

Linby Parish Council has been working on various projects and improvements over the last year and we thought you may like an update on what has been happening in our village and our plans for 2014.

Linby Wins Best Kept Village in Nottinghamshire!

You may have seen the plaque erected outside Brooke Farm, which shows that Linby won not only the Best Kept Village with a population of under 300, but the Best Kept Village in Nottinghamshire! The judges from CPRE were really impressed with the appearance of the village and their comments included "all round excellent" and "how nice not to see any litter". The village won £1,125 for this fantastic achievement, with some of the money being used to purchase additional Christmas lighting. Many thanks to all those involved in keeping our village looking so well cared for.

Fighting Large Scale Housing Developments

Linby Parish Council, in conjunction with Papplewick Parish Council and Brownfield First, have been fighting hard to preserve our villages from being swamped with houses from large developments proposed at Top Wighay Farm and Land North of Papplewick Lane. This has been a long journey, with Gedling Borough Council's Aligned Core Strategy currently being reviewed by the Inspector. We hope for a final decision later this year, but with recommendations for additional housing being added to other sites previously discounted by GBC, some positives can be drawn from this long fought process. Please see our website for further updates www.linby.org.uk



Bite Sized Updates

- After securing funding from the Big Lottery; 2013 saw the launch of our website www.linby.org.uk, this provides information on the Parish Council along with updates on events and activities taking place locally. To advertise your business, club or event, please contact the clerk. We would love to hear from you.
- After joining a Notts County Council pilot scheme, Linby has benefited from the services of a Lengthsman. This has enabled us to improve the appearance of the village by painting the docks and flagpole, along with maintaining the grass bank, verges and hedges. The Parish Council would very much like to continue to employ these services. However the level of funding available to continue this scheme is currently undecided by Notts County Council.
- Record numbers of visitors attended our annual Carols around the Tree concert in December. Many thanks to all the volunteers who help make this special event possible.
- The Heritage Centre opened each month throughout spring and summer to welcome visitors to the village and share a little of the interesting history Linby has to offer. The format will be changed for 2014, with a couple of special events being planned; further details will follow in due course!
- A successful bid of £4,300 has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to sympathetically repair the stone walls around the docks, this work will be completed later in the year.

Bite Sized Updates

- With funding from the Greenwood Tree Planting Grant Scheme, Linby P.C have been awarded £250 towards planting trees native to the local area, which will improve the visual impact on the Heritage Centre site.

Finances & Precept for 2014

Hopefully, this newsletter has given you an insight into the work your Parish Council is undertaking on your behalf. Over the last few years, funding from Gedling Borough Council has steadily reduced making tough decisions on running our Parish Council necessary.

Wherever possible, we are committed to seeking external funding to allow projects and improvements to be completed in the village, but the reality is that to run a productive Parish Council we need the income to do so. With this in mind, the Parish Council has decided that an increase of 19.75%, equivalent to 80 pence per month is required for each household to meet our objectives for 2014/2015.

Your precept will help the Parish Council to:

- Fight the large scale housing developments proposed around our village
- Continue to liaise with our Beat Manager to try and reduce speeding through the village
- Employ the Lengthsman to keep the village looking well maintained
- Purchase and maintain floral displays throughout the village
- Encourage visitors by running and promoting the Heritage Centre
- Defend our title as Best Kept Village in Nottinghamshire
- Provide a voice on behalf of Linby to both Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council
- Restore the stone footpaths in the village. This is something we would like to commit to over the next 5 years. It is not only a mammoth task, but a big financial commitment

The Parish Council meet at 7.15pm on the second Monday of each month (excluding August and December) at Brooke Farm. These are public meetings and your involvement is encouraged. If you have any questions or suggestions, we would love to hear from you either via our meetings, or by contacting Kathryn Holmes, Parish Clerk on 0115 9638970 or linbypc@googlemail.com