June 2025

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Along with many people around the country, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE day in the village. The village hall was open to all for refreshments and the U3A History display of village wartime memories. While May 8th 1945 was certainly a day to celebrate, VJ Day was still almost 4 months away. As Churchill said, '*We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead'.*

Around 200 residents came to the Recreation Ground and Village Hall to enjoy and reflect on that moment. Refreshments were included, Dad's Army was on the television and U3A had put a display of village history from the time. The beacon was lit in conjunction with the singing of the national hymn, I Vow To Thee My Country.

Wessex Water Works

The Wessex Water pumping station in Halls Road near the bottom of Middle Road has had overflow problems for many years. Any surge in rainfall exposed the lack of capacity of the pumping station and, as a result, sewage has overflowed into the stream next to the pumping station and into the nearby fields. The overflow statistics are publicly available and in 2024 the recorded overflows were such that on 7 separate occasions they lasted for more than 24 hours. The total overflow time for 2024 was 704 hours, over 29 full days.

The current works in the stream field below Halls Road is designed to ease pressure on the pumping station. More than 2 acres or almost 1 hectare of lagoons and wet woodland will be planted with native trees and plants to carry out a natural cleansing process to reduce the flow into Poole harbour.

The sewage network running off from Lytchett Matravers was designed many years ago with far fewer houses. The network cannot cope with the current number of houses in the village.

Neighbourhood Plan Revision

Dorset Council approved an additional 150 houses in their adoption of Purbeck Local Plan Part 2. In 2021, the draft Dorset Local Plan outlined plans for a further 200 houses. Since then the government has raised the housing requirement for Dorset by 80%.

Our neighbourhood plan was adopted in 2017 and it now needs updating. With the large increase in the housing requirement across the country, Dorset Council will need to build 80% more houses than previously planned. Together with the change from green belt to grey belt, means that the likelihood of even more housing development around the village is not if, but how many that will be?

Some of you will have heard about the resurgence of the plan for South Lytchett Village, a broad area between Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers. While we don't have any firm details yet of this proposal, the plan nearly 20 years ago had set out plans for an extra 2,750 houses. We expect the proposal to have

similar targets. Development firms are gathering around Lytchett Matravers and the pressure on the village to provide more housing is only going to increase. The number of new houses assigned to our village could be more than 500.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan? It's a document written by people who live in Lytchett Matravers, people who know and love the area, rather than by Dorset Council. It's a document that sets out local policies to be taken into account by Dorset Council when planning applications are being assessed. It's a plan to help make sure that Lytchett Matravers gets the right types of new home developments in the right place.

The Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Working Group will be holding a consultation on June 28th and 29th. On June 28th this will be in the Village Hall during the Midsummer festival and will run from 2 p.m. until 7 p.m. On June 29th this will be in Library and will run from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. It is vital we gather your views, so please make sure you come along and take part.

Separately we will also be distributing questionnaires to gather your views so we do our best to contact everyone in the village. This is a village plan and it needs to reflect all of your views and opinions.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council undertakes to host an Annual Parish Meeting to allow residents to raise any issues for discussion. The Midsummer Festival is a good opportunity to use to canvass views and opinions on any issue important to residents and the village.

The Parish Council will have a stand at the festival where you can do exactly that. You can come and chat to parish councillors and discuss whatever is on your mind. No subject is taboo. We will be based on the Recreation Ground from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. so drop by and tell us.

Mobile Phone Coverage

The Parish Council has been approached by external firms wishing to install a mobile phone mast in the village. Reception across the village is patchy at best, depending on the network you use. I know when I get a call I usually have to go upstairs to have a real conversation. The question is where should an extra mast go?

The proposal has analysed 3 potential sites; the top of the village beyond The Chequers, along Huntick Road or lower Wareham Road. Because our village sits on top of a hill and has areas that drop off each side, one mast cannot improve 100% of the village. We need to know where the worst areas for phone reception are. You can use the Midsummer Festival PC stand or the PC Neighbourhood Plan consultation to tell us about the problems.

Councillor Vacancy

We still have 2 vacancies for Parish Councillor, so please call the Parish Clerk to find out more. Being a parish councillor is a direct way to participate and help in your community. It does take a few hours per week, but it is very rewarding so give it some thought. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Clerk or any Councillor to have a chat.

Parish Council Meetings:

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on June 11th at 7 p.m. and the next Full Council meeting will be on June 25th at 7 p.m., both in the Village Hall as usual.

Agendas for all meetings are published online and the associated reports can be requested from the Parish Clerk. Meetings always start with a public participation session, so please come along if you have suggestions or questions that you would like to discuss with the Parish Council or stay and listen to our discussions, because it's all about your village.

Alf Bush,

Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For further information please visit our website at: https://lytchettmatraverspc.org/ or contact the Parish Clerk via lytchettmatravers@dorset-aptc.gov.uk You can find us and comment on the Lytchett Matravers PC Facebook page. The Parish Clerk can also be contacted directly on 07596-885667.