

The Mardler



The Newsletter of Swanton Morley Parish Council
Thirty Sixth Edition December 2017

Carols on the Village Green

Saturday 2nd December saw the village green sparkle. This event is now in its second year and sees a collaboration between the Parish Council, local business and voluntary groups to provide the village with a 'feel good' local event to start off the Christmas season. The Dereham Town Band once again did the village proud by providing a professional accompaniment to the carols and the Dereham Round Table ensured that Father Christmas knew that Swanton Morley is full of children on the 'nice list'. The hot dogs and mince pies were provided free of charge courtesy of local businesses. A welcome addition this year was the provision of tea and coffee, and this was made courtesy of an electric supply from a local homeowner. The Christmas trees on the village green and Darby's triangle were provided free of charge and the installation of the lights, which may we hasten to add is no mean feat, was also done free of charge.

The biggest thanks goes to the local residents who came out on a fairly chilly evening to support the event. Photos and video footage can be viewed on the Parish Council's facebook page.

Village Improvements

It's that time of year when people are considering New Year resolutions, and the traditional resolutions are usually to lose weight and/or to be more active. The Parish Council is pleased to assist with the resolution with the provision of free to use outdoor gym equipment based at the Village Hall. This equipment consists of a Rower, an Air Walker, an Air Skier, a Ski Stepper, Beam Jumps, a Dip Station, a Trinity Cycle, a Leg Stretch and a Step Up Machine, complete with instructions for safe usage. The equipment is designed for those aged 14 and over. Please ensure that you wear suitable clothing and consult your doctor if you have any health concerns prior to using the equipment. This cost of this equipment was assisted by a £5,120 grant from Breckland Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan has reached a crucial stage, examination by an independent inspector. The examiner has reviewed the document and provided an initial report which then has to be 'fact checked' by us. Unfortunately, some of the information in the report is not factual and bears no relevance to Swanton Morley, therefore a response is being formulated to inform the examiner of this. Regrettably this does mean a delay in the process until after Christmas.

Proposed Shop Improvements

A planning application to improve the shop facilities in the village has been submitted to Breckland Council. The Parish Council is excited about this proposal, to create more space for existing local businesses and the creation of new units for new businesses. Villages of a comparable size to Swanton Morley, such as Mattishall and Shipdham have a much greater variety of shops. However, the Parish Council is insistent that there must be a traffic management plan to ensure that both pedestrians and vehicular traffic is safe on and around this site.

A Very Merry Christmas

Swanton Morley Parish Council would like to wish all Parishioners a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year. We look forward to 2018 with new projects to help improve the village.

Swanton Morley Festival

Consideration is being given to running a Swanton Morley Festival in 2018. The village has many fabulous venues and groups that could get involved in such an event. A meeting is to be held on **29th January 2018 at 7pm** in the bar area at Swanton Morley Village Hall to see if this proposal can be taken forward. There are lots of possibilities for the Festival, such as a fete, a flower festival, afternoon teas and an art exhibition. But we do need a group of willing volunteers to take this project forwards. Please join us to see how we can make this a success for the village.

Spring Treat

Thank you to everyone who came to collect daffodils for planting in the village. We look forward to seeing the lovely display in the spring time.



Proposed Reduction in Bus Service

Swanton Morley Parish Council is strenuously objecting to any cuts in subsidies from Norfolk County Council that would threaten the Number 4 bus route. Norfolk County Council has advised 'We want to look at whether we could get better value for money without there being a noticeable impact on passengers. However, it is likely that we would need to prioritise which services we continue to support in order to save some of this money.'

The Parish Council is gravely concerned that any reduction in the bus service in Swanton Morley would affect the most vulnerable people in the village who do not have access to a car or taxi service. Cuts are also likely to put extra strain on our community car service and the volunteers who work hard to provide this service.

Individuals may also make representation on this consultation by visiting <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/bussubsidy/> If this service is important to you, please have your say.

Combatting Loneliness

Loneliness is a subject that is not often talked about, but affects many people.

'Young or old, loneliness doesn't discriminate... it is something many of us could easily help with.'

Jo Cox

In 2018, the Parish Council and Swanton Morley Village Hall will be looking at ways to help combat loneliness. The Village Hall lounge area is often underused during the week and would make an ideal place for people to get together.

In the meantime, particularly over this Christmas period, if you've been meaning to pop next door to check on a neighbour, visit an elderly relative or just phone a friend that you haven't spoken to in ages, please make sure you do so and don't put it off. It may mean more to them than you would ever know.

For more information on combatting loneliness visit <https://www.jocoxloneliness.org/> and let people know you are **#happytochat**

Ask the Council

Q. Has the issue with the Green Open Space on the Meadow View Development been Resolved?

A. Almost! At the time of going to print, a planning application is imminent to account for all the corrective drainage measures that the developers have put in place. An opening ceremony is planned in the spring, in commemoration of the soldiers from Swanton Morley who lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Do you have a question you would like to ask the Council? If so, write to the Mardler via the clerk and we will publish the best questions and answers.

Your Parish Councillors are:

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Keith Tidman 07721 978910	Seamus O'Dowd 01362 637226	Brenda O'Dowd 01362 637226
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For any further information about the Parish Council, please contact the clerk, Faye LeBon on 01362 637166, email parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org.uk, check out the website www.swantonmorley.org.uk, follow @SwantonClerk on Twitter or write to Swanton Morley Village Hall, Manns Lane, NR20 4NP