It is hoped everyone has enjoyed the summer weeks with the unusually hot weather over such a long period of time. A sign of things to come we are told. We are also advised that we should be expecting increased energy bills this winter which is a matter of concern for us all. Roof Insulation and double glazing are all recommended to keep the warmth in but it is unlikely anybody will get away unscathed. We all should be entitled to keep warm.

This leads us on to the recent publicity with regard to the proposal for a solar farm off Exton Avenue. Postcards delivered to each household were the first surprise and the offer of an open meeting and or a webinar. I chose the latter as was unable to attend the other and along with others asked some pertinent questions. As worries gained momentum the Parish Council Chairman Tommy Cooper quickly arranged a Parish meeting for everyone to attend and share their concerns. There was a good turnout apparently, in the Village Hall including some who live closest to the site I understand. Unfortunately several of the Parish Council members were on holiday as were households in the village.

Newly elected Parish councillor Kiloren Heckels took notes and I was asked to send these to those on the newsletter email list which I did. They are also reproduced herewith.

**PARISH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 3rd AUGUST TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED SOLAR AND BESS DEVELOPMENT AT EXTON.**

**Tommy Cooper (chairman of the Parish Council)** introduced the proposal for a Solar “Farm” on the Avenue to the villagers and opened the floor to receive their views. He thanked the villagers (about 50 present) and told the villagers that “We need to concentrate on the areas that the council will consider”. He said that the Parish Council was there to represent the views of the village.
He introduced County Councillor June Fox who he said will speak about the planning. June thanked everyone for coming. Here to represent views. Shocked at the scale of the material planning consideration and policies. Only 14,734 homes in Rutland. There is already planning in Langham for Solar Farm with a capacity of 8500 homes and of course the Mallard Pass is being proposed. The Langham Solar Farm was granted by Rutland County Council as it only affected one house. Is the substation in Oakham able to take all the power from Langham and Exton?. This isn’t a material consideration but not being a viable project is.

Tommy Cooper invited the audience to make their comments.

First was David Gathercole 8 Pudding Bag Lane. David was not in favour of the proposed Solar Farm when there are large power stations in Corby and Peterborough that aren’t functioning but could. Why aren’t they in use?

June Fox agreed to look into this.

Dennis Sherwood – Barnsdale Grange
Dennis said that it is a Power Station NOT a farm. It’s a solar power station and describing it as a farm just played into the Developer’s hands.

Caroline Shires – Church Farm Close – The environmental impact assessment has been submitted by the developers. It requests not to do one as it isn’t needed under section 2. They claim there is no biodiversity and is not needed.

June Fox responded that she will ensure that one will be requested.

Neil Constable – Lakeland House
Neil has just moved into the Avenue. There seems to be no regard to residents of the village. The Government has policies to protect the land –
so he felt understanding and making sure the land survey is accurate was a priority. If the land was 3A or higher the developers would have to prove that the land is suitable and that they have considered other opportunities.

20% is grade 2, 20% grade 3A and the rest is 3B. The Developers have apparently acknowledged these grades in their proposals which will act in favour of objections.

**Tommy Cooper** – a lot of developers go for the maximum development but maybe we could try to reduce the size and get it back from the Avenue

**Dennis Sherwood** says that a lot of the land is Grade 2

**Jodie** – Springfield Barn – first year that the Exton Estate haven’t fertilised the land which has been rather nice.

**Nick Hamilton – Barnsdale Gardens**
Sat in on the webinar – the developers spoke a lot about mitigating but no clear plans on how they are doing this. None of the reports are ready and they will only be ready when it goes to planning. When there will only be 28 days to make comments.

**June Fox** - said it will be more than 28 days in reality - so long as the portal is open there will be additional time

**Richard Abels**- commented that the developers presentation was very amateur. Alarming in lack of detail. There were no decisions on plans or equipment

**Nicky Hanbury** – was unhappy about the proposal. They didn’t hear about the proposal until 5 days ago. May have chosen the site due to the substation. Exton Estate has masses of ground they could use near A1 which would not create a noise nuisance.

**Richard Abels** - They have to go to Oakham to get capacity as Barnsdale substation isn’t large enough to put it to the grid.

**Peter Baron - Courtyard Cottage** - It was clearly a deliberate sell and no detailed information. They didn’t know about the battery technology needed – it was very restrictive on the information they were given. Gave the feeling that it is driven by money and not suitability. The Technology only works for about 35 years and will then need to be replaced. He feels it’s a self sustaining scam as not sustainable. Battery technology should concern us all. These batteries are prone to overheating which is not preventable. The fire service will need to able to
deal with this as the battery leaks will flow into the ground water. (The batteries are lithium). Germany is reversing Green bus policy as the buses are burning out and they can’t control the batteries. They have even gone as far as preventing electric vehicles charging under the municipal buildings!

**Mark - New Field Road** - Mark works in solar technology. He was surprised how they already have a grid connection. There is a 2 year wait. So they are clearly not being transparent.

**Andrew Hunter – Horn Mill** - He supports alternative forms of energy usage like Solar villages. He was involved with the Woolfox development – that’s now on hold. Andrew wondered why they can’t they put this development on a Brownfield site or St. George’s barracks for this. So he takes strong exception to advantage being taken of our farmland – grade 2 and 3. Should be moved to Brown Field land

**June Fox** said Woolfox is ruled out as they can’t take the energy as they can’t connect to the grid. St George’s also ruled out

**Derek Palmer** – The Woolfox solar farm was dropped and the wind turbines were dropped. They were going to run it to Stamford power station

**David Sherwood** said 9th August is a deadline

**David Holland** – Wondered if consideration had been taken for Cottesmore around the MOD site. Mr Holland said that the Falconry and Owl Centre will be significantly affected by the Development. He felt there were more suitable locations.

**Nick Hamilton** – Was concerned with flooding – the developers say it is level 1 yet there is always flooding in Barnsdale Gardens every time there is heavy rain. He said that the noise (from the moving solar panels constantly humming) would kill his business. He employs 30 people and 25 live in Rutland. The development will kill his business. He has 30k visitors every year - many travel from overseas – this would mean 30,000 less visitors in Rutland.

**Andrew Hunter** – someone had heard the noise.

**Nick Hamilton** – These panels will be noisy

**Lynne Cundy** – concerned that there was no biodiversity study but the Avenue itself if a special place with Owls and wildlife all of which will be disturbed. We need to get Natural England involved in this. The biodiversity isn’t just flowers, it’s about the whole cycle and the Avenue is irreplaceable.
Annie Lea – agreed with Lynne. “I’m very concerned about incessant noise and this will cause a noise issue in the village. The estate own land right up to the A1, why couldn’t this be located on the A1 land. One thing will lead to another and the land will be used for factories. Could the trustees of the Exton estate be approached about the development. They should be made aware that value of the assets in the estate will be affected by this development and where they aware of this.”

Patricia Haggar – Are CPRE involved? They should be.

David Sherwood ? – Environmental – lots of information on birds given to lay their eggs in the wrong place.

Brian Grady 7 Oakham Road – Empingham was refused solar panels near the dam as it would confuse the birds nesting. This land maximises the profit. It seems to be an economic issue and the developers are concentrating on profit.

Nick Hamilton – In researching solar sites this will be the 5th largest in the country! The panels will start 6 to 10 meters away from my boundary the panels. (2nd largest by area)

Brian Grady – Oakham Road
Concerned about the suggestion of St George’s barracks – that could be a possibility. The point about the large sites is that they are on disused airfields, motorways, main roads. None near a village or on prime agricultural road. The development in the countryside should be restricted to things that are essential to the countryside. This isn’t. It should be thrown out under Rutland CC own policies on the countryside. The Government website increases biodiversity and the impact on glint or glare. The need for and impact on security measure – light fences, cameras will all impact the site. The adequacy of the consultation is laughable. This demonstrates the surrounding area is deciduous and the impact on the surrounding area will be significant. This will be a big impact visually. There isn’t significant information.

Nick Hamilton – His garden is an internationally important garden and its significance is worldwide. It will be the end of my business which has been going since 1989...

Peter – designed to stay local by its size
In the detailed covering there is no indication that there is housing there. Peter – potential risk – each battery is 49 mega watts – this type with environmental risk would be a hazard site and needs resources to deal with
battery fires which are quite frequent. It would release gases into the atmosphere. What pumps are on site. By what means will the fire station deal with it. It may be the right project but in the wrong place.

**June Fox** On Langham she said she had a quick scan – there had been objections from residents and Councillor Hemsley. The size is smaller and only one house affected and that was the farmer and he was planning to continue to use the land for sheep. Concerned that on the Western power website the sub-station needs upgrading.

**Peter McNally** – The questionnaire the developers have circulated is leading and clearly written to get the answers they want. In other words it is written to support the project not written to get the residents true views. Plenty of brown field sites they could use. There is a wheat crisis at the moment. I fundamentally disagree with this questionnaire.

**Lynne Cundy** – They gave us the email addresses. No need to follow their questions. The Parish Council need to express views. The scheme isn’t big enough to go to the Government. It is 1Kw below the size requiring Government approval – this doesn’t seem to be a coincidence.

**Jayne Walker – 11 Vicars Close** – There is going to be a Government Draft paper coming out about solar farms. Jayne was concerned about the risks particularly if there was a fire. What is the potential of sparks to other fields, The Avenue, houses. Has anyone looked into the amount of noise and cumulative noise. What monitoring will be done. What research on ecology has been done? Surely the economic cost factor is negated by the damage this will do.

**June Fox** – Energy company highly criticised in Langham for not having a consultation. This consultation is minimal. Need to go back and request more comprehensive consultation.

**Mrs Thompson** – Reported that there was a fire in Liverpool in a storage unit. Fume of toxic fumes for 57 hours. Also an explosion risk and the batteries can’t be put out.

**Dan Howison** – Agricultural argument has been put in the presentation by the development company made of mention of this. Mr Howison believes we need not only energy security but also food security. Mr Howison mentioned that there used to be a public right of way across the land. There is plenty of time for making application for old footpaths to be reinstated. There is a footpath from Cow Close farm to the water tower on an old ordinance survey. This should be reinstated.
Joan Wittkopp – I lived at Avenue Farm. My great uncle and cousin farmed there. Who are the developer – will they be around for the next 30 years?

Tommy – developer will need to give a bond to return the land to its original state.

Caroline Shires – Church Farm Close – This is their first project. There will be performance bonds and inter-limited companies.

Jayne Walker – Is there a soil survey – no evidence this has been done

Lynne Cundy How can they deliver their equipment on these dangerous country lanes. There is no access that can be improved.

Pat Brown – Presentation was very amateurish. Impact on noise

Michael Langston- Did the company approach Harry Campden or other way round? Is he diversifying or is he trying to use the land for something else other than agriculture as he doesn’t have any younger farm workers that can take over when the current ones retire.

Ross – Looking ahead it may be worthwhile to employ solicitors or lawyers. Who is paying for this? The developer or Estate should be forced to pay for the legal costs. Alicia Kearns has refused to get involved. She should care about Rutland. The MP should be involved.

June says she will be canvassing Whitwell so it would be a good opportunity to speak to her.

Joan Wittkopp- The Avenue was called the Queen of Bohemia Drive.

Tommy Cooper thanked everyone for coming and for their views. We need to go back to ecology and will put it all together and go to battle.

Colleen Ryan – the Mallard Pass application has many contentious points – importantly they are sourcing solar panels from China. The company that makes them uses child labour. What process will they have on board to ensure this isn’t happening at the Exton site.

The areas that the Parish Council need to focus their comments on are:-

EIA Criteria
- Noise
- Cultural heritage
N.B. Exton Energy has proposed a ~50 MegaWatt solar farm installation with battery storage, covering some 200 acres near Exton Lane. The community consultation period runs until the 4th September. To learn more, go to: Exton Solar Farm (extonenergy.com)

GREEK EVENING
In August at Blacksmiths Lane organised by Julie Garner raised £200 for the Church and £200 for the Village school. Thanks to everybody who supported this venture and to Julie for her catering skills.

EXTON VILLAGE BOOK GROUP next meet Tuesday 27th September discussing ‘The Instance Of The Fingerpost’ by Iain Pears. Enquiries:01572 811178

FOUND in Exton
COFFEE MORNING
At Ann Bell’s, St Mary’s House
SATURDAY 17th SEPTEMBER
10.30 am to 12.30
& BRING & BUY STALL
ALL WELCOME £3 [including coffee]
Unfortunately there will not be a Harvest Supper this year but it is possible that a Harvest Lunch will be arranged. Please look for further information in the October Newsletter.

This year was our best Extonbury ever, raising £6560 for the Air Ambulance with over 800 people attending throughout the course of the day. Huge thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic result! ...............Mark

[What an am amazing venture this is and enjoyed by so many in the village too, congratulations to all involved. Ed]

Exton and Horn Parish Council

Kiloren Heckels has been elected onto the Parish Council and unfortunately Lorraine Palmer Cash has now retired. Minutes of meetings appear on the parish website thanks to webmaster Cllr Paul Taylor exton.org.

N.B. I often get calls regarding the play area and visiting children getting splinters. I am told recently a visit to A & E was needed after an incident. There is signage advising the Parish Council should be contacted with any concerns but users should be aware that the skateboard ramp is constructed for just that purpose not as a slide? It is made of wood and splinters are unavoidable. Complaints should be addressed to the Parish Council Clerk, Helen Duckering, 01572 759554
MOVIE NIGHT IS BACK ON FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER!!

Get ready for an all action evening when movie night returns with the latest Bond spectacular. You'll be shaken, and quite possibly stirred!

Entrance still only £5 per person, doors open at 7.00p.m. Bring drinks, we'll provide the popcorn! All proceeds over the video license will go to the village hall improvement fund.

Tickets from:
www.exton-village-hall.com
message the Hall's Facebook page
or email extonvillagehall@gmail.com
ALL PROFITS TO EXTON CHURCH

EXTON QUIZ NIGHT
AT THE VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 23 SEPT | REGISTER FROM 7pm | £2 per PERSON
STARTS 7.30pm

BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE FOR THE WINNING TEAM!

MAXIMUM TEAM SIZE - SIX PEOPLE

FOOD & DRINK NOT SERVED - PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN

RAFFLE

Email edward.hockels@gmail.com or berniewallace@btinternet.com to donate a raffle prize
FERNELEY’S
https://ferneleysicecream.co.uk
From our cows to your door,
in time for breakfast.
We are proud to supply so many local houses with farm fresh milk from our cows, along with other local & British produce.

[Thanks to Jimmy and Helen pointing out the new service available from the above. The website gives lots of information about products and delivery days etc. and it does include Exton!....Ed]

ON YOUR WEDDING
3rd September 2022
To
MOLLY BELL AND TOM BERRIDGE
From your many friends
Personalised Gifts

Binx Inx
A LASTING IMPRESSION

Pet Gifts

Walter

Ginny

Binx

Harper Beau

Baby Gifts

Business gifts

Visit our website for the full range

www.binxinx.co.uk
Citizens Advice Rutland is here to help

We are a local charity that provides free advice to meet the needs of our community.

If you're struggling with the cost of living crisis, we're here to help.
We offer free, confidential and independent debt and budgeting advice. We have qualified Money Advice Caseworkers who can help you work out your budget, check you're receiving everything you're entitled to and assist you with putting a debt solution in place if needed. We can also apply for grants from other charitable organisations.

Our Adviseline is open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm
01572 723494
For the latest information on the vaccine sites please visit: https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/

‘T’ FOR TUESDAY TEA PARTY
13th SEPTEMBER 2022
2.30-4 pm - Village Hall - All Welcome
Alternatively if you would like a home delivery please do let me know. bernie.wallace@btinternet.com - Tel: 01572 812956/07858484918

Sparklers are back!
The baby & toddler group for this area is restarting in September
Where: Cottesmore Church
When: Tuesdays 9.30 - 11 (term-time only)
Why: to have fun with songs, craft, chat & drinks
Want to know more? 01572 812202

[Although the Sparklers group is held in Cottesmore Church it serves all the churches in the Benefice which include Exton and Greetham.]
“Mortimer” the Hermanns tortoise from Garden Road caused a stir when going travelling further than he should. Thank goodness he has returned home none the worse for his adventures. His owner Judi is grateful to those who looked in their gardens and sheds.

**EXTON INDOOR BOWLS CLUB**

The winter programme begins **Sunday 2nd October** and continues throughout the season. Sunday evenings **7 pm to 9 pm** in the Village Hall. Annual subscription is currently £10 per year. The **AGM** takes place Sunday 25th September also in the Village Hall. If you are interested in a new hobby, social evening, good company, equipment can be loaned while you try out the game, then either come along or telephone for further information
Brian Lowe 01572 813148 or David Healey 01572 813413.

Not enough room for your books? We have several book cases – both full and half size and in excellent condition. They are free to good homes.
Please contact Sally on 811411 or email  sallyrm24@gmail.com

Terry Connolly of Maltings Barn says her black and white cat has gone ‘awol’ once again. This I have to say seems to be a regular occurrence so he could be back by the time this Newsletter goes to print. There have been photos in previous newsletters.
“Somewhere inside all of us is the power to change the world.”

As I type, we are looking forward to our new school year, and the staff are busy preparing the school for the children to return on the last day of August. This year we will be 64 children across four classes.

The quote above comes from the book ‘Matilda’ by Roald Dahl. The picture shows part of the new mural in our school library, which was completed over the summer and features the BFG, another of Roald Dahl’s great book characters.

As we look towards a new academic year, we will be challenging the children to think about what they can do to change the world. It may seem like an impossible task, but if we all make small steps individually, together we can make a huge difference. Watch this space!

If you would like to find out more about the school, do visit our website— www.extonschool.co.uk.

We are always happy to show prospective parents around the school.

Please contact the school office on the phone on 01572 812380 or by email at extonoffice@rltschools.com to arrange a visit.
ST PETER AND ST PAUL PARISH CHURCH,
SEPTEMBER Services

11th  11.15am Morning Service

25th  11.15am  Harvest Festival (we will be collecting for the Oakham Food bank)

The church will have hosted a Wedding Blessing and a Wedding in August. In September Molly Bell and Tom Berridge will be married on the 3rd and Karl Bostock and Amy Jones both from Whitwell on the 10th.

A huge thank you to Julie and John Garner and to all who attended the recent Greek evenings. A generous donation was made to the church for which we are very grateful. The church building and churchyard would not be so well looked after if it was not for the generosity of the village.

Both Ed Heckels and I have tickets for the Corby Male Voice Choir which is at 7.30 pm on Saturday September 17th. The tickets are £10 each and it would be helpful if they were purchased beforehand to give an indication of numbers for refreshments which will be served during the interval.

An advanced notice of a pre-Christmas Bazaar which will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday November 19th from 2-4pm.

More details to come.

General queries can be directed to the cottesmorebenefice.office@gmail.com or to me at sallyrm24@gmail.com or on 811411......Sally Miller Churchwarden

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY – Holy Mass

Sundays at 9 am
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<th>Organisation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Village Hall Chair</td>
<td>Mark Butterill</td>
<td>813652</td>
<td><a href="mailto:markbutterill@gmail.com">markbutterill@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Village Hall Secretary</td>
<td>Joy McNally</td>
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<td>Village Hall Bookings</td>
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<td>Rutland County Councillor [Exton &amp; Horn Ward]</td>
<td>June Fox</td>
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<td>Parish Council Chairman</td>
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<td>Parish Council Clerk</td>
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<td>Exton Defibrillator Co-ordinator</td>
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<td>Exton Village website</td>
<td>Paul Taylor</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:paul.taylor282@outlook.com">paul.taylor282@outlook.com</a></td>
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<td>RC Priest Oakham Presbytery</td>
<td>Father Stephen Dye</td>
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<td>Parish Church Rector</td>
<td>Anthony Oram</td>
<td>812948</td>
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<td>St Peter &amp; St Paul Churchwarden</td>
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Information/adverts/entertainment/news/welcomed by the Editor free of charge. It is appreciated if the contributions are sent in plenty of time. Should anyone in the village not already on the data base wish to be included please forward contact details to the Editor annetteoliver63@gmail.com Or by hand to 20 Stamford Road

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER BY 18th SEPT please**