

## WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE FOR THIS YEAR'S COMMUNITY- MINDED AWARDS?

At the end of every year the Parish Council celebrates those in Market Lavington who have demonstrated through their words and actions how Community Minded they are.

Two awards are presented – one for young people (sponsored by St Arbucks Community Café) and one for adults – following nominations and votes from the public.

The chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Chloe Stevens, will be announcing and presenting the awards at the **BEER & CAROLS FEST AT THE GREEN DRAGON ON 8 DECEMBER**.

If you'd like to nominate someone special for their commitment to community life in the village, **MAKE YOUR NOMINATIONS BEFORE 30 NOVEMBER** at St Arbucks Community Café at the top of White Street or send to — [Clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

## TRIED THE LIBRARY?

Run by Wiltshire Council but staffed entirely by a cheerful network of 20+ local volunteers, the **Library in the Old School on Church Street** is a popular resource for people of all ages, from toddlers to nonagenarians!

Membership is free, and it's a warm, safe and welcoming space for all. There's a wide range of books updated and changed regularly for your enjoyment – from the latest novels to children and teen books as well as non-fiction.

The library is open three days a week — on **Wednesdays 2pm-5pm, Fridays 10am-5pm, and Saturdays 10am-12 noon**.

## WHAT WERE PEOPLE'S KEY CONCERNS 100 YEARS AGO?

In our Winter issue last year, we noted how water was a key issue from the moment the first Parish Council was elected in 1894. Here's a bit more detail on the supply of fresh water, as well as a couple of titbits of concern over the past 131 years\*.

### WATER WATER EVERYWHERE!

In the early years one recurring problem facing the Council was the quality of **water from the spring at Broadwell** (seen below in the very early 1900s) — the village's then



primary source of fresh water. Eventually, at a public meeting in 1935, the District Council proposed a supply scheme – but comments from the audience suggested “there was no necessity for a further supply as the parish had never been without sufficient water, and that, **in addition to two public supplies** [Broadwell and Northbrook] **there were**

**about 150 private wells**”. Nevertheless, the District Council went ahead with the scheme **in 1936**. But what happened to all those 150 wells? Answers please!

### ... BUT WHAT ABOUT WASTEWATER?

Disposal of sewage was also a key topic! **In 1944**, the Parish Council agreed that new houses should be designed so they could be connected to a main sewer *when one became available*. **By 1954**, nil progress – but the Council “hoped a scheme would soon be implemented, as sanitary conditions in the village were very primitive.” Mains drainage was finally in place **in 1958**.

There are plenty of other gems. In **January 1897**, a committee was set up to help with the village lighting – it decided that “in view of the state of the moon”, the lighting should be started as soon as possible! And **in 1911**, “a complaint was received from a parishioner that the steam roller parked at Broadwell most of the summer was belching smoke that blew into his windows, causing him serious annoyance.”

\* Our source is a rare copy of 'Market Lavington Parish Council: The First One Hundred Years 1894-1994', compiled by A. Bromfield. Photo: Market Lavington Museum, with thanks.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE STORIES, PLEASE CONTACT PARISH CLERK TANYA WEST: 07770 679697 / [clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

# MARKET LAVINGTON PARISH UPDATE

Autumn 2025 / ISSUE-4

## THIS MATTERS TO EVERYONE!

One minute we're basking in sunshine, the next we're heading to Christmas! Time flies but there's been plenty happening.

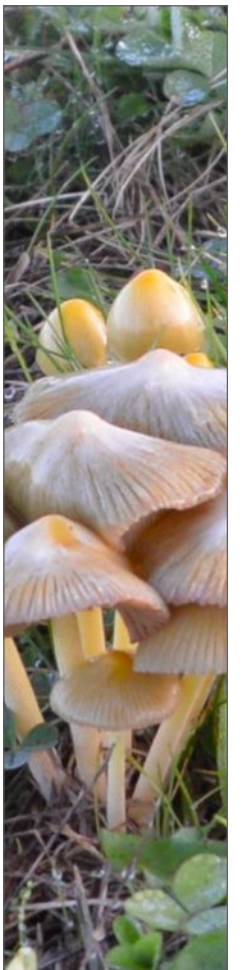
The resurfacing of Church Street and the High Street through to Easterton was completed on time and to a good standard. Certainly it makes our wonderful village look even better. Only the stretch to West Lavington to be completed... The question has been asked, believe me. And at last work is progressing on the lights for the Black Dog cross-roads.

With the new school term well under way, the young people of our village are at the forefront of my mind. Children learn from the community, but the community also grows by investing in its young people, helping develop resilience, and grow relationships. It *matters* that we consider our young people. We can't raise concerns about antisocial behaviour and then show few aspirations to provide for our young people.

Housing is critical to us *and* to them – but it has to be the right kind of housing in the right place. So please join the consultation on prospective housing being explored for the Neighbourhood Plan – see over the page for more details. It's important!!

If these or any other thoughts spark an interest and you feel you could contribute your time, knowledge or expertise on a voluntary basis or as a councillor, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Tanya our Clerk.

**CHLOE STEVENS, Chair, Market Lavington Parish Council**  
[c.stevens@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:c.stevens@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



### IN THIS ISSUE ...

**INSIDE:** Time to think about where new housing goes.

**BACK PAGE:** Who will *you* nominate for the ML Community-Minded Awards?



# TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHERE NEW HOUSING GOES

We’ve reached a critical stage of the new Neighbourhood Plan — the opportunity for everyone in Market Lavington to comment on a range of sites where housing may be suitable, not suitable or already identified. The Neighbourhood Plan is primarily about land use, so housing is the core element. Please read this through – try and come along to the Public Exhibition in the Old School Hall on 8 November – and then reply to the survey, with your comments.

As part of developing the new Market Lavington Neighbourhood Plan, potential development sites are being assessed for suitability. AECOM, an independent consultancy, is paid by Government to provide this assessment at no cost to the Parish. The number of sites assessed is far more than will be needed to deliver the number of new homes required by Wiltshire Council. A total of 19 sites have been assessed – including those currently on Wiltshire Council’s Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) list, and those put forward in response to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group’s “Call For Sites” conducted in the past year. It is understood that Wiltshire Council is likely to expect Market Lavington Parish to accommodate more than 70 new homes over the period to 2036 and the Steering Group is focusing on which of the sites are likely to be most beneficial to the community.

**AECOM HAVE ASSESSED EACH SITE ACCORDING TO THREE KEY CRITERIA:**

- **Is the site suitable?** For example, is it in a flood zone, is it on a steep slope, would it harm heritage assets or the wider landscape, is it easily accessible?
- **Is the site available?** For example, is it covered in Wiltshire Council’s SHELAA assessment or is there a current planning application, is the landowner supportive, or perhaps already in partnership with a developer?
- **Is the site achievable?** For example, does the site require removal of any contamination, does it have vehicular access already (if not, can access be provided), are there any constraints or issues that would effect viability?

You can read and download the full AECOM report by going to the Neighbourhood Plan website ([marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk](http://marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk)). There is also a summary document you can read online or download that carries the detailed assessment for each site.

The conclusion for each site is based on a traffic light system:

● RED — not suitable: constraints may impede a site’s ability to pass the key criteria.

● YELLOW — potentially suitable: constraints might be capable of being resolved.

● GREEN — suitable.

It is important to realise that the role of the assessment is to use the key criteria to help decide whether a site is *appropriate* for consideration. The three key criteria and conclusions are only there to provide guidance. They are not prescriptive and DO NOT take into account community preferences. Our community has the final say on which sites will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. Also, the number of homes proposed for a site is based on a standard formula, but does not necessarily represent the actual

number of new homes that might be finally built. There is still a good deal of work required, but once the draft Plan is completed, there will be further public consultation. The Plan then moves to Wiltshire Council. After further checks and a final consultation, they send the Plan to a Government Inspector. Given approval by the Inspector, the final stage is a referendum. If a simple majority say “Yes”, the Plan is officially adopted. Once the Neighbourhood Plan is in place – and sites selected in the Plan are developed – the Parish Council receives funds to be used for projects that will deliver community improvements and benefits for the people of Market Lavington for years to come.

**MARKET LAVINGTON**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2**  
PROTECT • EVOLVE • TREASURE • ENHANCE

**Where shall we put our new homes?**

To maintain a thriving community, Market Lavington will have to embrace some new housing. This is our chance to have a say where this will go and how the parish can benefit from the right homes in the right place.

19 sites were suggested and these have been assessed by AECOM, an independent body. Scan the QR code to view the report.

The sites will also be highlighted on our Facebook feed – please follow us

**Have Your Say**

There is an opportunity to leave your comments on these sites on the website. Not all these sites can or will be developed but the more people that comment, the stronger our case.

**Public Exhibition at the Old School Hall**  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 10am to 3pm  
Come along – Tell your friends and help us with your views

**Find out more at [www.marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk/](http://www.marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk/)**

A brief survey has been created for you to give your views on the suitability of these sites, including any firm evidence to support your comments. Go to [www.marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk](http://www.marketlavingtonnp2.org.uk) and follow the link to the AECOM report. It’s important to share your views, so the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group can fully take them into account when considering which potential housing sites to put forward in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan.

## THIS IS A CALL FOR HEROES!

Flooding can result from a lot more than just overflowing rivers. Rainfall can overwhelm drainage systems, as we have seen at The Muddle, Parsonage Lane and more visibly Drove Lane. Blocked gullies can cause surface water to pool, and even small streams can rise dramatically after storms. Climate change is also intensifying rainfall events, making flooding a growing concern everywhere, not just in high-risk zones. The cost of preventive action – clearing debris, improving drainage, maintaining flood defences, creating awareness – is small compared to the devastation caused by one flood event.

**VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

Communities that act early recover faster. A volunteer flood group can:

- Inspect and clear drainage routes regularly,
- Conduct awareness campaigns on what to do before and after heavy rain,
- Work with local councils to map risk zones,
- Encourage responsible waste disposal,
- Train as community emergency responders.

Just a few hours a month of volunteering can dramatically improve a town’s resilience.

**A CALL TO PROTECT YOUR TOMORROW**

Flooding may not be visible today, but that is exactly why action is needed now. Waiting for a disaster before preparing is a gamble we can’t afford. For information on joining our flood preparedness initiative. Please contact [clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@marketlavingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) Please help strengthen Market Lavington before the next storm rolls in. What you do today could save homes, livelihoods, and lives tomorrow.