

OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August 2024



Owslebury.org



WELCOME

Welcome to our second newsletter. As the summer sun graces our beautiful village, we are excited to bring you the latest news and updates in our Summer Newsletter.

The Council would like to welcome Paul Simmons as our new Councillor. Paul comes with a wealth of experience and has been living in the village for the past 4 Years. His insights and enthusiasm will undoubtedly bring fresh perspectives and energy to our council.

SPEEDWATCH UPDATE



As summer comes to an end and the schools start for a new year, road safety remains a paramount concern. Our quaint lanes and scenic routes, while charming, can also be hazardous due to speeding vehicles. To address this issue, the Council have set up a Speedwatch Initiative—a community-led program aimed at making our roads safer for everyone. The Police have now finished their review of the village and have identified 4 areas that the SpeedWatch Team can use. The volunteers have now been trained and will be going out for their first session in September.

How You Can Get Involved

The success of Speedwatch relies heavily on volunteer participation. Here's how you can contribute:

Join the Team: Volunteers are always welcome. Training and equipment are provided, and your commitment can be as flexible as your schedule allows.

Spread the Word: Talk to your neighbours and friends about the importance of driving within speed limits.

Lead by Example: Set a good example by driving responsibly and respecting speed limits.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact the Parish Clerk via email on owsleburyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

Owslebury Parish Council carried out an Action Plan Survey in January of this year, that was sent out to the residents via Facebook, OIS, and the Newsletter, The survey was conducted from 9th January to 24th February and gathered responses from 70 residents of Owslebury. The survey was to collect feedback from residents on the community, benefits, drawbacks, and improvements needed in Owslebury and Morestead.



The key points to come out of the survey were residents value the friendly, rural, and community-oriented aspects of the village. They would like to see; public transport improved, traffic calming measures to be implemented, and establish a local shop.

The top three words used to describe Owslebury were "Friendly," "Rural," and "Community."

Residents highlighted the main benefits of living in Owslebury and Morestead as:

- Community (19%)
- Proximity to the city (14%)
- Rural community (11%)
- Countryside living (10%)

Some of the drawbacks mentioned by residents included:

- Lack of public transport (34%)
- Absence of a local shop (22%)
- Village being used as a rat run during rush hours (18%)
-

Residents expressed interest in seeing the following improvements:

- Better public transport (22%)
- Traffic calming measures (17%)
- Establishment of a local shop (13%)
-

Based on these findings, the Parish Council will continue to monitor the traffic using the SID and report the data every quarter and have set up a SpeedWatch Team. Unfortunately trying to improve public transport lays with Hampshire County Council and it seems that there will be further cuts to public transport in Hampshire. The establishment of a shop is difficult as there is not a suitable premisses currently in the village.

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME

In a continued effort to enhance our community and demonstrate exemplary governance, the Parish Council has submitted an application for the Foundation Local Council Award. This accolade, granted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), recognises excellence in local government and showcases councils that set high standards in transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

The Local Council Award is a benchmark of quality for parish and town councils across the country.
Why This Award Matters

Applying for the Local Council Award is a commitment to our residents. It signifies our dedication to continuous improvement and the provision of the highest standard of local governance. Achieving this award would not only validate our efforts but also provide a framework for future progress.

We will find out in August if we have been successful

PARISH COUNCIL GRANTS

The Parish Council currently has an annual budget of £2,000.00, aimed at supporting local groups.

This year, the Parish Council has provided financial support to:

Morestead Church: The Council granted £300 to help with the upkeep of the churchyard.

Bishops Waltham Men's Shed: The Council granted £250 towards the labour costs on painting the telephone box as the BW Men's shed only charged for the cost of the materials and not their time.

Apply for a Grant

The Parish Council encourages all local groups and organisations to apply for funding to support their initiatives.

For more information about the grant program or assistance with the application process, please contact the Parish Clerk or visit our website: owslebury.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Grant-and-Donations-Policy-2023.pdf.

By supporting local groups and projects, the Parish Council aims to build a stronger, more vibrant community.





PAVILION AND SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pavilion Committee have approached the village Sports Club, to take over the management of the Sports Club aiming to further enhance sport being played in the village.

The sports club have agreed for the Pavilion Committee to take over the running of the club. The Pavilion Committee believes that taking over the Sports Club will allow for better coordination of activities and the end goal of a new pavilion.

The committee would like the sports club to:

- Introduce new sports and activities to cater to a broader range of interests.
- Enhance the community involvement through events

The Pavilion Committee will be hosting a village meeting to talk about taking over the Sports Club and recruiting new members of the club to take the club forward.

This summer, the kids' cricket program saw unprecedented success, with young participants from across the village coming together to learn and play. Over 20 children enrolled, demonstrating strong community interest and support. Coaches provided training, helping children develop their cricket skills and fostering teamwork. Parents and children alike praised the program for its organisation, fun atmosphere, and positive impact on the kids.

The Pavilion Committee are hoping to run a kids Football after school program in the Autumn.

The recent community sports afternoon was another major success, showcasing the village's enthusiasm for sports and outdoor activities. There was a great turnout lots of residents participated, making it a lively and joyous occasion.

Winchester City Council is conducting a comprehensive review of all sports facilities in the city. The review aims to:

- Assess Current Facilities and evaluate the condition and usage of existing sports infrastructure.
- Determine which areas require new facilities or upgrades to meet the sporting needs of the community.
- Strategically allocate resources to maximise community benefit

This review is a timely opportunity for the Pavilion Committee to align its plans ensuring that our village's sports facilities receive the attention and investment it needs.

OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL



CONTACT US

If you would like to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk by email: owsleburyparishcouncil@gmail.com or telephone: 07869 814452.

If you would like to keep up to date with Parish Council matters, please visit our website at <https://owslebury.org/>. A calendar of Council meetings can be found on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council meetings. Agendas are published on the website giving 3 clear days' notice prior to the meeting along with draft minutes of the previous meeting and meeting papers.



COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Parish Council have a vacancy for a Councillor after Cllr Simon Grinstead handed in his resignation at the July meeting. The Council thank Simon for his hard work over the past 2 years.

If you would like to become a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk on owsleburyparishcouncil@gmail.com

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Astrea Hurlock (Chair) : Cllr.Hurlock.opc@gmail.com

Yassir Mahmood (Vice Chair) : Cllr.Mahmood.opc@gmail.com

Mark Egerton : Cllr.Egerton.opc@gmail.com

John Foster : Cllr.Foster.opc@gmail.com

Will Martin : Cllr.Martin.opc@gmail.com

Paul Simmons : Cllr.Simmons.opc@gmail.com