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## MEETING DATES FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS ARE:

4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017 @ COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 @ COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018 @ COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

ALL MEETINGS COMMENCE AT 7.30PM



## NEW SCHOOL GARDEN

St Bernard's Catholic Primary School new front garden area which was created after extension works to the school had left the entrance to the school in a poor condition. The new planters, planting and hard landscaping were created partly with the assistance of a grant provided by Lea and Cottam Parish Council.



Lea & Cottam  
Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2017



## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH ON EVENTS 2017

This year the Parish Council are again arranging for the erection of three Christmas trees in the Parish at St Christopher's Church, St Mary's Church Lea Town and Cottam Primary School. In conjunction with the local schools and churches light switch on events have been arranged as follows:

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**St Mary's Church Lea Town**

A short advent service will be held in the church at 4.15pm followed by the official switch on in the church grounds. Attendees are then invited to mince pies and mulled wine in St Mary's School.

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**St Christopher's Church, Blackpool Road**

A short carol service will be held at 6.00pm prior to assembly in the church grounds for the official switching on of the Christmas Tree lights. Those attending are then invited to St Bernard's School for mince pies, tea and coffee. Please note that due to safety regulations the number of people who will be able to attend the short service will need to be limited. We are currently working out how best to do this. There will however, still be room outside for the switch on and of course attendance at St Bernard's who are also arranging a few games of bingo whilst you enjoy your tea, coffee and mince pies.

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Cottam Primary School**

The singing of carols will take place in the school at about 3.30pm followed by mince pies, tea and coffee. Shortly after 4.00pm those in attendance will be asked to assemble outside to see the lights on the Christmas Tree officially switched on.

*These community events have become an annual feature within the Parish. Residents of the Parish are encouraged to come along and join in the celebrations and support the combined efforts of the local churches, schools and Parish Council*

## OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, which advised you of the demands being placed on the Parish Council, further information has now been received. Preston City Council have confirmed that some of the monies received, ostensibly for the continued maintenance of open greenspace in Cottam, have been used for other purposes. This Council have now written to the Homes and Community Agency, who provided those funds by way of a legal agreement, to clarify whether the use by PCC was in accordance with that legal agreement. At this time we still await a response.

At the beginning of October a small working group met with representatives of Preston City Council to discuss the proposals for this Council to contribute to greenspace maintenance in the future. The discussions were about how in practice this would work and what control would the Parish Council have in respect of standards.

A separate working group have also undertaken an audit of the present state of maintenance across the whole parish. This has shown many areas of neglect. A meeting with PCC was arranged whereby this Council expressed its concern that standards had already fallen quite significantly. Their response was that greenspace maintenance was not a statutory requirement and that, in the light of their own budget cuts, maintenance (except grass cutting) was now done more on a reactive rather than proactive basis.

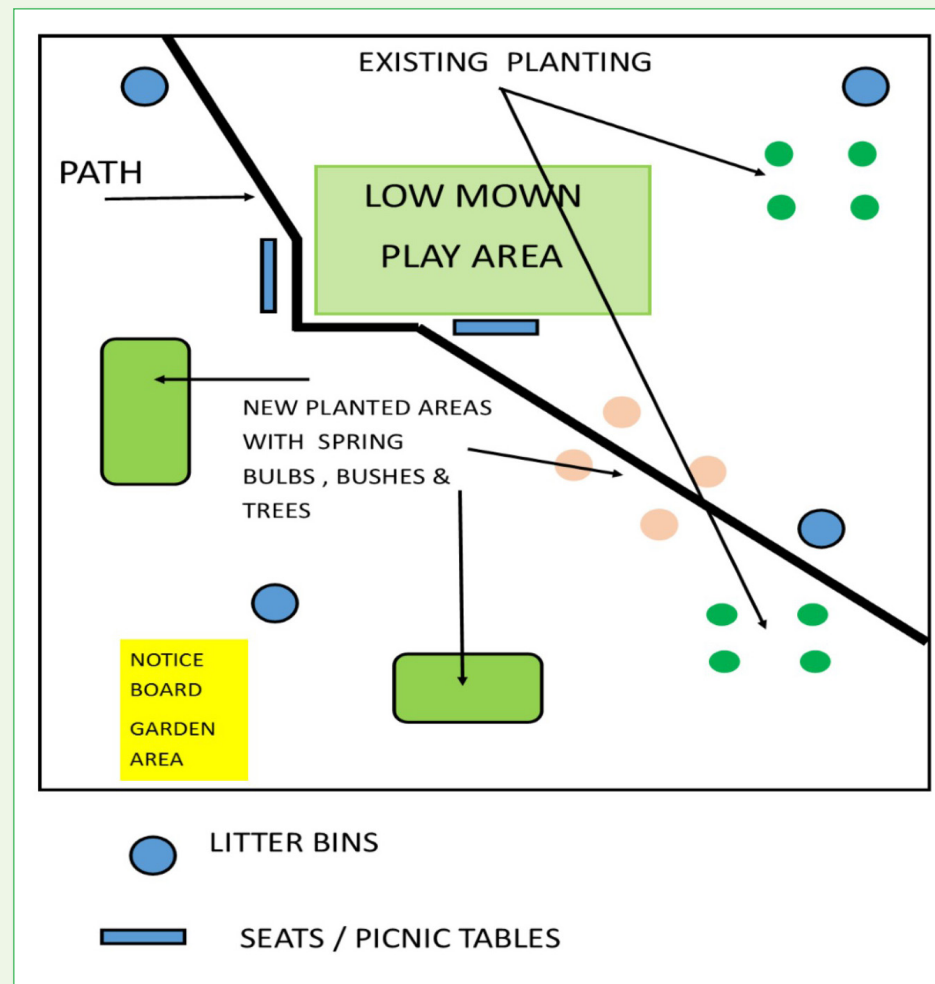
This Council remains concerned at the present standards and also the request for financial contributions in the future. The local MP has been contacted concerning the threat of further reduced maintenance should we not pay up. He has in turn written to PCC and the Dept of Communities and Local Government supporting our view that to require payment from parished areas only, whilst probably not unlawful, is certainly discriminatory and immoral to say the least.

At its meeting in October the Parish Council approved a number of measures aimed at improving the open space areas across the parish as detailed below:

- 1. Agreement to contribute to open space maintenance undertaken by PCC subject to a satisfactory written agreement concerning the work to be undertaken and the standard of delivery. This would be a one year agreement only.**
- 2. The outsourcing of grass cutting on the 2 Dodney Drive greens in order to free up some lengthsman working hours**
- 3. An increase in the lengthsman working hours so that this Council can undertake even more enhanced works**
- 4. The appointment of a second assistant lengthsman**
- 5. To use future funds, derived from developments in the parish, to undertake project works to revitalise areas of the parish that have become neglected**

This will however mean that the Precept for 2018/2019 will need to be increased. On average it will mean a 46 pence per week increase per household although this will vary depending on your Council Tax Band. For some who enjoy Council Tax Relief the figure may be much lower with some not paying anything at all.

## MILLER GREEN



The above NOT TO SCALE PLAN is a copy of what Miller Green will look like in the future. The Council agreed in principle to the design at its July meeting. A contractor has already been appointed to create the path across the green as shown in the plan. Work will commence shortly.

It has also been agreed that bulb planting should commence so that spring flowers will be seen on the areas outlined above early next year.

**If you have any further suggestions please let us know**