

Community Connection: 14 August, 2018.

There is a growing interest in this year's Remembrance Day events this coming November: not just due to the Centenary of the 1918 Armistice, but also because of a wish to honour all those who contributed in any way to bringing us through the conflicts of the past century. Our region has a massive heritage of service to the country, not least in connection with the air bases of the Second World War. We have received suggestions that we should, for example, do something about correcting the lack of any memorial relating to Fersfield's famous airfield, which provided a mission base for members of all three services – and their American allies, which included Joe Kennedy, brother of JFK. Our Parish Council meeting last Monday listened to a group of community members who spoke about the wish to erect some kind of memorial at the Airfield to all our servicemen and American Allies: a group to achieve this is in process of formation, and the Parish Council approved a grant of £250 towards establishing this. (We are possibly one of the few former 'service' communities which have no memorial of this kind).

We also looked at the ongoing issue of the Kenninghall chicken farm traffic which comes through Fersfield/Bressingham/South Lopham roads. (it started at some time before dawn today...) The Ombudsman has just rejected a resident's complaint about this traffic, saying that planning conditions have not been breached, and that he cannot reverse a Planning Inspector's decisions. (Ultimately, most decisions can be referred to the Planning Inspector.....). In local terms, I am disappointed that Kenninghall's alleged 'arrangement' that such traffic does not use the planned route (through Kenninghall) but should instead affect neighbouring villages appears to be a very selfish approach – and to think we were sympathetic and supportive of Kenninghall when they were up in arms about traffic in their village – do you remember all the posters in Church Street? We keep trying.....

Other items included a planning issue on Fersfield Airfield, in the Stone Lane Area. We may know more after tomorrow when I attend the SNDC Planning Committee meeting at Long Stratton. We had a report on allotments, which mainly dealt with making decisions about the use of poly-tunnels and the regulations that control them. We finish with a reference to litter, litter bins and the lay-bys on our stretch of the A 1066. We will pay for installation and provision of litter bins in these lay-bys (not our statutory responsibility, but someone has to do it!), Norfolk County Council are actively involved, and South Norfolk District Council will do the necessary emptying. There is a big anomaly in that lorry drivers operate to strict time constraints, yet there are precious few lorry parks and associated 'facilities' for them to use – especially overnight. I'm not just blaming drivers of large vehicles, but some of the 'litter' tells its own story. We have written asking our MP to raise this matter, so.....

Please remember that there is a meeting, for anyone interested in supporting the Armistice Centenary in any way in Fersfield Church on Tuesday 4 September at 7 pm.