

LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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An opportunity to have your say on what is important to you

LOWDHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall, Main St, Lowdham on Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Annual Report of the Parish Council for Year ending 31 March 2026
3. Financial Report
4. Annual Report - Nottinghamshire County Council
5. Local Government Reorganisation
6. Flood Alleviation scheme
7. Neighbourhood Plan
8. Village Parking/Traffic
9. Communication – Environment Group – Repair Café
10. Annual Report of the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee
11. Volunteering
12. Open Forum - To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Lowdham to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community.

It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice.

For any queries, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council

The order in which the presentations/reports are to be given is subject to change.

Neighbourhood Plan

Background

At last year's Annual Parishioners Meeting, the Parish Council shared a paper outlining planning pressures facing the village and suggesting ways the community might respond. This included the option of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

During the meeting there was interest from some residents in exploring this further. A Neighbourhood Plan can allow a community to document its views on the approach to local development and while it does carry weight in planning decisions, it does not prevent development entirely.

Progress since the 2025 APM

Following the meeting, efforts were made to arrange an initial meeting to begin exploring the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Parish Councillors contacted those who had expressed interest to try to organise a starting point for discussions.

Enthusiasm during the APM notwithstanding, it proved difficult to bring together a group willing to take the work forward, and the proposed meetings did not take place. As a result, preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan has not progressed over the past year.

Current position

Drafting a Neighbourhood Plan is a significant undertaking, often taking several years to produce, and requiring sustained community involvement and financial resources for surveys, consultation and professional advice. Some of the concerns that prompted the initial energy have not materialised in the way many residents feared. In particular, the anticipated pressure for large-scale development on land around the village, including the large field that has often been discussed locally, has not yet resulted in a planning application.

Of course, such applications could still come in the future. At the same time, the wider planning landscape is likely to change over the next few years, particularly with the reorganisation of local government. Any Neighbourhood Plan prepared now would likely have a relatively limited lifespan.

As such, the Parish Council's view at present is that preparing a Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to be the most effective approach for the village at this time.

Approach going forward

The Parish Council intends to continue responding to individual planning proposals as they arise and making representations based on the specific constraints that affect Lowdham. Objections to unsuitable development would continue to be made on the same grounds they are currently:

- flood risk and drainage capacity
- pressure on local infrastructure and local services
- the protection of surrounding Green Belt land

Our formal power is limited, however consistent and well-evidenced objections on these grounds, made both by the Parish Council as a statutory consultee and by parishioners individually play an important role in shaping planning decisions.

Community involvement

The Parish Council does not currently believe it is appropriate or prudent for the Council itself to attempt to drive the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

If residents wished to take forward the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan themselves, where a group of parishioners decided to organise and lead that work, the Parish Council would be happy to support the

process, for example by sharing information, helping with engagement with the planning authority, and assisting with communication to residents.

Conclusion

The Parish Council remains committed to protecting the character and sustainability of Lowdham. For the time being, the most practical approach is to continue to review planning proposals closely and respond to them on their merits, particularly where flood risk, infrastructure pressures or Green Belt considerations arise.

Should circumstances change, or should residents wish to organise and drive forward the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan themselves, the Parish Council would be willing to support that work as outlined above.

Lowdham – Parking

Introduction

A paper was prepared and presented to the Annual Parish Meeting last year. Parking continues to be an issue in the village and given exchanges of opinion on social media in recent months show that it is still of concern to villagers.

Parking is again on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting where the Parish Council will update parishioners on what has been going on over the last year.

Background

In short, parking is an issue because there is inadequate provision within the village. This has been the case for many years and, with more cars on the road, increasing development in and around the village, it is only going to get worse.

On Main Street, where most of the issues arise, few of the houses have off road parking, nor do many of the businesses. The Co-op car park, at peak times, is inadequate and its capacity has been reduced recently by the provision of electric charging points. There is no public car park; the village hall car park is reserved for users of the village hall and related activities.

The effect of all of this is that too many cars park on Main Street, Epperstone Road and Station Road at peak times, restricting traffic flow and often in contravention of existing parking restrictions on the basis that they “...will only be 5 minutes.”

There are no easy solutions. There is no land close to the village centre that could readily be turned into a car park of sufficient size to meet the present needs. The land which includes the Village Hall Car Park, Village Hall, arboretum, bowls club and cricket club, whilst owned by the Parish Council is impressed with a trust for the benefit of the village and managed and operated by the Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee (VH&PFC), constitutes a village green and cannot easily be developed. Enforcement is one avenue that is being explored, but short of having enforcement officers permanently based in the village it is unlikely to be the solution in the longer term.

The question for villagers is whether the issue of parking is such that the Parish Council and the VH&PFC should consider expanding the village hall car park and/or make it a public car park.

Lowdham Repair Café

The Lowdham Environment Group, supported by the Lowdham Parish Council, are organising a Repair Café in the village. This will be sometime in May or June at a weekend from 10.00 until 13.00.

The Repair Café will be a temporary workshop where residents can meet and have items fixed, repaired, and hopefully prevented from ending up in landfill.

Repair Cafés encourage the repair of items rather than discarding them. By choosing to fix rather than replace, they promote a culture of reuse and reduce waste.

Common Repairs

- **Electrical Appliances:** This includes items like toasters, blenders, and lamps. Items can be diagnosed with issues such as faulty wiring or broken components and, where possible, fixed
- **Small mechanical or decorative items:** Like alarm clocks or crockery
- **Clothing and Textiles:** You can bring in clothes that need mending, alterations, or upcycling. This can include anything from simple hem repairs
- **Furniture:** Small furniture items can often be repaired or refurbished. This might involve fixing broken or wobbly legs
- **Bicycle maintenance:** Help with flat tyres, brake adjustments, and other common bike repairs
- **Broken toys:** Whether they are mechanical or soft, they can often be repaired, making them safe and usable again
- **Tool sharpening, secateurs, chisels, etc.**

We hope to have a repairer for most of these items, and we will publish what may be fixed prior to the event.

Volunteer and Community Involvement

Repair Cafes rely on volunteers to organize and manage the events. They also try to involve community members in the repair process.

The date and time of the event will be published in the Parish Magazine and on Notice Boards.

Please let your neighbours and friends know once we have fixed a date for fixing. There will be a waiting area and refreshments available while your item is checked and fixed where possible. There is no charge for the service, but you may make a donation if you are pleased with the result. To manage the time on the day we will be using on-line Eventbrite for booking a place or alternatively if you just drop in, we will try and arrange a slot.

Appeal for fixers

Please contact Mike Poyzer if you have fix-it skills and would like to be one of our fixers or just help out on the day.

Contact

Email: cllr.mike.poyzer@lowdham-pc.gov.uk

Call/text: 07842 645324