Acle Academy. You can comment on the proposals at:
http://www.gnlp.org.uk/sites-plan-have-your-say/

# Parking

We’ve been pressing Norfolk County Council for the legal part of the consultation process to take place for the planned parking restrictions in the village centre. They have told us that their legal department is just very busy at present… The Parish Council is keen to remove all-day commuter parking from the village centre so as to facilitate short-term parking to support local businesses and residents.

Broads National Park signs

Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils have been erecting signs at the entrances to some villages in or near the Broads. These signs have nothing to do with the legal status or the administrative boundaries for the Broads Authority and Broadland District Council, but are intended to advertise The Broads to tourists.

# Banking

Lloyds Bank has a mobile branch at the Recreation Centre car park on Tuesdays from 10.00 to 12.15 and 13.00 to 14.45.

At the Post Office you can:

* Withdraw cash from your usual bank account using your card
* Pay cash into your usual bank account using a card or paying-in slip
* Check your bank balance using your card
* Deposit a cheque using a paying-in slip (though Nationwide customers can't do this)

# Councillors

We welcome Hannah Jackson and Wendy Kenny onto the Parish Council.

# Budget

At the December Parish Council meeting the budget for 20/21 was agreed. The total precept is up 2.0% on last year’s total but, because there are new houses in the village, the increase per average band D home is only 0.72%. The increase works out at 0.2 pence per day for an average band D home.

The total precept for an average band D home will be £116.54 per year, or 31.9 pence per day. The precept is collected by Broadland District Council as part of your council tax bill.

# Dates for your Diary

The next planned Parish Council meetings are Mondays, 24th February, 30th March and 27th April, all at **7.00 pm** in the Methodist meeting room, with refreshments from 6.45pm. Residents are very welcome to attend all meetings.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Acle will take place on Monday, 20th April at 7.00pm, also at the Methodist Church. This is the meeting of the parish, not of the parish council, so come along to the meeting to raise concerns and local issues.

Meetings are advertised on the board in The Street, on the websites and facebook.

**Hold the Date**

There will be a free tea party to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Sunday, May 10th at the Recreation Centre. Keep an eye out for posters nearer the time!

Pauline James – parish clerk