July 2026

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

Rocket Park Roundabout

The first stage of revamping Rocket Park playground has been the replacement of the roundabout. This is a disabled access friendly roundabout. While the roundabout is still usable by all children, the round base will be at ground level for easier access and there will also be a tarmac path adjoining the current path. The Parish Council was able to get a special grant for this equipment, which has helped make it possible.

Specifications for the remainder of the Rocket park revamp have been finalised and are up for tender on the 'Contract Finder' website. The sling rotator will be moved outside of the fenced area next to the zip line. This will provide more space within the fenced area for new different equipment. Te Parish Council has obtained partial grant funding to help with this.

Recreational Facilities

The weekend of June 6th/7th was the Football Tournament organised by our own Lytchett Matravers Football Club. Despite the weather on Saturday, the tournament was very successful. In total there were 96 teams participating. A quarter of these were from Lytchett and almost a quarter were girls' teams. It does highlight the fact that we are a growing village and we need more space for recreation, not just for football but for a wider variety of activities.

The Parish Council is working closely with Lytchett Matravers Primary School and Dorset Council to finalise details on a site around the school. Demand for more varied recreational activities will continue to grow with the influx of new developments. While football continues to be the most popular sport in terms of the number of players, we also hope to include other sports. If you have a preference, let us know.

Council Housing and Affordable Homes

100 years ago the residents of our village raised a petition for the Parish Council to present to the equivalent of Dorset Council requesting the building of council houses. This petition was signed by 95% of the village at the time. Evidently their response from the higher council was 'meagre'.

Today we are under a similar situation. More houses are planned and yet there is constant appeal by developers to reduce or eliminate their affordable housing commitments. Note that these are affordable houses, not council houses as we had in the past. Statistically, the number of new affordable houses being built has been lower over the long term that the number of council houses lost in the 1980's sell off. As a result, the gap grows larger between those who need an affordable house and the chance of actually being able to afford one in your own locale.

The Parish Council will continue to try and argue the case for maintaining a 40% level of affordable houses in each development. Past developments have successfully delivered 40% and little has changed. Each resident

can help raise this issue by writing to the Leader of Dorset Council and to your local Dorset Councillors to request a tougher response to the developers.

Guerrilla Gardeners

The sun and rain and now sun has led to a real spurt in growth of the village verges, hedges and fields. The GGs will get around to all of them, but just 2 hours each Tuesday morning means there's some catching up to do. Anyone who can cut their 'patch' is a big help and once cut, it then becomes much easier to maintain.

If you have suggestions or you need a helping hand with your patch, then let us know and we'll see what we can do. No promises, but we can try.

Parish Council Vacancy

At the time of writing, we still have 2 vacancies for Parish Councillor, so do please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more about this role. It only takes a few hours per week and is a direct way to participate and help in your community and is so rewarding. Why not come along to one of our meetings to hear how it works, or call our Clerk or any Councillor if you have questions.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on July 8th at 7pm, and the next Full Council meeting is on June 22nd at 7pm, both in the Blanchard Room at the Village Hall. Agendas are published online and reports are available from the Parish Clerk. All our meetings begin with a public participation session. That is open to any resident who wishes to raise an issue, express and opinion or ask a question. So please come along, it's your village.

Alf Bush
Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For more information, visit **Lytchett Matravers Parish Council** or visit the Parish Council Facebook page, email **clerk@lytchettmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk** or call **07596 885667**.