

HUNCOTE VILLAGE NEWS

ISSUE 74 – AUTUMN 2020

BROUGHT TO YOU BY HUNCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Also available on our website Newsletters page - <https://www.huncote-pc.gov.uk/latest-newsletter.html>



Local Coronavirus Update

There have been various significant changes lately to the way we are dealing with coronavirus, which you are probably already aware of, with Oadby & Wigston re-entering local lockdown, the introduction of 10pm closing times for pubs and other venues, the introduction of the 'Rule of 6' as well as the introduction of the new NHS test & trace app, to name only a few.

Everyone is reminded that details of all the latest guidance will be available via the [Leicestershire County Council](#), [Blaby District Council](#) and [gov.uk](#) websites, on tv and in the national/local press. There are also links from the [parish council website](#). Anyone needing help or guidance is advised to contact the Community Hub at Blaby District Council via their website www.blaby.gov.uk or calling 0116 275 0555.

Impact in Huncote

All the local businesses are doing their bit and doing their best in the circumstances, and we applaud them all for the help they have offered the community in dealing with the virus. Local public spaces have had to set rules for social distancing, and we would like to remind parents/guardians that children should be reminded of their responsibility for following the rules, whether or not they are accompanied when playing out. There are limits on the numbers on people allowed near play equipment at any one time and everyone is advised to use sanitising spray on it, before and after using the equipment. This is no excuse not to continue to wash your hands regularly though.

People are noticeably walking around a lot more and this is having a positive effect in supporting everyone's mental health. Should anyone need help however, this is available from the county (0116 305 0004) and district councils (0116 275 0555).

To help keep our local area out of additional local lockdown measures, we would request that everyone continues to support social distancing and wears a mask when in shops and mixing with others or faces a fine starting from £200.

Parish Council Make Website More Accessible

As part of new government guidance on website accessibility, the parish council are undertaking a full programme of review on all documents and web pages on our site, to ensure they meet the requirements for people of all abilities to access the information we produce. Work is ongoing, but should be completed soon.

You can view the [Accessibility statement](#) at the bottom of our website.

Fly Tipping Around Huncote

The amount of fly tipping in Huncote, and particularly on Parish Council property has significantly increased recently to a totally unacceptable level.

This results in the landowner spending a long time having to clear this mess, which can be extremely costly, and reduces the morale of the community.

Please ensure that you and your family are not responsible for any cases of vandalism or fly tipping. Book an appointment on the county council website and take your waste to the tip via <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/book-a-waste-site-appointment>. If you get a company or someone else to get rid of your rubbish for you, please make sure they have a valid waste carriers licence, or you may get fined if it is fly-tipped elsewhere.

We appreciate that some of the damage is being done by non-Huncote residents. If you see any vandalism or fly tipping, please report it to the police immediately (999 or 101), with any names or vehicle registration plate numbers you have. Without such action by you the situation will get worse, and next year could also find large increases in Council Tax.

Dog Owners Reminded to Clear Up After Their Dogs

For all those who have been out and about around the village in recent months, they will likely have seen an increase in dog fouling which has blighted Huncote.

The problem has been noted throughout the village, or in the public realm, where bags have just been abandoned or thrown into trees and hedges.

This is extremely unpleasant behaviour. Anyone with any information should contact the Dog Wardens at Blaby District Council, a Parish Councillor or Huncote Parish Council's Clerk to report those responsible.

Serious accumulations may lead to action being taken under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Dog fouling that is not cleared immediately by the person walking the dog, can result in the owner being fined anywhere from £40 - £1,000 by the Dog Warden's at Blaby District Council. Fines can also be issued for not carrying sufficient spare poo bags to deal with any unexpected extra clean ups when out and about.

Are you aware of a dog fouling problem near you? The Dog Warden Service will investigate any reports of accumulation of dog faeces, which is causing a nuisance. Contact the Dog Warden to report any dog fouling 'hotspots' on 0116 272 7515.

Council welcomes two new councillors

In August, the parish council was able to co-opt two new Parish Councillors onto the council, to fill some of the vacancies.

We are happy to announce that Mark Ingham and Marek Turner have joined the parish council, to help expand our knowledge and reach within the local community, so we can better understand what you would like to see happen in the village.

A list of parish councillors and their contact details is on the reverse of this sheet.

Community Emergency Response Plan Prepared

Earlier this year Huncote Parish Council began work on a Community Emergency Response Plan, to be able to deal with some of the issues communities more frequently face, such as flooding (for the lower parts of Brook Street and Main Street), severe weather, major traffic incidents, sustained power cuts, and natural disasters. Hopefully none that the community will face, but something we need to plan for nonetheless.

As a result of preparing the initial plan, we would like to look at increasing the number of people we can call on in an emergency, with appropriate skills and equipment.

If you are a doctor, nurse, or firefighter who lives in the village and may be able to offer your services (when not required elsewhere) in the case of a significant local emergency affecting the community, we would very much like to hear from you so we can include you in our planning.

If you would like to be included in the Plan, please contact the Clerk. Contact details on opposite page.

New Cemetery Benches

The parish council have recently installed two new benches in the cemetery entrance which are at a better height for everyone to use when visiting the cemetery.

Nominations Sought for Huncote Environment Awards 2020

We hope that you are sufficiently interested in your local community to enter a nomination or two for this year's awards.

Categories for inclusion in the Awards are:

- **Community Award**
- **Best Kept Front Garden**
- **Environment Award**
- **Supporting Others Through Coronavirus**

Environmental developments of any type or size carried out in the parish in the last 12 months are eligible for consideration by the judges. The winner will receive an award to keep and a £25 gift voucher and the runner-up will get a £10 gift voucher.

May we suggest you spend a few minutes looking around your immediate neighbourhood and then if you can spare the time, extend your search to the rest of the village? You can, of course, nominate yourself if you have a good reason (or get a friend to do so).

We are not expecting to find major environmental achievements but there are many ways, either by accident or design, that ordinary folk like us can enhance the local environment and improve the quality of life for those around us.

We list below SOME, but by no means all, of the individual or group efforts which could qualify for inclusion:

- 'Jungle' garden or allotment restored to productive use;
- An environmental project by an individual or organisation;
- Improvements in the street scene e.g. display of hanging baskets (not Parish Council), house or garage extensions;
- The establishment of a wildflower garden;
- Garden pond for aquatic wildlife;
- Any development to benefit elderly people, or the disabled;
- Installation of solar panels or other means of energy-saving;
- Any permanent improvements by the local working quarries.

The competition will be judged by a panel and the Environment Cup and other awards will be presented by the Parish Council. Please leave a message on our Facebook Page, send us a tweet, e-mail us at clerk@huncote-pc.gov.uk or write to us at Huncote Parish Council, c/o 3 Mountfield Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7LW, not later than **5pm on Wednesday 4th November 2020**, telling us who you nominate, their address, and why they should win the award.

Accessing Parish Council Meetings

Following government guidance, from 4 April 2020, until 6 May 2021, all Parish Council meetings will be held via Zoom, and will not return to St James church hall until restrictions allow.

Details of all forthcoming parish council meetings and associated meeting papers will be published on the parish council website's diary of [Council Meetings](#), via our social media and on the three parish council notice boards around the village.

Should you wish to view/listen to the meeting or ask questions during parishioners time at the beginning of each meeting, you are always welcomed to do so. You will just need to click on the link on the agenda or enter the meeting ID and password into your Zoom account or call the Zoom conference number and enter the meeting details. Details are posted on the notice boards of how to call Zoom or access the meeting via the internet. If you don't already have Zoom on one of your devices, you can download it for free from www.zoom.us or via your chosen app store.

Parish council meetings generally take place in the first Thursday of each month from 7:00pm, although the November meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4th November. We welcome you to attend.

How to Contact Your Local Councillors

Should you have an issue to raise or a question about something going on in your community that you would like answers to, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk or one of your local Councillors for help, support and advice.

Cllr ALEC KNIGHT (Chairman) - (0116) 284 1285 or a.knight.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr JILL CHEESMAN - (0116) 319 3991 or jcheesman.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr ROY BAILEY - (0116) 286 6773 or rbailey.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr LIAM McENTEE - lmcentee.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr MARK INGHAM - mingham.hpc@gmail.com;

Cllr MAREK TURNER - mturner.hpc@gmail.com.

8x PARISH COUNCILLOR SEATS TOTAL - Anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor can put themselves forward for consideration to be co-opted. See existing Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk or the '[Become a Councillor](#)' page on our website for details of what's involved and how to apply.

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (County Councillor) - 07815 450 031 or maggie.wright@leics.gov.uk;

Cllr MAGGIE WRIGHT (District Councillor) - (01455) 888 306 or cllr.m.wright@blaby.gov.uk;

Contact the PARISH CLERK (STUART BACON) on (01455) 844 539, 07875 291 366 or clerk@huncote-pc.gov.uk. Find us on the web at www.huncote-pc.gov.uk.

Would you like to know more about what is happening locally? Have you been keeping up to date with the Parish Council and what's happening in the village on Twitter or Facebook? Why not look us up and 'Like' / 'Follow' us to be kept up to date with the latest news and info from the Parish Council and links to other helpful, informative and important news from our partners.

Calling for volunteer snow wardens

We are looking for residents who are able to give up some of their time to clear snow when the winter weather hits us.

Volunteers will receive training and advice on how to clear snow and ice safely.

They would also be provided with protective clothing, a shovel and wheelbarrow.

