

Sellack Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2023



Hello from your Parish Council.

Following the recent elections, we are delighted to welcome Emma Crowe to the team as your newest Parish Councillor. Sarah Aitken (Chair) and Mark Robinson (Vice Chair) have continued on as Parish Councillors and Mark continues to be our Parish Footpath Officer.

Mark Whittal, Nick Washington and Paul Franklin stood down as Councillors and we want to thank

them for their years on the council. Being a Parish Councillor is incredibly rewarding, but it is all done on a voluntary basis and Mark, Nick and Paul have each committed many hours to the parish. We wish them well.

You are always welcome to come along to a Sellack Parish Council meeting to find out more about what we do and have your say on local matters. You can receive updates plus notification and the agenda of all meetings by subscribing via our website and/or follow us on Facebook (details of both are on the back page).

Pictured from L-R are Parish Councillors Sarah Aitken and Mark Robinson.

We Need Your Help

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies for parish councillors. Looking for ways to make a difference in your local community? Want to get more involved in local decision making?

Find out more at <https://sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk/category/news/>

Backney Bridge Picnic Site (BBPS)



Pictured: Our volunteer day in the spring included painting benches and eating lovely cake, made by Di.

The picnic site continues to be a hive of activity for us humans and for the wildlife that frequents it. A local family has started a species list for the picnic site and Backney Common, which you can look at on the BBPS noticeboard. Tree works commissioned by the Parish Council have reduced the height of trees on the riverbank and opened up the view.

We are developing a long-term plan for the site and your views are crucial. Thank you to everyone who has already taken part in our consultation about future plans for the site, which remains open.

So far you've told us that 75% of you use the site for walking, 50% for nature and 25% for dog walking. Those who said they did not use the site said it was because the site is not near to them (walking distance) and does not offer a walking loop, so they use walking routes that do offer this.

When asked how you'd like to see the site maintained, 88% said to enhance the natural environment and create more wildflower meadows, 75% said to provide more spaces for wildlife to thrive, 38% said to plant more trees, 25% said to install more furniture and to add bike racks and 13% said to make paths more accessible.

All those who have responded to date said they found the site to be safe and clean but with some litter. When asked about potential threats and issues to the site, 75% said litter, 63% said dog poo and anti-social behaviour, 50% said water pollution and flooding.

When asked for additional comments, 25% suggested making the site a Local Nature Reserve.

We want to develop, enhance and protect the site for ours and future generations, so please tell us what you think. If you haven't yet done so, please have your say by scanning this QR code or visit our webpage at <https://sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-backney-bridge-picnic-site/>



Other ways to get involved are by helping at our next **BBPS volunteer day** on the morning of **Saturday 21st October** or by joining our **BBPS working group**. If you are interested, please get in touch with our Clerk via one of the methods listed on the back page.

Plaques for those on the Sellack War Memorial

The Parish Council hopes to place plaques on some of the public footpath gates in the parish, to commemorate all those on the Sellack War Memorial.

The idea was prompted by reading their individual stories in the booklet, written by Bill Webb, which (an excerpt of which) can be viewed on our website at <https://sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-parish/war-memorial/>.

It is sobering to think about those young men leaving the green fields of Sellack and dying in foreign lands, in the service of their country. We wanted to find a way to link their memory back to our Sellack countryside and felt that placing memorial plaques along our public footpaths would be a fitting adjunct to our wonderfully kept war memorials at Picts Cross and the Church.

We hope that some of today's residents of Sellack will sponsor the cost of a plaque, which will be approximately £50. The name of the sponsor will be included on the plaque. We already have some sponsors and if you are interested in becoming a sponsor too, please contact our Clerk.

We will be holding a small Armistice Day event on the afternoon of **Saturday 11th November, from 2.15pm at the Village Hall** to unveil the first plaque and share our plans for the remaining plaques. We hope to see you there.

CPR Training

One of our Parish Council assets is the defibrillator, located outside the Village Hall. We have recently replaced the battery and the pads and it is registered with The Circuit, which is connected to the Emergency services, so if anyone calls 999 and requires it, they will be directed to their nearest defib.

We are currently arranging some CPR and defibrillator training with First Responders Ross-on-Wye and we will be sharing more details on our website and Facebook page.

Stay in touch

We hope you have found this update useful. Please stay in touch, get involved and have your say by:



Following us on Facebook (search for Sellack Parish Council)



Subscribing to free updates on our website at www.sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk (our new gov.uk site)



Coming along to one of our Parish Council meetings – there is a public speaking item or just come and listen. Our next meetings are Tues 14th November and Tues 9th January, 7pm at Sellack Village Hall



Emailing the Clerk, Claire Vaughan with any queries or comments at clerk@sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07856960664.

If you would like this newsletter in large print or audio, please contact our Clerk at clerk@sellackparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07856960664