

Welcome to the

FERNWOOD GAZETTE

Summer Update 2025

Welcome to the summer Gazette and Fernwood update. It's been a busy few months in the parish! Residents came together to mark VE Day with a lovely celebration at the village hall – a wonderful afternoon of remembrance, community spirit, and cake. Plus, a huge thank you to everyone who turned out for the Summer Fun Day and Scarecrow Competition - from face painters, bouncy castle to live music and some truly imaginative scarecrows, the feedback has been excellent. We look forward to the next one later in the year and more community events in 2025! We're also excited to share an update on the play park; thank you for your continued patience – there's a full update inside this edition with all the latest progress. You can also find an update on our woodland restoration project, including plans to protect and enhance this space. We're also pleased to announce that the business Hub at Balderton Hall is now open for bookings! Whether you're looking for hot desks, meeting rooms or a conference space, it's a great new facility.

As always, thank you for your support – and happy reading!





In this issue

Parish Council Update

Fernwood Community Church

Village Hall Update

Land Ownership Update

The Hub

District Council update

Advertisements

Contact us

Address: Fernwood Parish Council, Fernwood Village Hall, Ruby's Avenue, Fernwood, NG24 3RS

Email:

office@fernwood-pc.co.uk Telephone: 01636 613024

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Office opening times:

Monday - Friday 10am -1pm

Fernwood Parish Council, Fernwood Village Hall, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood, NG24 3RS

Email: office@fernwood-pc.co.uk
Telephone: 01636 613024

A message from: Councillor Dave Mack

I'm thrilled that after many years of hard work, the redevelopment of the play park is finally moving forward. As some of you will know, this has been a long journey – one that began during my time on the Residents' Association, and which has continued since I joined the Parish Council. While the land itself is owned by FirstPort, the park is used and loved by families across Fernwood, and it's been a priority for me to see it improved for everyone. Thank you for your ongoing patience as the work is completed – there's an update inside this edition and we look forward to opening the new park very soon!

Of course, there's lots more happening in Fernwood. We recently had a wonderful Summer Fun Day which was a huge success – a fantastic day of community spirit - and have more to look forward to throughout the rest of the year.

As always, myself and the other Parish Councillors are here to listen – your thoughts and ideas are important and really do help to shape the decisions we make as a Parish Council. Please feel free to get in touch with any ideas or speak to the office staff for more information on how to share feedback. I look forward to seeing you at our next community event.



Our meetings

Councillors meet most months to discuss issues raised by residents, planning & strategy. These meetings are published online beforehand. Residents are welcome at the first 15 minutes for open discussion, to raise any concerns or ask any questions regarding the agenda. Our minutes and agendas are posted online, as well as on our noticeboards which are on the side of the village hall and on Goldstraw Lane, opposite the clock tower.

Upcoming meeting details: No meeting in August

Saturday 6th September -Fernwood Safari

Monday 15th September - Council meeting

Residents are always welcome to come into the parish council office in the village hall if they have any queries.

You can also follow our Facebook page for regular updates on the Council's work.



WHAT'S ON

FERNWOOD VILLAGE HALL

www.facebook.com/village.hall.fernwood/



MONDAY

TUESDAY

17:30 - 18:30

9:30-11:30

9:30-12:10

FRIDAY

9:30 - 10:30 Peaceful Possums Yoga

10:00-12:00 Coffee Group & Knit and Natter

Blossoms

Baby& Toddlers Group

Caterpillar Music

11:45 - 13:15 Sit, Get Fit, Get Healthy

18:00-19:00 Newark Karate Academy

19:30 - 21:30 Fernwood Ladies Chair

14:00-15:30 Moving Together

17:30 - 18:30 Blossoms

17:30-19:30 Tae kwon-do

19:30-21:00 Fernwood Amateur Dramatics

19:30 - 21:30 (3rd Wednesday of the Month) Women's Institute

18:30 - 19:15 Dog Days

20:00-21:00 Zumba

SATURDAY

09:30-11:30 Studio 29 Musical Theatre



WEDNESDAY THURSDAY





For contact details of group organisers, please visit: www.fernwood-pc.co.uk/community/fernwood-parish-council-13053/regular-events/



FERNWOOD CELEBRATES

What a wonderful afternoon at the village hall celebrating VE Day back in May. The community came together to mark the occasion with tea, plenty of delicious cake, oldtime music and a good chat! A huge thank you to everyone who joined us; it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves with neighbours and the hall filled with singalongs, thanks to the fantastic performance by Natalie-Rose. Around 35 residents joined us which was a great turnout. A special moment came when some of the children from the nursery joined us, taking the opportunity to learn about Fernwood's role during the war and the importance of VE Day.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to Newark & Sherwood District Council for their funding for the day. A thank you as well to all the village hall staff who supported the event and Balderton Memorial Group for their support in setting up displays and information boards.







JOIN US FOR A VILLAGE-WIDE DAY OF BARGAINS, BLOOMS, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT! SELL YOUR OWN PRE-LOVED ITEMS, CRAFTS, PLANTS OR BAKES FROM YOUR FRONT GARDEN OR DRIVE. THEN SAFARI AROUND THE VILLAGE USING OUR STALL MAP TO DISCOVER WHICH OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS ARE ALSO SELLING.

BUY A MAP FOR JUST £2.

REFRESHMENTS AT THE VILLAGE HALL PLUS CRAFT MARKET & FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES INCLUDING BOUNCY CASTLE

THE HUB IS NOW OPEN!

The Hub is OPEN and now available to book online via the Parish Council website. The Hub offers office space in the heart of Fernwood located inside the beautiful Balderton Hall plus additional parking in the middle of the village. The space includes meeting room, hot desks which can be booked for half or full days with outside gardens. There's also a flexible conference space with media equipment, free Wi-Fi and kitchen facilities. The Hub offers competitive hire rates plus the added bonus of easy access for residents and for those coming from the A1.

Capacity at the village hall has been an issue for many years, with the previous Parish council looking into an extension and conversion. Back in 2024 it was agreed at a public meeting that the Parish Council would lease a large section of Balderton Hall to provide more space for the next few years. This means we no longer need to spend considerable amounts of money on an extension and have used Community Infrastructure Levy to subsidise the cost.

We expect this to have a really positive impact for all residents and users of the village hall, as well as introducing some new activities for the village such as desk hire & conference spaces. Importantly, it also means there is more availability at the village hall for parties and events. Keep your eyes peeled for an official opening happening soon.

To find out more, visit the Parish Council website and use our new online booking tool. Alternatively, you can speak to any of the staff during opening times at the village hall by email or via the phone.







ALLOTMENT UPDATE

We know residents have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of the long-promised allotments in Fernwood. The Parish Council continues to press for progress on this and reached out to the developers, Barratt David Wilson, for an update. While there is still no confirmed timeline, they have advised that the allotments are likely to be around two years away and there will likely be a waiting list. This will be disappointing to many residents but the Parish Council will continue to chase updates. In the meantime, there are allotments at Claypole and Balderton but there are long waiting lists at both, which we know isn't ideal. The Parish Council are looking at creative ideas to get green fingered residents involved; we're planning community bulb planting this autumn and exploring community planters in the village. Watch this space for more details.

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: Fernwood Village Hall

Date: 26th September 2025

Time: 10am - 1pm

Contact: office@fernwood-pc.co.uk







EXCITING NEWS - OUR NEW PLAY PARK IS ON THE WAY!

When we first became councillors, there was a standing joke: it takes three months to in-stall a dog poo bin. So naturally, we thought, "let's build a new play park—what could go wrong?" Thankfully, nothing has but it has taken 18 months of work to reach the construction stage and finally break ground.

Our vision was to create a play park that offered progressive levels of activity for all ages and abilities. It had to fit within the existing footprint and complement the natural surroundings. With no experience in design or construction, we formed a working group to make enquiries with contractors. Despite hours spent in parks with my grandchildren, it quickly became clear this project would be more complex, time-consuming, and costly than expected.

From the outset, we were determined to stay in control of the project and developed a robust tender document. It set out six principal criteria, each with weighting, to help us prioritise quality and design over cost alone. It also allowed me to keep fellow councillors and Fernwood residents updated through Parish Council meeting minutes. We were pleased to receive interest from eleven contractors at our open day—an insightful and productive session. Of those, six submitted formal tenders. After a careful scoring process, two stood out clearly as the top contenders. Both designs were displayed at the Village Hall for public comment. Resident feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with a clear preference for Design 'A'. We are delighted to confirm Kompan had been awarded the contract, a leader in the field. They showed a strong understanding of our project's goals, including maintenance planning and the importance of supporting First Port.

Construction of the new play park is now well underway, with completion expected before the end of the summer holidays, weather permitting. We had hoped to have the park ready before the school holidays, but the planning and approval processes took longer than anticipated. That said, we're excited at the prospect of everyone enjoying a brand-new play park by the end of August! Once the park is officially handed over to the Parish Council, we will be hosting a grand opening event with a range of family activities. Please keep an eye on our community notice boards and Parish Council updates—you won't want to miss it.

Thank you for your continued support. Warm regards,
Cllr Leigh Rixon



KEY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

Below you'll find a handy recap of some of the decisions made by the Parish Council in the last few months at meetings, plus what we have been up to behind the scenes. Fernwood is a busy Parish Council, supported by a small team of staff in the village hall as well as councillors, all of whom are volunteers and use our own time to support the community. A huge amount goes into decision making, research and community engagement.

- Approved costs for an architect complete drawings and visuals for converting the changing
 rooms which will provide much needed storage for the village hall and community space. Plus,
 then accepted the designs in principal and agreed to look for contractors to redevelop the
 storage area and breakout space.
- Held the annual Easter egg hunt across the village next year we plan on being even bigger!
 We also celebrated at the summer Family Fun Day at the village hall with scarecrow competition and VE day. Plus, we agreed additional events to be added to our planned schedule for 2025 including our first ever Safari and Open Garden in September.
- Chose a supplier for the new play park, as well as held several planning meetings to prepare. The work is now well underway and should be completed summer 2025.
- Objected to the new housing application in Fernwood South due to highways concerns.
- Agreed to consider CCTV at the new play park and obtain quotes
- Agreed to purchase and install a dog waste bin on Hunters Road.
- Agreed a budget for autumn bulb planting and community event.
- Noted recommendations from the Woodland Management Group and met with contractors to start scoping a redevelopment project.

Residents are welcome at meetings during the public forum or to contact the clerk with anything they would like to raise or contact councillors directly. Whilst we do try and keep an eye on social media conversations to raise concerns, parish councillors are all volunteers, many of whose work full time and cannot use this as our only avenue for updates from residents.



FERNWOOD BUSINESS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Fernwood Business Community is a vibrant, inclusive group of small business owners, freelancers, and those who work from home. Our members include photographers, videographers, digital marketers, financial and estate planners, travel consultants, book editors and typesetters, accountants, physiotherapists, and fitness and well-being coaches. Regardless of your area of work, you'll find a welcoming and inspiring environment where networking and collaboration are of paramount importance. Founded in June 2024 by local financial planner Jacob Wright, the Fernwood Business Community recently celebrated its first anniversary. Jacob created this group with a clear goal in mind: to provide a supportive space for people working from home to come together, exchange experiences, build connections, and help each other thrive. Over the past year, the group has grown in size and scope, evolving from a business networking group to a dynamic community that blends networking with valuable educational content.

Every month, we host a meeting that features a presentation on a relevant topic aimed at helping our members grow both personally and professionally. These topics have ranged from practical advice on expanding your business to important discussions on planning for retirement. In a recent session, two local publishing businesses shared insights on how writing a book can be a powerful tool for growing your business. Our meetings are always interactive, and we encourage questions during the session, which often leads to lively discussions.

We meet on the last Thursday of every month (excluding August and December) at the Brews Brothers in Fernwood from 10am to 12 noon. Everyone is welcome, and entry is free of charge. If you'd like to join us, feel free to come to our next meeting on July 31st. For more information, contact jacob@saltandlightfs.com. We look forward to meeting you!

GOODBYE: CARETAKER MALCOLM!

The Parish Council would like to extend our best wishes and thanks to Malcolm, who is retiring this month after over 13 years as our caretaker at Fernwood Parish Council.

Throughout the years, Malcom has been a reliable presence at the village hall, looking after the parish grounds, the village hall and facilities. Whether rain or shine, he has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything was in top condition — always with a smile and a kind word for everyone. He sets up the parties, cleans down the hall after all your celebrations, lovingly tends to the new gardens and is often seen mowing the grass on Dale Way!

Recruitment for a new caretaker is ongoing but on behalf of the whole parish, thank you Malcolm and please enjoy your well-earned retirement.







SUMMER FUN DAY & SCARECROWS

The village hall was buzzing with excitement in June as families gathered for a fantastic fun day. As we're starting the redevelopment of the play park in central Fernwood over the next few months, we downscaled our summer event but we still managed to have a brilliant day with a great turn out. The sun [mostly] shone whilst residents were entertained with some great local live music, kids activities and market stalls. The event was a huge success, drawing a brilliant turnout for balloon modelling, crafts, and face painting plus bouncy castle. A highlight of the day was the much-loved return of the Scarecrow competition, which featured some of the best entries Fernwood has ever seen - well done to our winners, who created an amazing pirate ship complete with treasure! A huge thank you to all whom attended the day and to the Parish council staff who worked hard to pull it all together, even with ever changing weather!

Don't worry - there's plenty more events to come for the rest of the year, with another event planned for later this summer to mark the official opening of the new play park. Announcements will be made on social media and at future meetings.









FERNWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH UPDATE

Summer Fun and Community

On Saturday 5th July, our Summer Fun Day was a great success! Many folks from Fernwood and beyond joined us for tabletop games, competitions and a chat over refreshments. As a church, we love to spend time together, and it was so good to invite many others to experience the same community and family-feel. Many people nowadays find it harder to meet new friends. Perhaps you've only just moved to Fernwood and have to rebuild connections. Please know that you're most welcome to join us on any Sunday morning, 10:30am, as we meet at the Fernwood Village Hall to worship God with songs, prayer, learning from the Bible, and to spend time together.

We'd love to meet you and welcome you into our 'family' – for that's what the Bible calls us: a group of people brought together by Jesus Christ. Once far away from God, trying to make things work in a big and broken world. Sometimes that seems to go quite well; at other times we face hardship and big questions. And then Jesus calls us to come to him: to find rest, refreshment, rescue. Not on our own, but together with everyone else who's come to Jesus. Perhaps you've got opportunity to take a holiday this summer season – why not think about such greater, lasting rest and refreshment? We'd love to tell you more about it!

For any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch: hello@fernwoodchurch.org.uk, or send us a message on Facebook.





FERNWOOD CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (FCRA)

The Residents Association meets regularly to discuss and act on issues that may affect the Residents of Central Fernwood particularly those who pay FirstPort charges.



Residents are encouraged to initially report any issues directly to FirstPort through their Creatio Web site via www.FirstPort.com. This ensures that concerns are logged and can be followed up more easily. If there remains a concern about how the issue is being progressed, FCRA will support and investigate on your behalf. Please email us at Fernwoodra@duck.com, look on our website www.Myfernwood.org or noticeboard for our meeting schedule.

We organise joint meetings with FirstPort and Barratt David Wilson Homes to discuss matters of concern on the estate and have recently raised concerns about the Budget for 2025/26 and the recently published accounts. We highlighted issues in the budget that are expected to result in reduced charges for leaseholders due to excessive electricity estimates as well as eliminating increases to the management charges for the year.

We have identified that it could be worthwhile to reinstate the practice of examining more closely how FirstPort are spending our funds but need someone with an interest and expertise to join our Committee in order to do this. Please contact us for a chat if this is something that you may be able to help with at Fernwoodra@duck.com

We are currently in discussions with FirstPort and Barratt David Wilson Homes over the Deed of Variation process which has proven to be time consuming and problematic. We are seeking for this to be simplified and speeded up and are hopeful this this will occur soon. Be aware that if you are changing your mortgage, taking equity release or selling your house, the mortgage provider may require a Deed of Variation which can be costly. Details about this process are available on our web site at www.Myfernwood.org and then select Maintenance and FirstPort and then Deed of Variation.

We usually hold our meetings on the last Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall and post the agenda on our noticeboard and on our web site. please either come along to a meeting or email us at the address above. We expect to receive a new regular newsletter from FirstPort that will be available through Creatio and also your FCRA web site.

DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE



Cllr Neil Allen
Neil.allen@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

<u>Cllr Simon Haynes</u> <u>Simon.haynes@newark-</u> <u>sherwooddc.gov.uk</u>

Cllr Jack Kellas

Jack.kellas@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

Dear residents

We are pleased to be writing to you again following our last column which focussed on our housing budget win, and our council tax budget win, saving our residents hundreds of thousands of pounds over the MTFP period. This column comes with good and not so good news for our area, in our humble opinion, but rest assured we will maintain a strong voice for Fernwood and keep fighting for you at Newark and Sherwood District Council.

We had a great time at the Fernwood Family Fun Day in June which was well organised by the Parish Council. We enjoyed the great variety of stalls, engaging entertainment, and of course the conclusions of the very competitive scarecrow competition. Congratulations to all who participated in this year's competition, and especial congratulations to the winning pirate ship with two scarecrow pirates. Rumour has it, residents have already started planning their entries for next year...

On 8 July, the Cabinet at Newark and Sherwood District Council considered the Council's approach to the management and maintenance of open space on new residential developments. As Leader of the Council's Opposition, Cllr Jack Kellas sits on the cabinet and used the opportunity to highlight the views of many Fernwood residents regarding the principle of ManCos. Whilst the cabinet had to note that ManCos are a lawful and legitimate model, Cllr Kellas endorsed that as an authority we continue promoting that the council manage and maintain public open space on strategic urban extension sites in the first instance. For more information, the cabinet papers are available on the NSDC website, along with the recording of the meeting. Local Government Reorganisation

On 15 July, Newark and Sherwood District Council was tasked with naming a preference for the local government reorganisation imposed on Nottinghamshire by the Government. The council considered and debated two options, known as 1b and 1e. Both options form new unitary authorities following the abolishment of current district, borough, city and county councils, with both combining the City and Broxtowe. The difference between the options is that 1b adds Gedling to the City and Broxtowe; whereas, 1e adds Rushcliffe instead. As the ward members for Farndon and Fernwood, we expressed concern that 1e does not represent sensible geography. Our ward runs along the Rushcliffe border, and it is common sense that communities in Rushcliffe, such as Flintham and Sibthorpe have more in common with Newark and Sherwood than they do the city. Moreover, the independent consultants who compiled the analysis for the proposed options in Nottinghamshire made clear that only option 1b has a strong alignment with offering "high quality, sustainable services" that "meet local needs". Despite this, the council's administration made the political decision to dismiss that evidence, and instead back option 1e as the council's preference.

As always, if we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Sincerely,

Jack, Simon and Neil

GARDEN SERVICES



- Ride On and Push Mowers
- Hedge Cutting
 Shrub Pruning
- Garden Clearance
 Turfing / Lawn Laying
- Weed Control Domestic and Commercial

CALL ANDREW 07703 779118

Making sense...

of your bottom line.





To add value to your business & contribute to your success from our base in Fernwood, Newark.

We provide accountancy services for Small & Medium companies, Charities, and Personal Clients.

With over 25 years experience we pride ourselves on providing a personal service.



Accounting

Bespoke analysis and submission of Limited Company Accounts to HMRC for Corporation Tax purposes



Bookkeeping

Experts in number crunching we provide both ad hoc & regular services to sole traders and limited companies.



Compliance

Maintaining your companies secretarial duties to inform Companies House of any in house changes





Email: peter@saviouraccounting.co.uk
Web: https://www.saviouraccounting.co.uk
Facebook: @saviouraccounting.co.uk



Microsuction / Water Irrigation / Manual extraction

www.clearearsolution.co.uk

07566 729612

email:clearearsolutionlouise@gmail.com

COSTALL WOODS UPDATE

A newly formed Woodland Management Group have made several visits to Costal Woods i the last few months to assess its condition and outline a vision for its future, with a plan of phased works to improve the area. We've also held several meetings with specialists and contractors. Following necessary tree works which the Parish Council are legally required to undertake, we now have the opportunity to enhance the space with a focus on wildlife and community access. We are aware that the recent ground level clearance raised concerns, including the clearance of overgrowth and ivy and in particular the impact on potential nesting birds. Please be assured that a highly recommended professional carried out the work which were legally required and form part of good woodland management; the Parish Council legally have to complete these works in a timely manner. The team conducted several thorough tree surveys beforehand to confirm there were no nesting birds and ensured to check every tree before they completed any work. That said, we acknowledge that timing

is important, and aim to ensure such works are carried out earlier in the season to minimise.

Looking ahead, we are proposing a project to support a phase of improvements including pathways plus wildlife support measures such as bird and bat nesting boxes as well as new educational signage. We have already met several contractors to review plans and suggestions.

Going forward, quarterly review meetings will be held to monitor progress and key seasonal work. Importantly, we want to ensure that wildlife and species can continue to thrive without being disrupted by heavy intervention or overdevelopment. Any work carried out will be carefully planned to protect existing habitats, allowing wildlife to flourish while welcoming the community into the space in a sensitive and sustainable way. We will continue to work with specialists in this area and take their advice throughout.

We thank residents for their feedback recently and are committed to making sure that Costal Woods is a thriving, accessible green space for all to enjoy.





IS YOUR PENSION ENOUGH? OR ARE YOU HEADING FOR A SHORTFALL?

MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALISE THE GAP UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

Tom, 50, assumed that contributing to his workplace pension would be enough.

After a quick review, I showed Tom that he was going to be short of income in retirement.

The good news? He still had time to fix it.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! FIND OUT IF YOU'RE HEADING FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM, OR FINANCIAL FRUSTRATION.

Book your FREE discovery call by scanning the QR code

07771 310791 | jacob.wright@fintuity.com



fintuity

TOP RATED ADVISER 2025

fi ntu ity

Jacob Wright BA Hons, DipPFS, CII (MP&ER) Independent Financial Planner & Coach

Fintuity Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority under reference number 814106



PERGOLAS • TABLESGARDEN STRUCTURES

BESPOKE CARPENTRY & JOINERY

• GAZEBOS • DECKING • SHELVING





07902 645513

dom@dw woodcraft.co.uk
dwwoodcraft.co.uk
Instagram @dw_woodcraft
Facebook DWWoodcraft







Happy 10th Birthday to Peachy Clean!

What began in May 2015 with just a humble hoover, mop, and bucket in the hands of Alyce, our founder, was never meant to grow beyond a one woman operation. But Alyce quickly realized she wasn't alone in juggling the challenges of childcare and the high costs that come with it. That sparked an idea – why not bring on a helping hand? Fast forward, and now what is a multi award winning company, we're a thriving team of 17, and growing!

Our team works between 9am and 3pm, allowing us to avoid wraparound childcare costs and maintain an amazing work life balance. We're proud of how far we've come and believe our growth speaks to the heart of what we do. At Peachy Clean, customer service is at the heart of everything. We thrive on customer feedback, always striving to improve and deliver the best, we cover every clean with a 100% happiness guarantee.



Jess, our dedicated Operations Manager, ensures every clean is consistent and spot-checked to perfection, keeping both our team and our customers happy. From homes to holiday lets to offices, we use only eco friendly products to ensure a clean that's not only pristine but healthy too.

We hear frequently about the poor state of the economy and we wanted to share our success story – it hasn't been an easy road, a lot of sacrifices have been made to get to this point but with an incredible team and strong management, we've perfected the recipe for exceptional cleaning. Thank you for being part of this journey—here's to many more years of Peachy Clean perfection!

The Brews Fernwood

an independent, family owned little pub



Brunch
Mains
Charles
Bank
Bank
Www.thebrewsfernwood.co.uk

The Brews, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood, NG24 3RQ 01636 705475