

## Arnesby Village Hall – Change of Use Application

Arnesby Village Hall Committee has submitted an application for Change of Use for a small area of the May Fayre Car Park field, from agricultural to recreational use, with an associated car park. Notification has recently been posted on the Lutterworth Road.

Some time ago a village meeting, to which representatives from many village organisations were invited, discussed the future of the field. This land is crucial to the continuation of the May Fayre, since it is the only suitable site for use as a car park. The meeting asked a small group to meet Mr John Briggs, the owner of the land, to clarify what was possible.

After a meeting with Mr Briggs it was established that he was prepared to keep the two fields in question as pastoral land and to allow the use of this area for future May Fayre parking. In addition, at our request, he was prepared to let a small area of the first field (approx 0.5 acre) to the Village Hall Committee for use as a sports field, with an associated car park.

For this to be possible, the Village Hall Committee needed to apply to Harborough District Council for Change of Use – hence the notification referred to above.

### **There are two reasons why the Village Hall Committee were keen to rent this land**

1. The problem of parking in the village is obvious, in particular along Mill Hill Road when there is a village hall function. A village hall car park within easy reach of the hall would be a considerable asset.
2. Arnesby School desperately needs a space close to the school for sports. OFSTED inspections have picked up on the lack of recreational space available. If the school is to have a long term future, it must develop its facilities. Already the school uses the village hall for assemblies, PE, dance & music classes, exams and school lunches. There are plans afoot to build a new classroom at the school, to allow it to expand to a viable size. The provision of a sports field, so close to the school, would provide Arnesby School with a range of facilities to match schools in larger villages and urban areas.

If Change of Use is granted, then the Village Hall Committee would pay the annual rent for the land. Initially a 10 year lease would be granted with option for renewal after that period. The school would pay for the mowing of the pitch and the Village Hall would apply for grants to fence the site and surface the car park.

Any views that you might have about this development should be forwarded to Harborough District Council before the 28<sup>th</sup> June deadline. However, please bear in mind section CS17 of the District Council's **Core Strategic Plan** which lists the villages in the Council's area where residential development will be allowed. Arnesby does **not** appear in this list because its lack of services makes any residential development unsustainable and therefore not allowed. In addition there is no reason why land designated as recreational is any more likely than agricultural land to be made available for residential development.

Brian Spriggs  
Chairman Arnesby Village Hall Committee