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# Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford Parish Council Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

There is a great deal of information to pass on from this meeting but before we get onto that I have another task I need to perform.

We need to thank all the people who give up much of their time to make our three villages, our Parish of Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe &



Acresford, a better place to live. Our thanks go to the community groups, the Friends of Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Memorial Gardens, those who produce and deliver our Three Views News, Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, the Speedwatch team who have just completed another, very successful, fortnight of recording traffic speeding, the group who are working hard to turn Donisthorpe Church into a place to be used by all in our Parish, the litter-pickers and those who help plant bulbs, tend the Parish planters and decorate the Parish for special events, for example Remembrance Sunday. I should also mention those that run groups in our Parish (Guides, Scouts, youth club etc.) I hope I have not left anybody out, I apologise if I have. It would be good to think that we (Parish Councillors, also volunteers) are considered amongst these people? Without many people in our Parish giving up spare time our three villages would be a less pleasant place to live.

The results for our Parish Questionnaire have now been collected in, the response was disappointingly low but on first glance some valid points came up. We intend to look at and discuss the comments and provide feedback online and in 3VN early in 2024.

Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford 'Preserve Our Paths' (ODA 'POPs') is programmed to take off with a vengeance from February 2024. Further information/details can be found in a separate article in this issue of 3VN.

On January 8<sup>th</sup> 2024, some tree-felling work is scheduled in Oakthorpe Play Area. Wood felled is available for parishioners to take for their own use, but must be collected during the process (for H&S reasons it cannot be left on site).

As mentioned previously the recent Speedwatch carried out in various areas of Donisthorpe, along with data collected from MVAS equipment, will greatly aid our requests for traffic calming in certain areas. Also, you may have noticed that the MVAS in Oakthorpe has been missing for a while. Unfortunately it has not been collecting data as it should, so has been sent away for repair. With it down, it is already noticeable that speeding into Oakthorpe from Measham has increased again. Hopefully it will be back soon and will be recording traffic approaching from Donisthorpe for a while.

The final topic identified as necessary to draw your attention to is North West Leicestershire District Council's Local Plan. Our new District Councillor, Mike Ball, gave us a very detailed explanation of the latest update of the District's Local Plan. During

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questioning, it became obvious that our Parish would benefit from drawing up our own Neighbourhood Plan. This will be a costly exercise, but there are grants we may be able to get to help fund this. As a Parish Council, we consider this worth further investigation as it would give us more say in what developments take place in the Parish and what we are not happy about. If we do decide to embark on this project, we will need to have a working party and there needs to be input from the Parish. In fact, the project should be more parishioner-driven than Parish Council-led. The latest edition of NWLDC's Local Plan is available to see online at:

> https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/ local plan review

If you are interested in getting involved in a Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch with Kelly Grove, ODAPC Manager, or speak to one of the Parish Councillors.

This is a brief account of issues discussed at the November meeting, full minutes will be posted on ODAPC's website and on the Parish noticeboards.

Finally, as the last report of 2023, it leaves me to say, once again thank you to all our Parish volunteers, to all those who support the Council (reporting issues, attending meetings now and then, etc.) and to ALL in our Parish, from youngest to oldest, from ALL of us on ODAPC WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY & HEALTHY 2024.

Cllr. Debbie Warren

### Neighbourhood Watch

Call 999 if there is a threat to life or a crime in progress Call 101 for all non emergencies Ask for Leicestershire police

#### TOP TIPS

## TO HELP KEEP YOUR HOME & VALUABLES SAFER THROUGH THE WINTER MONTHS

- Keep doors and windows locked at all times, even when you're home, and take the keys out of the lock.
- · Keep keys, wallets and all valuables out of sight.
- Keep your car locked.
- Check your alarm and that all outside bulbs and security lighting is in full working order.
- Prevent easy, unwanted access to the back and sides of your home with locked gates or fencing.
- . If you're out, don't advertise the fact on social media.
- Ask a neighbour to collect post if you're going away and make the house look fixed in with timer lights.

NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS TO COLD CALLERS ON THE PHONE OR DOORSTEP

Crime - If you see it, please report it!

Next Parish Council meeting:

Wednesday 13th December 2023,

7.00pm at ME Sports formerly Oakthorpe Leisure Centre.

All are welcome to attend

Queries can be sent to the Clerk at manager@odapc.co.uk for consideration at the meeting.

#### Preserve Our Paths

Over the next two years, the government will complete its revision of public footpath records in this country. If it cannot be proved a footpath has been in recent use, it will no longer be included on the new maps.

If walking groups, local councils etc. can provide evidence that local paths have been walked (by keeping diaries of use, reporting problems through Parish Councils, taking photographic evidence etc.) we could possibly ensure most of our local footpaths, often of historical interest, are recorded on the new maps.



To this end, as Parish Councillors of Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Acresford, a number of us intend to 'walk' the footpaths of our Parish and keep records. The more of us that do this, the better our chance of success.

We were hoping that maybe residents of the Parish, especially some of our newer residents, who may not be aware of all of our lovely footpaths, would be interested in a regular walking group.

We held our first walk in October. Unfortunately, due to technical problems, the details were not publicised in the Parish magazine, so the event was not as well advertised as hoped. It was a beautiful day, a little wet underfoot, but we did complete the planned route, take photographs and record everything.

We do intend to continue this venture, eventually covering all three villages in the Parish, in 2024. We have since had a number of people express an interest, so please keep your eyes on the Parish website and local social media, Three Views News etc. We will be operating under the title ODA 'POPs' (Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford, Preserve Our Paths.)

If you require more information, or wish to be personally informed of planned walks, please contact us (Debbie & Mick).

Telephone 01530 272305 or

email cllr.debbie.warren@odapc.co.uk

Cllr. Debbie Warren

