

# MIDDLETON- CUM-FORDLEY



*Bee orchids on The Moor and  
Southern Marsh Orchids on the  
Bell Meadow.*

**NEWSLETTER**  
*JULY 2021*

Editorial

This has turned into a bumper edition once again – but its great to be able to advertise events again. The Parish council have also submitted a bumper lot of articles so I'd better curtail this so I can fit everything in! Apologies if I've had to shrink articles. Please note that the Parish website has now changed to

[www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk](http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk)

Contributions for the next newsletter to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual. Also to be found on the Parish website. [www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk](http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk).

**FREE Drop-in coffee morning - Thursdays 10-11.30 am - Village Hall**

All welcome. (Mobility scooter access possible through the back entrance if wet.)

Transport can be arranged if needed.

Contact Lesley 07970257329 or Lynda 668977

Don't forget you can avail yourself of any of our new IT installations if you need to.



**N.B. There is another polling day on July 8<sup>th</sup> so if wet weather we will have to cancel on this occasion. If fine we will continue as usual.**

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**Middleton Amateur Weather Station**

**Rainfall Recordings**

	1 year ago (2020)	10 years ago (2011)	20 years ago (2001)	30 years ago (1991)	Average (1991 – 2020)
February	85.5mm	52.0mm	94.0mm	31.0mm	50mm
March	24.5mm	8mm*	92mm	26mm	47mm
April	18mm	8mm	63mm	50mm	41.3mm
May	0.5mm	18mm	41mm	20mm	55.6mm
June	48mm	92mm	46mm	92mm	51.9mm
July	51mm	76mm	84mm	45mm	60mm

July                    Driest year 2006 with 11mm

Wettest year 2015 with 104mm

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**Alde Valley Academy Defibrillator**

*Following the incident during the 2020 Euro football tournament when Denmark player, Christian Eriksen, collapsed, the school have decided that it is imperative that they have a defibrillator on the school site to ensure that they are equipped to help save a life of a student or a member of staff or to be able to give them the best possible chance of survival if a similar incident occurred.*

*The cost to purchase and install a defibrillator is approx. £1400, they are holding a non-school uniform day to help raise funds, if anyone in Middleton would like to make a contribution it would be greatly appreciated. If you do wish to make a donation, please drop in at Green Garth or email [kheather@sky.com](mailto:kheather@sky.com) – I will ensure funds are passed on to Alde Valley.*

Thank you            K Heather

Along the same lines it has been suggested that we should have one at the Village Hall too, so it will be on the next agenda.    BB



## NGS open gardens is back

As restrictions start to ease NGS are able to open up gardens again, raising money for nursing charities, projects promoting gardening for mental health and scholarships for young people to get into horticulture.

This year on **Sunday July 18th** Manor House is joining with Paget House to open between 11am and 5pm. Visitors can book online at the NGS website but will also be able to turn up and pay on the gate. They will be directed to park at the playing field from where they can access both gardens. We will have stewards at the playing field to assist with parking and directions. We hope this does not cause too much inconvenience to anyone in the village. Covid measures will be in place and we are being advised on what we can and can't do by NGS nationally.



As always at such openings there will be a tearoom at Paget House providing cake, an open garden is just not the same without tea and cake. Manor House are going to host a plant sale and Mandy and Steve would love if anyone in the village who has spare plants or cuttings that they are happy to donate for sale to get in touch or drop them off. All the monies raised from sales and from the gate go to NGS charities.

It has been a hard 16 months, charities have suffered greatly financially. Getting back to safely socialising and supporting events is going to be a great boost for so many people and what better way to do it than by visiting lovely gardens and supporting worthwhile causes. We hope the village will get behind us and support this event, again sorry for any inconvenience caused by additional traffic on the day.

Any concerns or questions Fiona Cusack, [fiona.cusack@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.cusack@btinternet.com) or tel 07730474004



## Middleton Open Gardens 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> August



We have 14 gardens opening, including two new to our event and I thank you all for taking part in these unusual times.

Although now established as a village highlight, the main purpose is to raise much needed funds for Holy Trinity Church. Having received a grant for essential construction stabilising work (see May issue of the Newsletter) funds generated through this year's Open Gardens are needed more than ever to support this crucial work.

As agreed, 15% of the event proceeds will be donated to our supporting charity and this year it is Suffolk Accident Rescue Service. SARS is an emergency medical charity providing advanced pre-hospital medical care at the scene of serious incidents. Based locally, voluntary responders are not paid; there is no central government funding. Representatives and the new SARS responder vehicle will be at our event. 5% of proceeds have been earmarked for environmental village projects but if not required, will be available for use elsewhere in the village.

Currently Katies Plants are yet to confirm joining us.

May I ask those not opening their garden to plant up a wheelbarrow, pots or anything that will hold compost and place it on your house frontage. In the past we have had old wellies and "The Red Barrow" was amazing. The quirkier and funnier the better. Nearer the time requests will go out for help erecting the marquee, baking cakes etc.

To bring a further attraction to the weekend there will be an exhibition in the Village Hall of work by Middleton artists.

We are all looking forward to welcoming visitors to Middleton and will certainly adhere to all Covid restrictions. Any queries please get in touch, Irene Ralph 648622 [ireneralph333@gmail.com](mailto:ireneralph333@gmail.com)

## July Nature Notes

(Quite apt after the Open Gardens pages!!)

Slugs are the bane of many gardeners' lives. They can be serious garden pests, eating seedlings, plants and fruit and vegetables and they also act as an intermediate host of animal parasites for example lungworm. However, they do play an important ecological role recycling nutrients by eating decomposing vegetation, carrion and faeces. Slugs are basically snails without shells, although one family of slugs has tiny shells. Instead of shells they have a horny plate concealed under the mantle.



The life cycle of a slug is roughly synchronised with the plant growing season. Slugs do not hibernate – unlike snails, although, they become active only when the temperature is above 5°C. In dry and cold weather they stay deep in the soil. Feeding and mating activity peak in summer. Dry weather can limit activity and can be fatal to slugs, but our nights are usually humid and dew is present even if rain is not. Slugs are largely nocturnal, some emerging only after dark. By day they can huddle together under cover, thus reducing collective evaporation. Larger slugs can travel many metres a night, but often return to the same refuge each morning. Some having a homing ability based on smell and perhaps involving memory. Slugs respond to the slime trails left behind, whether to find a mate or new feeding area. When they encounter few trails, the slugs take it as a signal that there is virgin territory to be plundered. Where the matrix of slime is dense, however, it's a signal to disperse and lay eggs where there is less competition for food and risk of predation. Slugs have both male and female reproductive organs (hermaphrodite), but must find a mate to exchange sperm before they can reproduce. They lay batches of gelatinous, watery eggs in moist crevices. Eggs can remain dormant in the soil for years; climatic conditions determine how quickly the eggs develop and hatch – the warmer it is, the quicker they develop. It takes about a year for slugs to mature into adults, which then can live for up to 6 years.

Of the thirty species that live in Britain most actually live exclusively on dead and rotting material, fungi, fallen leaves and soil invertebrates. Only a few species cause serious damage in gardens. The best way to control slugs in the garden is to encourage their natural predators. Slugs are eaten by beetles, slow worms, hedgehogs, toads, birds and especially by frogs. However, the use of tillage, which exposes slugs to predators and the choice of plant species and varieties grown can limit slug damage. For instance there are many slug resistant varieties of potato and even amongst hostas the blue-leaved varieties are less likely to be attacked than the variegated varieties.

Peter Vincent

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### SEEKING A GARDENER

I have tried several local advertisers who seem to be full up of clients but I would like a gardener for 2 or 3 times a week if anyone can help? Weeding ,hedge cutting ,etc. My phone number is 01728 648384. I have all the tools including a ride on mower. No heavy duty work .

Thanks

Ros, Heath View.



# Middleton Village Fete

## Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>

The Community Council will hopefully be able to start making more definite plans for the fete at their next meeting at the beginning of July and will undoubtedly be asking for volunteer helpers for various stalls / events etc. It is most likely that it will be held on the playing field this year.

If you are interested in helping in anyway, whether old hands or new faces, please register that interest with the chairman on [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) or the secretary on [tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com](mailto:tricia.cooke1@btopenworld.com)  
More details will be published in the August newsletter.



### Swift Walk and Talk - Free

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July – 7pm

Meet outside Middleton  
Primary School (IP17 3NR)



Come along and learn about the incredible lives of swifts and see them in action! Your chance too to put your name down for free swift boxes and callers.

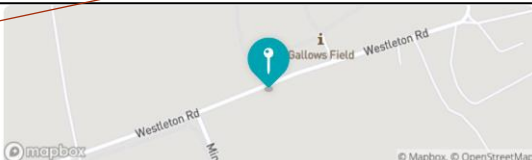
For further details contact:  
[alex.mooredaluz@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:alex.mooredaluz@suffolk.gov.uk)

Leiston Loves Swifts Project - Middleton



Booking may be required.

**Car parking on the Westleton/Dunwich Road.** Natural England has put a sign up on the main carpark stating it now costs £1.50 to park for an hour!



**After reporting this in last months newsletter I have since been asked to say : “...Please let the good people of Middleton know that the car park is free and any payments are voluntary !!!!!”**

Thank you Helen W-H for that piece of updated info.

Mr and Mrs Henry and Pippa Utku after their long-awaited wedding ceremony in Middleton Church on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!



Christine and David Burgess,  
2, Stone Cottages,  
The Street, Middleton

## HOLY TRINITY - MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

### Services for July

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July      Morning Praise 11am

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July      Holy Communion 9.30 together with Theberton (at Theberton)

### **Holy Dusters July - August 2021**

14 July      - Mike and Renny

28 July      - Mark and Liz

11 August - Paul and Rob



## **GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S CULTURE RECOVERY FUND**

### **REMINDER**

By the time you read this the vital repairs at Holy Trinity, Middleton on the Southeast Buttress should have begun. Unless any unexpected delays or issues arise, the work is expected to last for 6 weeks. All details remain the same as advised in the May and June editions of *The Newsletter*. With continued thanks for your understanding as this important work is carried out.

Holy Trinity Church PCC

**PS We have just heard that the start date has been delayed by a week until Monday 5 July but this should not materially affect the requirements of the work or the English Heritage timeline...**

## The Lych Gate

Thank you to those of you who have mentioned that the right-hand gate at the Lych Gate has become unusable. It is now due to be removed for repair and so there will be no gate for a while. And, speaking of the Lych Gate...

### Rev Hugh Spencer Cochran



As explained in the Lych Gate article, Rev. Cochran was the person who brought the gate to Middleton church, but unfortunately only two months after its dedication he died, while still the Rector of our parish. His grave is in our churchyard adjacent to the porch and reads:

**In memory of**

**Hugh Spencer Cochran**

**Born April 29 1883**

**Died Feb 6 1958**

**Rector of this parish 1940 – 1958**

**During which time the church with a thatched  
roof was burnt down and beautifully fully  
restored and dedicated October 1957**

**God rest his soul in peace**

Also, on the flower pedestal in front of the headstone

**With love from your Sunday School**

Rev. Cochran was very active during his time at Holy Trinity Middleton and as well as supporting the village and his parishioners during the war years, he wrote a detailed history of the church and of Middleton, brought the Lych Gate to Middleton and was still the Rector of the village and aged 75 years when he died. He also supported the church and Middleton during the two years it took to rebuild the church and we “believe” held services during that time in the old church hall (no Zoom at that time !!!).

The words on the headstone suggest it was installed by his parishioners and not by any member of his family. We know his two brothers were both killed in the Great War and don't have anything that suggests the Rev. Cochran was married or had family of his own.

Paul Taylor (the elder!)

**... and finally**

**Church Notelets & Jotters**

We remain unable to display these to sell in church, but they are still available so, if you would like to buy any, please contact Amanda (PCC Secretary) on 07990 602563



## WI News

What a pleasure it was to have a "real" meeting. On June 16th at 7pm members gathered at the Playing Field for a social get together. Luckily the summer weather held, and it was a perfect evening. We brought our own chairs. Alas, the WI national rules would not let us serve even a cup of tea and a slice of cake so each member had to bring along their own sustenance but that did not detract from a pleasant time catching up with our friends. After 15 months of Zooming it was nice to see people especially those who were unable to or just didn't like using technology. No speaker had been organised for we just wanted the time to socialise. Lucy greeted us all and checked us in (Covid 19 rule requirement). There was no official business discussed other than speculation on what might happen to our Garden Party and the Fete, all depends on the lockdown rules easing or even disappearing, but no one was prepared to be the Fortune Teller. Most people though, were hoping that by September we would be back having meetings with speakers in the Village Hall. We missed not having real meetings and a cup of tea!

Our July meeting should be the annual Garden Party. We're planning it for the 21st at 4:30 pm at the Playing Field. Lockdown rules permitting, we hope to see all our members and guests for a summer buffet and drinks. Once again a chance for members to show off their culinary skills!

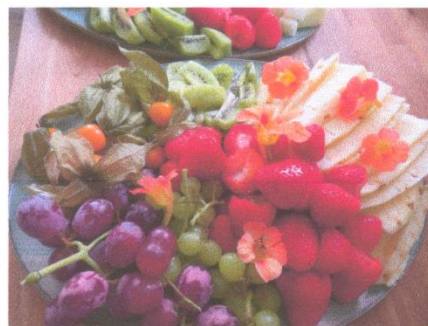
LV



On the 21st July at 4 pm  
join us for our  
**Garden Party** at the Recreation Ground.  
All are welcome.  
(Please bring a plate of something delicious.)



Middleton-cum-Fordley  
WI



## Macmillan coffee morning to return

This year, all being well we hope to bring back the Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 25th September 10-12 hopefully back at The Middleton Bell. As a village you have always got behind us, supporting this event and we look forward to welcoming you all back for coffee cake, fun and laughter as well as raising money for a worthwhile cause.

More details to follow in the next newsletter, in the meantime, save the date. If you are new to the village this is a great chance to come along and meet your fellow villagers and make new friends.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning Team

Contact [fiona.cusack@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.cusack@btinternet.com)

# Middleton News

Website: [www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk)

The children have been enjoying their lunch breaks out in the beautiful sunshine, some children chose to play with the lego and some played with the parachute.



We have opened up a new library area for the children, this gives them more space and time to sit back, relax and enjoy a good book!



Key Stage 2 have been learning about the Andes mountains this week in Geography. We found out that around half a million tourists visit every year and that they have to transport goods by llama to get up the mountains.

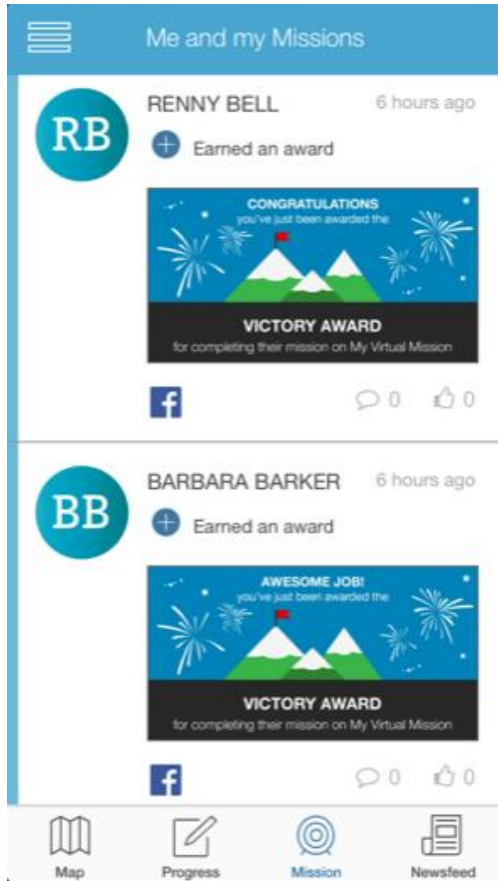


## UPDATE ON RENNY AND BARBARA'S PROGRESS

We finished! We completed the last 5 miles on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June having had the previous couple of days walks curtailed with the heavy rain.

This meant we completed the 190 miles with 10 days to spare, and celebrated with a glass of Prosecco!

At the time of writing the sum we have raised between us so far is an amazing £1,150 -far more than we ever anticipated so a huge thank you for everyone's support!



Although we walked the actual miles on the ground, we had to enter each day's miles on the Mission Website, hence the 'Virtual Certificate' on completion!

[www.justgiving.com/team/RennyBarbara](http://www.justgiving.com/team/RennyBarbara)

## MIDDLETON BELL

Tel: 648286

### Bar opening times

Tuesday - evenings only.

Wed - Sat lunchtime 12 until 3pm Evening 6pm until 11pm

Sunday 12 until 7

### Food serving times

Wed - Sat lunch 12 until 2.30pm Evening 6pm until 9pm

Sunday lunch 12 until 4pm

Also available will be a mid-week special set menu.

**Wednesday coffee mornings 10am -12.**



# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021  
AT 6:00 PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack - Chair  
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread  
Cllr. Colin Whitbread  
Cllr. Steve Thorpe  
Cllr. Chris Reynolds  
Cllr. Lesley Taylor

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Roy Dowding – written and accepted  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

### In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith  
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
7 members of the public

## 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None.

## 3. Public Forum

a) The Chairman invited members of the public to address the Council about Sizewell C matters when the item is discussed later in the meeting. The Chairman varied the order of the agenda to allow time for members of the public to join the meeting later.

b) County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that following the County Council election, the Leader of the Council asked him to re-join the Cabinet with responsibility for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste. Cllr. Smith said Economic Development was important coming out of COVID and Transport Strategy concerned the future of roads and rail in the county, but not operational matters. Cllr. Smith reported that he took part in the Sizewell C Open Floor Hearings. He concentrated his remarks on the D2 route being preferable to the Sizewell Link Road and the bare concrete domes and stacks which will be noticeable landmarks. Cllr. Smith listened to the other contributions and said they were of a very high standard from knowledgeable and experienced people. He said he hoped they had some effect on the Examining Authority. Cllr. Smith said he wished to use his Locality Budget 2021/22 to mark in a permanent way the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 and offered the Council a contribution of £500 to mark this event with a small but significant memorial should they choose to do so.

**ACTION: Clerk to add Queen's Platinum Jubilee to next month's agenda.**

c) The Council noted District Cllr. Tony Cooper's written report.

## 4. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were approved.

## 5. Casual Vacancy

Cllr. Julian Cusack said there was currently two vacancies for Councillors. A group of Councillors recently interviewed Dennis Peel and they recommended to the Council that he is co-opted to fill a vacancy. All in favour. Dennis Peel signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Clerk, and joined the Council with immediate effect.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council of the appointment.**

## 6. Highways

a) County Cllr. Richard Smith reported that the County Council has purchased 10 portable ANPR cameras for loaning around sites in the county for a period of one week to discourage speeding. The Council identified potential sites for ANPR cameras on the B1122 and the B1125.

**ACTION: County Cllr. Richard Smith to ascertain the application process and report back.**

b) Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that data has not recently been downloaded from the Speed Indicator Device sited on the B1122. The volunteer who manages the SID took Cllr. Whitbread through the steps to download the data but it is complicated. It was agreed to contact Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council for further advice about downloading and reporting data.

**ACTION: Clerk to forward contact details of Theberton and Eastbridge Councillor to Cllr. Lynda Whitbread.**

c) Cllr. Steve Thorpe agreed to seek Highways permission to site the Speed Indicator Device on the B1125. Cllr. Thorpe raised the idea of starting a Community Speed Watch team in the parish.

**ACTION: Clerk to send details of CSW to Cllr. Steve Thorpe.**

d) Cllr. Steve Thorpe reported that there was a good turn-out of suggestions to name the new drive to the Hastoe development. 'Roke Drive' was a clear leader in the poll, taking twice as many votes as the next suggestion. The Council supported 'Roke Drive'.

**ACTION: Clerk to inform the District Council.**

e) Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that all the nominated Quiet Lanes in the parish were approved. The County Council must reply in writing to any objectors before an official announcement is made. Highways will then proceed with the signage.

## 7. Recreation Ground

a) Cllr. Chris Reynolds agreed to obtain further quotes to replace the flooring in the pavilion.

b) The Council agreed to apply to the District Council for a Restart Grant for £8,000, subject to confirmation of eligibility from East Suffolk Council.

**ACTION: Clerk to progress.**

## 8. Village Hall

Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that he was still waiting for further quotes regarding the inspection of the village hall roof. One initial quote found that there could be some rot in a corner. The repair cost will depend on the type of timber replacement but could be around £9,000 to £11,000. This cost will increase by around £2,000 to £3,000 if asbestos is found. Cllr. Reynolds recommended that the Council pays for a test costing £50 to ascertain if asbestos is present. All in favour. Cllr. Julian Cusack asked if there was any indication of an immediate safety risk. Cllr. Reynolds replied that the building is over 100 years old therefore there may be some tile slippage.

**ACTION: Cllr. Lynda Whitbread to inform the Management Committee of the further inspection.**

## 9. Annual Accounts/Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Council approved the following:

a) the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR.

b) the Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR.

c) the Certificate of Exemption.

d) the report from the Internal Auditor.

e) the period for the exercise of public rights from 14<sup>th</sup> June to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.

**ACTION: Clerk to send the Exemption Certificate to the external auditor and add an Accessibility Statement to the website.**

## 10. Finance

a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including the receipt of bank interest of £0.10

b) The Council authorised the payments below:

| Details                   | Payee                  | Amount    | Power          |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Clerk's Salary            | Sharon Smith           | £230.60   | LGA 1972 s.112 |
| Clerk's Expenses          | Sharon Smith           | £8.55     | LGA 1972 s.111 |
| British Gas               | Pavilion Electricity   | £29.72    | LGA 1972 s.19  |
| Drop In Centre Hall Hire  | Middleton Village Hall | £56.00    | LGA 1972 s.19  |
| Eastern Play Services Ltd | Play Equipment Repairs | £1,806.00 | LGA 1972 s.19  |
| Middleton Newsletter      | Annual Donation        | £300.00   | LGA 1972 s.142 |

## 11. Sizewell C and Public Forum

a) Cllr. Cusack said the proposed Sizewell Link Road (SLR) had caused a lot of discussion and debate in the parish and it was difficult for the Council to reach an agreed position which reflected all the opinions of the residents. The results from the recent survey provided the Council with the views of many residents and showed it was worth contacting residents and asking for their opinions. Cllr. Cusack summarised the preliminary results from the survey. The full survey results will be published in the newsletter.

b) Cllr. Cusack said Fordley Road was now causing a lot of discussion. EDF's proposals are to close Fordley Road on the north side and provide a junction to the SLR on the south side. Cllr. Cusack said he had received written representations from residents about this and the opinions were evenly balanced for and against keeping Fordley Road open. Cllr. Julian Cusack invited the members of the public present to speak if they wish:

- A resident said that the Link Road dissects Fordley from the parish and access to Saxmundham. He is in favour of keeping vehicle access along Fordley Road and is not in favour of a pedestrian bridge which he felt would not be attractive.
- A resident referred to the proposed T-junction to provide access to Saxmundham along Fordley Road south of the SLR. Cllr. Cusack said that the residents' survey did not specifically address that issue but he had received objections to access on that side due to the potential for rat-running including from most of the residents of Fordley Road.
- A resident said the point of the SLR was to allow communities to function as they used to and residents should be able to access villages without tackling a busy road. He said EDF should seek to reduce the impact on communities and if Pretty Road and Fordley Road are linked to the SLR this could provide opportunities for rat-running. He said Pretty Road and Fordley Road needed to be kept open for existing communities but not to provide junctions to the SLR. This was the same situation with the B1125 link to the Link Road at Westleton.
- A resident replied that the positive from the B1125 link would be to take the traffic out of Theberton however Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council agreed that the junction should be removed. He said the one community who would benefit most from the junction do not support it.
- A resident said he lived through the construction of Sizewell B and the rat-run traffic from Westleton was horrendous. EDF said they could not control the traffic as they were private individuals in private cars.
- A resident said the parish should strongly oppose severing the parish for those residents who value living here. He said if there was an option of retaining roads as they currently are this should be pursued. He said if an underpass at Fordley Road was possible, the Council should push for this with EDF.
- A resident said an underpass at Fordley Road was the right option as the road will be raised anyway.
- A resident said that if the parish supports stopping up Fordley Road and a bridge is provided over Pretty Road then over 70% of people living here will be using one road. She said Theberton residents would not be happy taking Fordley Road traffic too.
- A resident said that EDF have sought to divide and conquer as everyone is focussed on the best outcome for themselves. She said the best option for Fordley Road is an underpass so Fordley is not severed. She said a footbridge is not desirable as the road will already be at bedroom window height and a footbridge would be 6 metres higher. She said the community should push to remain as a community and should work together to be stronger. EDF should build an expensive underpass.
- A resident said that the parish needs to be united and questioned why anyone should be affected and have to compromise. He said EDF should build an underpass so the parish is not divided and the impact on residents should be limited.
- A resident asked if a bridge was being provided at Pretty Road because Theberton had presented a united front and had been more demanding.
- A resident said that the SLR should have a speed limit of 60 mph and the parish roads should have a reduced speed limit to make the rural roads less attractive to workers. This could be enforced by speed cameras.
- A resident said the SLR should be sound-proofed and concessions should be made for those who live next to the road.
- A resident said neighbouring parishes should be asked for their opinions on Route W (D2) with a view to presenting a united front. Cllr. Cusack replied that Middleton, Theberton, Yoxford and Kelsale might agree but perhaps not Saxmundham. County Cllr. Richard Smith said he did not think Saxmundham was in favour of the D2, although personally he is. He said the County Council do not support his advocacy but he told the Examining Authority that he believes EDF should have considered D2 properly.

Cllr. Cusack reminded those present that he had received written representations from residents of Fordley both in favour of closing Fordley Road as well as in favour of providing a bridge or an underpass. He said all views needed to be heard and weighed in the balance. EDF's proposals are to close Fordley Road and the newly issued public consultation does not ask for views on Fordley Road however the Council could ask for

the Fordley Road junction to the SLR to be removed as this is broadly supported. Cllr. Cusack asked the Councillors for their views:

- Cllr. Steve Thorpe agreed that the B1125 will become a rat-run for traffic from Blythburgh if the junction to the SLR remains. He agreed that EDF are dividing the village by mischief and that the Council should stand up to EDF and say they prefer the D2 route.
- Cllr. Chris Reynolds agreed that the village needs to be kept together and vehicular access along Fordley Road needs to be kept open. He said an underpass was preferable to a bridge and it is his first choice even if it is only a pedestrian footpath.
- Cllr. Lesley Taylor said Middleton Moor is adversely affected by both the early construction traffic and the SLR. She said EDF have provoked debate as a smoke screen and any offer of amelioration is a bribe, such as if a bridge is offered at Fordley Road. She said the parish needs to present a united front but the Council carries little weight. She has mixed views on Fordley Road but said that during the survey a resident suggested that Fordley Road could be temporarily stopped during the construction period and then re-opened. She agreed that the junction to the SLR was not a good idea.
- Cllr. Colin Whitbread said EDF have divided and conquered with the question on the legacy of the SLR. He said the SLR must be built to an engineering standard so it becomes the direct route to Sizewell. EDF, the Highways Authority and the police could then use enforcement to ensure all Sizewell workers use it. The B1122 is a country road built for Sizewell A and B but now with the expansion of Leiston and Sizewell it is not capable of taking the capacity. He agreed that there should not be a junction from Fordley Road to the SLR and country lanes should be left open.
- Cllr. Lynda Whitbread said she enjoyed hearing the views of residents during the survey. She said the primary fight of the parish is against Sizewell C and she supports the work of Stop Sizewell C and their new posters. She said if Sizewell C goes ahead that communities should not be divided and EDF have drawn a line across the countryside and have not considered the impact to communities. She said we should collectively fight for D2.
- Cllr. Dennis Peel said he was new to this level of detail but he agreed that splitting communities would not be good.

Cllr. Cusack proposed the following position for the Council's response to the latest consultation:

- Reiterate strong opposition to Sizewell C;
- Oppose the Sizewell Link Road and advocate a review/reconsideration of a more southerly route;
- Object to the junction between Fordley Road and the Sizewell Link Road on the south side;
- Remove the B1125 link to the Sizewell Link Road;
- In favour of supporting the Pretty Road bridge.

Cllr. Cusack said that the Council could perhaps not reach a consensus view on Fordley Road without dividing and inflaming opinions in the village and he asked for the Councillors' views. Five Councillors were in favour of keeping Fordley Road open and one Councillor abstained. Cllr. Cusack said as this was the majority view, the Council's position would be that Fordley Road should be kept open.

b) The Council noted the submission of the Written Representation made at the Open Floor Hearings.

c) Cllr. Julian Cusack reported on his discussions with neighbouring parishes on Sizewell C matters.

## **12. Progress Reports**

a) Footpaths – Cllr. Steve Thorpe raised a concern about dog waste on the footpaths and suggested that additional dog waste bins are provided. It was agreed to ask Suffolk Coastal Norse if outside the churchyard on Back Road and outside the Farm Shop are suitable locations.

**ACTION: Clerk to progress.**

b) Trees and Green Issues – Cllr. Julian Cusack reported that the wildflower meadow area near the Recreation Ground was developing and will continue to do so over the years. It will be mown in late summer.

c) Middleton Moor – Cllr. Lesley Taylor agreed to organise an outdoor meeting for Moor residents.

d) Summer Wine Group – Cllr. Colin Whitbread reported that a commemorative event was arranged for tomorrow to remember three founding members. Three plaques will be affixed to trees followed by refreshments at The Bell. The Clerk offered the Council's annual donation of £200, which was not taken last December, towards this event.

**ACTION: Cllr. Whitbread to provide receipts for the plaques and refreshments.**

e) Village Hall – Cllr. Lynda Whitbread reported that the Management Committee held their AGM and appointed Richard Turner as Chairman. Cllr. Whitbread said the constitution stated that three Parish Councillors should serve on the Management Committee therefore a third Councillor was required. Cllr. Dennis Peel volunteered for this role. The drop-in centre continues to be successful with a steady 12—20 members. An application for a grant may be required to ensure its continuation.

f) Swift Nesting Boxes - the Clerk reported that the Dedham Vale AONB 'Leiston Loves Swifts' project bid to the Galloper Wind Farm Fund was successful. They secured £447 for Middleton which will pay for 18 swift nesting boxes and 3 callers. They usually look to distribute community sets of 6 boxes and 1 caller at each location. A volunteer from SOS Swifts has arranged a Swift Walk/Talk to identify suitable locations for the community sets in Middleton on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> July.

**ACTION: Clerk to email Councillors with exact time to ascertain availability to attend the Swift Walk/Talk.**

### 13. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

### 14. Next Meeting

The Council confirmed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

---

### Quiet Lanes Update

Middleton Parish Council is excited to announce that all of the lanes listed below that were nominated for the Quiet Lanes Scheme have been approved for designation. We are expecting the new advisory signs to be installed by the Highways department over the coming weeks.

Quiet Lanes are predominantly non-residential and intended for shared use by walkers, horse riders, cyclists and other road users to enjoy country lanes in greater safety and encourage drivers to **'Expect and Respect'** more vulnerable road users. Quiet Lanes can offer the opportunity for increased levels of walking and cycling which will contribute to Suffolk County Council's (SCC) Public Health aims and its Green Access Strategy.

These types of lanes do not impose traffic restrictions and are not enforced. Advisory signs will be placed at either end of Quiet Lanes to show motorised users clearly that the road is a shared space.

Within Middleton our new Quiet Lanes are Fordley Road, Littlemoor Road, The Causeway, Moor Road, Title Road, Hawthorn Road and Mill Street (From the village Hall to the B1122) – see lanes marked in blue on the map below. These lanes are already popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders and the intention is to encourage that use.

If you would like to find out more about the Quiet Lanes scheme feel free to visit the new website



[www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk](http://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk)

Or the Quiet Lanes Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/QuietLanesSuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/QuietLanesSuffolk)

Chris Reynolds – Councillor Middleton Parish Council

For more information on this project see [www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk](http://www.quietlanessuffolk.co.uk)



## Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council - Residents' survey

Last month we went door to door asking Middleton and Fordley residents what they thought about Sizewell C and the proposed Sizewell Link Road (SLR).

We got responses from 138 individuals which is about 44% of the total on the electoral register.

The results have now been analysed and are set out in full below.

We would like to thank all those who took part.

| <b>Middleton Parish Council: Residents Survey May 2021</b>                                                                                                   |                 |       |            |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Green = over 70% said 'yes'. Red = over 70% said 'no'. Amber = yes and no both less than 70%**</b>                                                        |                 |       |            |           |
| <b>Question</b>                                                                                                                                              | <b>RESPONSE</b> |       | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 1. Do you think SZC should be built?                                                                                                                         | 91%             | Red   | 15%        | 85%       |
| 2. Do you think a relief road is needed to reduce traffic through Middleton Moor?                                                                            | 94%             | Green | 88%        | 12%       |
| 3. Do you think the relief road should be on the route proposed by EDF?                                                                                      | 87%             | Red   | 28%        | 72%       |
| 4. If the Sizewell Relief Road (SLR) is built on the proposed route, do you think it should be permanent?                                                    | 80%             | Amber | 61%        | 39%       |
| 5. Do you think construction of SZC should be deferred until the SLR is built?                                                                               | 97%             | Green | 93%        | 7%        |
| 6. Do you regularly use any of the following roads to get to Saxmundham?                                                                                     |                 |       |            |           |
| Pretty Road                                                                                                                                                  | 99%             | Green | 79%        | 21%       |
| Hawthorn Road                                                                                                                                                | 98%             | Amber | 39%        | 61%       |
| Fordley Road                                                                                                                                                 | 98%             | Green | 78%        | 22%       |
| Littlemoor Road                                                                                                                                              | 95%             | Amber | 59%        | 41%       |
| 7. Would you support the provision of a bridge to take Pretty Road across the SLR?                                                                           | 85%             | Green | 93%        | 7%        |
| 8. Would you support the provision of a bridge or underpass to take Fordley Road across the SLR?                                                             | 75%             | Amber | 55%        | 45%       |
| 9. Would you accept that Fordley Road be closed to motor vehicles if Pretty Road was kept open?                                                              | 81%             | Amber | 56%        | 44%       |
| 10. If Fordley Road is closed to motor vehicles, would you be likely to use a footbridge over SLR?                                                           | 81%             | Amber | 69%        | 31%       |
| 11. If vehicle access south to Saxmundham is maintained along Pretty Road and/or Fordley Road, would you accept the closure of Hawthorn and Littlemoor Road? | 75%             | Amber | 67%        | 33%       |
| 12. Do you support a request to provide off-road pedestrian and cycling routes along:                                                                        |                 |       |            |           |
| The B1122 from Middleton Moor to Mill Street?                                                                                                                | 95%             | Green | 89%        | 11%       |
| The B1125 from Westleton to Black Slough?                                                                                                                    | 95%             | Green | 85%        | 15%       |
| The B1125 from Black Slough to Rectory Road?                                                                                                                 | 95%             | Green | 92%        | 8%        |
| The B1125 from Rectory Road to the junction of B1122? *                                                                                                      | 91%             | Green | 80%        | 20%       |
| 13. Would you support traffic calming measures on the B1125 and B1122 to reduce the incidence of speeding etc.                                               | 94%             | Green | 98%        | 2%        |
| 14. Specifically, would you support a 30mph speed limit on the B1125 between Westleton and Middleton?                                                        | 95%             | Green | 95%        | 5%        |
| 15. Do you think the B1125 should be linked with a new section of road to the SLR?                                                                           | 75%             | Amber | 56%        | 44%       |
| <b>Notes:</b>                                                                                                                                                |                 |       |            |           |
| Survey results were obtained from 138 individuals at 102 addresses.                                                                                          |                 |       |            |           |
| These comprise 44% of the individuals and 60% of the addresses in the Parish.                                                                                |                 |       |            |           |
| Not everyone answered each question. The response rate shown for each question is the proportion of the 138 individuals surveyed who answered that question. |                 |       |            |           |
| The percentages shown for yes and no are calculated on the total of those who answered the question.                                                         |                 |       |            |           |
| The surveys were carried out between 12th and 25th May 2021.                                                                                                 |                 |       |            |           |

The object of the exercise was to find out what people really thought about the issues, not to persuade them of any particular point of view.

The clear messages based on majority views (over 70%) are:

- opposition to the construction of a new nuclear power station at Sizewell
- support for a relief road if SZC does go ahead and for this to be in place before construction starts
- opposition to the proposed route of the SLR, with many expressing a preference for a route leaving the A12 further south
- strong support if the SLR does go ahead for more off-road pedestrian and cycling provision along the B1122 and B1125 and for traffic calming measures.

The most difficult issue is the proposed 'severance' of the Parish by the SLR.

There are at least three consequences of concern:

1. The blocking under current plans of the 'minor road' routes to the south, which are used by many residents to access Saxmundham and beyond
2. The disruption of farming businesses from the loss of land to the road and the blocking of access routes, causing increased costs of working
3. The intrusion of the SLR into the landscape and the physical divide it will make between Fordley and Middleton.

Our survey results indicate that the most used of the minor roads are Pretty Road and Fordley Road. The plan to keep Pretty Road open by way of a bridge over the SLR was well supported.

Fordley Road is much more difficult with opinion fairly evenly divided. 55% support keeping it open while 45% accept its closure. Many (25%) did not express a view. We know that there is a difference of opinion even amongst those who live on Fordley Road.

The proposed new piece of road taking the B1125 to a junction with the SLR also proved contentious. Not surprisingly many people living on the B1125 are concerned that this might encourage even more traffic.

The numbers don't tell the whole story and we received numerous helpful comments some of which are set out below.

Julian Cusack

Chair, Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council

June 18 2021

#### Selection of comments

Q1. It has to go somewhere. Another location should be considered that is not in an AONB or on a Heritage Coastline. Technology is advancing in renewables and batteries for storing power, nuclear power stations like this are out of date.

Q2. Many commented on the land that will be lost but felt a relief road was needed.

One person felt all transport movements should be by sea or rail.

Some mentioned the need for SLR but not running parallel to the B1122.

Q3. Many said they felt D2 or the 'W' route would be preferred. It would reduce disturbance, environmental damage and severance and it would have a legacy value. It would also serve the Scottish Power development.

Q4. Many said they would prefer the decision to be made later.

Many said they thought it was economic madness to dig the road up after construction of SZC, if permission is given. A few said the landowners should be the only people to answer this question.

Concerns were expressed that a new road could bring land for housing.

Q5. Some said no road at all.

Some said the B1122 is not a quiet country road now, a relief road is vital.

Q6. Most of the lanes are used at some time by walkers, motorists or cyclists. Horse riders use Littlemoor Road. There are concerns if the lanes are left open they will become rat runs.

Q7. A couple of people would like to see a design or costings before reaching a decision. Q9, 10, 11 Most felt there had to be a compromise on some of the issues over road closures.

Q12. \* A few people mentioned there were footpaths already that can be used on this route.

Q13. A few said they did not want traffic calming measures in the form of speed bumps. Some said they would support a 40 or 50 mph speed limit and felt there was a need for average speed cameras.

Q 14. Some said they would support a 40 or 50mph speed limit but not 30mph.

Q15. There were concerns this link road could become a rat run and the junction onto the SLR could be dangerous.

Articles submitted by residents.

### **17.6.21 BBC article concerning a reactor identical to that at Hinkley (and Sizewell):**

**A French energy company says it is working to resolve a "performance issue" at a nuclear plant in China following claims of a potential leak.**

EDF Energy confirmed that gases that had built up in a component of the plant were deliberately released.

A spokesperson said this was because of a fuel rod problem.

"We are not in a scenario of an accident with a melting core," an EDF spokesman who did not want to be named told AFP news agency.

"We are not talking about contamination, we are talking about controlled emissions."

It comes after CNN reported that the US government had been assessing reports of a leak at the Taishan plant.

CNN reported that French engineering company Framatome, which is owned by EDF Energy and designed the reactor, had sent a letter to the US Department of Energy, warning them of the potential leak. It also warned that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation detection outside the plant to prevent it from being shut down.

#### **EXTRACT FROM A LETTER:**

Dear Mrs [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 1 June 2021 which has been passed to me for reply and recorded under your complaint reference number COM1 [REDACTED]. Please use this number if you wish to contact us again.

I confirm that the Direct Debit payment for your 75+ Plan TV Licence which was due to be taken from your bank account on your chosen payment date of 1st May 2021, was taken early. I note that you have received our letter of apology, however, are unhappy with the content within this.

At the outset, please accept my sincere apologies for any frustration caused by the situation, whereby due to an error on our part, the payment due was taken from your bank account on Friday 30th April rather than the next working day...

[This resident wishes to alert any other residents on the same 75+ Plan TV licence in case the same happens when you are not expecting it.](#)



## Middleton Wildlife Verge Project

Suffolk County Council has committed to increasing the length of highway verges which are managed in a way that benefits wildlife by 25%. In practical terms these verges, along with our network of 119 Roadside Nature Reserves, will not be cut during flowering season but will be cut later in the year, around September time. The cuttings will be left in-situ, as currently we do not have the capacity to remove them.

Middleton Parish has put forward several roadside verges to be included in this scheme, which are detailed in the maps below.

Manging these verges differently will be of great benefit to biodiversity, giving flowering plants a full growing season, and providing pollinating and foraging invertebrates with food and habitat for longer. They will also provide a wildlife corridor for migrating mammals and other species, helping to create an ecological network on a wider landscape scale.

The verges we have included in the scheme do not include junctions or visibility splays, so that highway safety and visibility is maintained as a priority. Throughout the project the areas which are left uncut until September will be monitored, and if any highway safety issues arise we may need to cut them earlier in the year.

This project is in its first year, so it will be very exciting to see the changes and benefits to biodiversity it will bring. It may also come along with challenges, as we trial this new approach.

The verges will be surveyed for their botanical interest this year, and in each subsequent year, to note any changes in species diversity arising from the change in management.

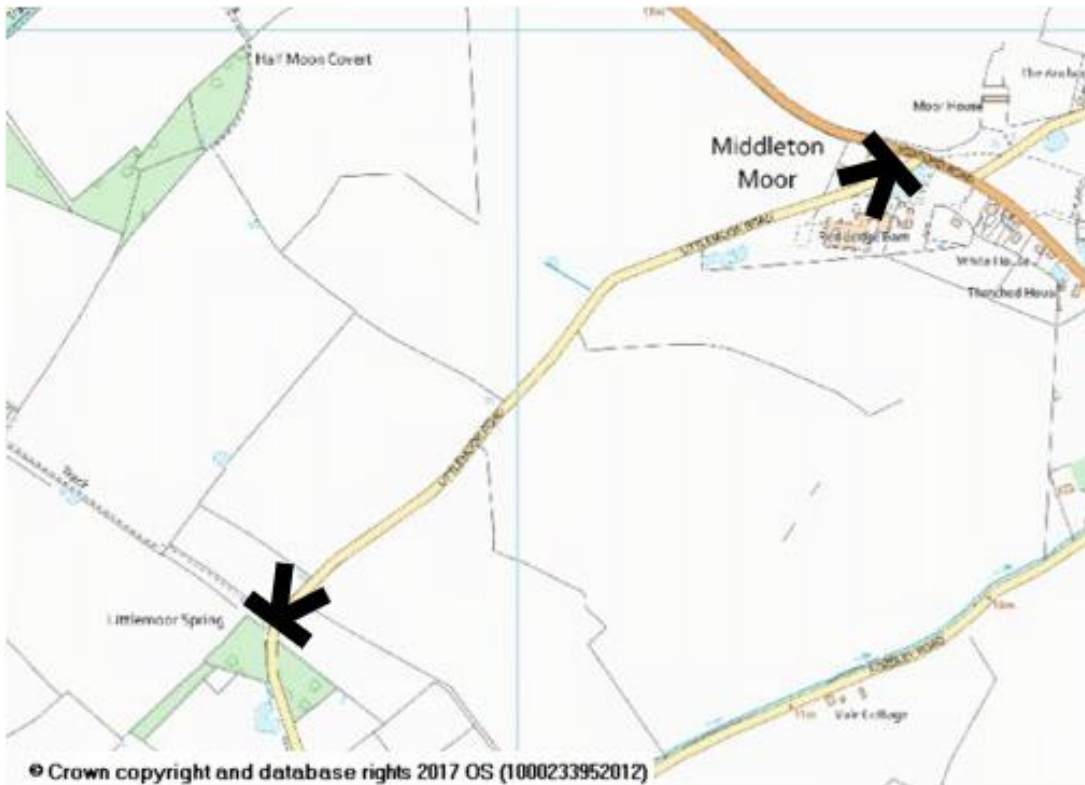
The Ecology and Suffolk Highways Teams are offering regular check-in meetings with the parish to answer any queries, to listen to and provide feedback, and to inform the parish of any necessary changes to the project if anything comes up. There will be an end of year review of the project for all involved to take part in.

We hope that this project, along with the additional projects we are running with the parishes of Boyton, Cretingham, Great Blakenham, Hoo, Easton to Earl Soham, Brandeston, Risby, and Little Thurlow, will help us to apply positive management for wildlife across more of the county. Parishes may wish to start a community network between them to compare notes and offer support.

If the parish wishes, signs can be put up on the verges (such as the 'pardon the weeds, we're feeding the bees' signs) to inform people of the project and raise awareness. It would be great to share information about the project across the parish via a newsletter, for example, as well. It would also be helpful to inform landowners and any parties who may cut the verges, to let them know what is happening and ask for their cooperation with the project.

### Maps showing verges to be cut in September only:

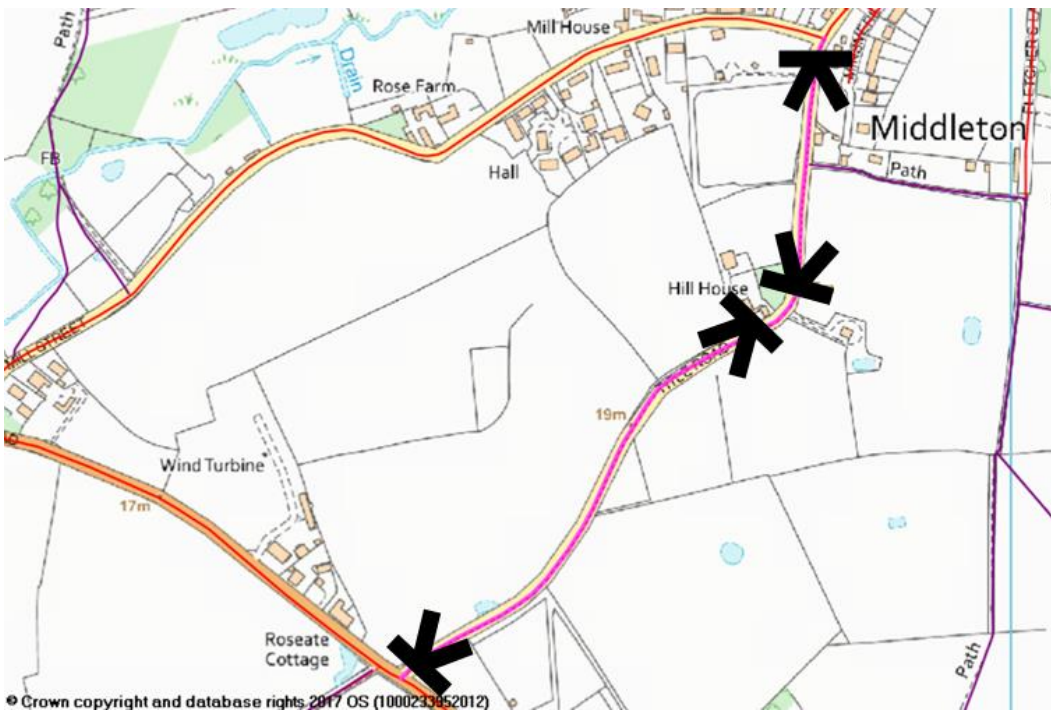
**Littlemoor Road** - From end of visibility splay at junction with Yoxford Road approx. 970m along Littlemoor Road to the first bend with the public footpath.



**Moor Road** – starting approx. 200m from the Yoxford Road junction approx. 400m along Moor Road to the junction of the Access road to Watermill Farm.



**Title Road** - From end of visibility splay at junction with Yoxford Road approx. 430m along Title Road stopping at The Stables/Hill House around the corner and picking up again 100m around the corner for approx. 200m to before the visibility splay of the junction with The Street and Mill Street.



Please contact [RNRs@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:RNRs@suffolk.gov.uk) for further information or to discuss any aspect of the project:

**Holly Emmens** (*she/her*)  
**Ecologist**

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 Suffolk County Council  
 F5 GOLD Desk 85, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 2BX  
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## Diary Dates for 2020 – Aspirational in some cases!

### July

|                            |                                                               |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>   | Archive Day, Village Hall 11am -3pm                           |
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>    | Swifts nature walk 7pm                                        |
| Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>   | Parish council meeting , Village Hall 6pm                     |
| Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>    | NGS Open Gardens -Manor House/Paget House 11 am - 5pm         |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> | WI - Garden Party Recreation Ground 4pm                       |
| Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>   | Newsletter copy date                                          |
| Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>  | Summer boules Pairs competition, Recreation Ground from 10 am |

### August

|                                           |                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>                  | Parish council meeting , Village Hall 6pm |
| Sat/Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> 15 <sup>th</sup> | Open Gardens                              |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>                  | Newsletter copy date                      |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>                 | Annual Village Fete                       |

### September

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> | Parish council meeting , Village Hall 6pm |
| Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>  | MacMillan Coffee morning 10-12            |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> | Newsletter copy date                      |

### October

|                          |                                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> | Mafafam ( Autumn Fayre)                   |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> | Parish council meeting , Village Hall 6pm |

### November

|                         |                                           |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> | Parish council meeting , Village Hall 6pm |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|

### December

|                           |                                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Santa Boules                              |
| Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> | MCC party                                 |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Parish council meeting , Village Hall 6pm |

How can we help you?

We are now able to resume face-to-face appointments. These must be pre-booked by phoning 01728 642960 the lines are open 10am-4pm Mon-Fri.

We remain open for advice by phone and email (Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri – 10am-2pm).  
Call: 01728 832193 or Freephone 0808 278 7868.  
Or email: [supervisor@leistoncab.cabnet.org.uk](mailto:supervisor@leistoncab.cabnet.org.uk) to make contact.



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