

ELSWORTH TIMES

JUNE/JULY 2021

ISSUE 21-03

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR ELSWORTH

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Liz Sim - 01954 267664
clerk@elsworthvillage.com

Parish Council Web site address

www.elsworthvillage.co.uk

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Bourn - 01954 719313
Appointments 01954 719469

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01480 839933

The Rev Nigel di Castiglione
01954 267241

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01954 267272

Elsworth Show

Sonia Hegan - 01954 267743

Elsworth Sports Club

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Acting Secretary Paul Harding
01954 267218

Swavesey Village College

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Fardell's Lane Nature Reserve

Paul Harding - 01954 267218

Cambourne Car Scheme

07526 998465
Cambournecarscheme@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Please send all contributions, notices and adverts to janetpendrill@gmail.com and please identify these items for the Elsworth Times.

The next issue of the Elsworth Times is August 2021 and the deadline for this issue is Wednesday 28th July

IMPORTANT DATES

Post Office services from the pavilion:

Tues & Thurs 12-2pm

Mobile Library – The Poacher

2nd Thurs of the month 2.35pm - 2.55pm

"Due to Covid restrictions they will allow limited access initially and operate with an on-line select and collect service just like static libraries, so books are kept clean and returns can be quarantined. If casual users turn up the operator will assist as much as possible as we know not all can go on-line."

BIN COLLECTION DATES

Thu 17 Jun 2021	✓		
Thu 24 Jun 2021		✓	✓
Thu 1 Jul 2021	✓		
Thu 8 Jul 2021		✓	✓
Thu 15 Jul 2021	✓		
Thu 22 Jul 2021		✓	✓
Thu 29 Jul 2021	✓		
Thu 5 Aug 2021		✓	✓

Tissues and Kitchen Roll - Due to Covid 19 the advice has changed on tissues and kitchen roll used for cleaning, these should be put in your **BLACK** bin at the moment please.

CLERK'S COLUMN - LIZ SIM PARISH CLERK

Telephone: 01954 267664

e-mail: clerk@elsworthvillage.com

Last time I sat down to write the Clerk's Column spring seemed to be in the air. Today lightning, thunder and a hailstorm has made my computer crash and the garden look like winter. Such a mixed bag of weather has been almost unbelievable, but this only seems to mirror the mixed bag of everything that has been thrown at everyone



over the past eighteen months. Red sky at night – shepherd's delight – better things are on the way! Lockdown easing and the pandemic gradually subsiding and time to enjoy the freedoms we have missed.

Annual Parish Council Meeting

This meeting had to be brought forward to May 4th to permit the council to meet legally on line. After May 6th the legislation permitting this ceased. Despite representations to government from so many quarters, this facility has not been extended and the Council will have to go back to face to face meetings: where exactly, because of health and safety concerns, remains to be decided.

Much of the meeting was taken up with administrative matters, signing off the annual Accounts and Governance documentation. This year the Parish Council qualified for a Certificate of Exemption because neither its income or expenditure exceeded twenty five

thousand pounds, the pandemic having put paid to so many events and projects that normally receive funds or incur expenditure. This means that there is only a requirement for the internal audit, no requirement for an external audit, which in itself saved the Council expenditure!

The Parish Council Chairman is elected at the Annual Parish Council meeting. Peter Deer was elected Chairman unopposed.

PC representatives.

Parish Tree Warden. Paul Harding

Fardell's Lane Sub Committee. James Witherow.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership. Peter Deer.

The Village Community Flood Group. James Witherow.

Elsworth Sports Club Committee. Rob Askham.

A Broadband Champion for the village. David Pope has fulfilled this role to date but is unable to continue. It is hoped that a resident will come forward to take this on.

A428 upgrade. David Pope.

Flooding

Flooding in the village has been uppermost in many people's minds since last December.

A site meeting was held with County Council and District Council Flood Officers and members of Elsworth Community flood Group on May 12th to discuss flooding issues in the village and the regeneration of the Elsworth Community Flood Group. Both County and District councils have engaged in collaborative working over flooding issues and considerable funds are now available through the County Council for ongoing projects to help villages suffering from flooding. District Council officers have been in touch with the school to discuss flood alleviation. Mr Edward Davison is

liaising with Pitt Dene Farm regarding ditch clearance behind the school. The County and District Officers were brought up to date about plans that had been put forward in the past to alleviate the flooding and they walked the village to view the key areas causing the susceptibility to flooding. Emphasis was put on the need to divert the flow of flood waters away from the village because of the inability of the drainage in the village itself to cope with sudden inundations. Philip Sleightholme has agreed to act as convenor for the Community Flood group and a report will be produced by the group on the feasibility of works to divert water from the village. This will be passed to the County and District Officers. Officers agreed to ascertain where documentation that had been passed to the County Council by the Clerk in previous years was now lodged.



Footpaths.

Two Parish Councillors met the County Council's Rights of Way Officer and the farm manager of Pitt Dene Farm to discuss matters raised by parishioners regarding access to Meadow Drift. They were advised that the behaviour of some walkers towards the staff of Pitt Dene Farm was unacceptable and that there were serious health and safety concerns for the farm over heavy farm machinery operatives being unable to see walkers or dogs, as well as unauthorised use of the reservoir. The PC also facilitated a meeting between the County Rights of Way Officer and the County's Asset Information Definitive Map Officer and representatives of the walkers to discuss legal issues.

East West Rail

Councillors were updated on all matters regarding the proposed East West Rail and the serious effects that this would have on Elsworth. A full report from the PC Chairman is to be found elsewhere in this edition.

Planning applications

- 21/01343/FUL Ms K Middleton 61 Boxworth Road Elsworth CB23 4LJ Creation of a wildlife pond. Parish Council recommendation: Support.
- 20/0419/FUL 14 Church Lane. PC recommendation Object with comments.
- 21/00569/FUL 14 Church Lane. PC recommendation Object with comments.
- S/4521/19/FL Martins Farm Dwelling Houses. PC recommendation Object with comments.
- S/4522/19/LB. Dove cote PC recommendation. Support with comments.
- 20/04952/CONDA 2 Brook Street Elsworth CB23 4HX Approval of Details Reserved by Condition. FIO
- 21/0286/TTPO 33 Smith Street Elsworth Cambridge Cambridgeshire CB23 4HY. FIO
- 21/0466/TTCA 2-4 Fardell's Lane Elsworth. FIO

Applications determined/closed by SDC

- S/4521/19/FL Martins Farm Dwelling Houses. Refused
- Application to grant a new Premises Licence for OS map reference TL3555760586 known as Childerley Orchard was received by the licensing department on 8 February 2021 and was sent for consultation. South Cambridgeshire District Council Licensing (2003 Act) Sub-Committee sub committee granted the application.

Dates of future Parish Council meetings in 2021.

July 21st September 15th November 17th.



HOPE FARM'S FARMING CALENDAR UPDATE

The spring crops (spring oats, spring barley and spring beans), have been drilled and the hard work of the Hope farm team that has been carried out at the farm over the winter is really starting to show. Flowers are now coming into bloom and we have installed tree sparrow nest boxes too. No tree sparrows



in resident yet, but still useful to lots of other species. Hedgelaying has also been forming an attractive border alongside the Elsworth-Knapwell footpath, becoming a haven for wrens and insects.

This spring had been very dry until a few weeks ago, and we, as well as many other farmers, have been rejoicing over the wet weather, saving crops from another season of drought that pose a huge pressure on the business. Where the fields are compacted after two years of very wet winters, that has been bad news as the roots struggle in the clay pot-like soil. Luckily, there are still many fields that have come into the spring in good condition, and the heavy soils held onto the moisture and nutrients better than some of the lighter soils might do on the sandy lands to the west of here.

The farm has always looked at farming with nature as a core aim of the RSPB, but more recently we are in need of reviewing our carbon footprint, looking for mitigation measures that create benefits for nature and the climate. Subsequently, an exciting new Agroforestry trial is now taking place at Hope Farm. There are strips of a range of wildflowers already established in the field next door to Knapwell, which reflect where the tree canopies will eventually be. The spring oats in that field are looking pretty good at the moment too.

The next stage of this project will be to plant the field with apple trees and hazelnuts in the winter. 13 varieties of apple tree have been chosen, including heritage varieties from local counties. The project will also use 2 varieties of cobnut to produce nut oil for sale. Additionally, a shelter belt will be planted on the west side of the field – including Field Maple, Hornbeam, Wild Cherry, Small leaved lime and Common Alder. With a few farmers also starting agroforestry across the country, and it already being relatively common practice on the continent, we plan to look at the impact of the trees on soil carbon, yield, and biodiversity, against a control field on the farm.

If you want to see the agroforestry field, there is a footpath running along the top/south of the field (see inserted photo), so that people from the local area can see what is happening. If anyone would like to be involved in helping out with the project as it develops, then please contact the Carbon Farming Project Manager – Sophie Mott (sophie.mott@rspb.org.uk).

Later in the year tree planting will be taking

place and volunteers would be welcomed to take part in this activity – no experience required. This activity will be spread across November/December 2021 and January/ February .

The map to the left shows the agroforestry field and an insert map of the entire farm for reference to indicate where the project field is located within the farm. The blue lines are footpaths, which run along the south side of the field for good viewing. The coloured strips indicate which type of trees will be going where: The green strips are hazel trees, the pink strips are apple trees, and the orange strips are a mixture of non-cropping trees to provide wind protection and additional biodiversity benefits. The tree strips are not footpaths, but you can still get a good view from the footpath.

A plan of tree species will be available in the coming months once it has been finalised and will be published in a future edition of the Elsworth Times.



ELSWORTH PRE-SCHOOL



At Elsworth Pre-School our inspiring learning experiences are led by the children, recently we have had a football challenge, traditional sports day races and obstacle course building to support the children's physical development, resilience and confidence.



You can see more about what we're doing in the newsletter section of our website or on the Elsworth Pre-School Facebook page.

This term the children have been caring for the vegetables that they have planted. The first of these have been ready to pick and the children have experienced the full field to fork experience with their radishes. We cannot wait for our other vegetables to grow too!



At Forest School the children have been noticing

how the nature reserve is changing through the seasons, we have been exploring and identifying plants, flowers and minibeasts. There have been elements of risk taking with 'spider web' ropes and large scale mud art as the children learn freely in the natural environment.

We currently have spaces available! We have found that parents who visit and meet our fully-qualified, caring and attentive team choose Elsworth Pre-School for their children. Unfortunately, we cannot offer visits in the usual way yet due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we are always available for a chat or a video tour.

If you're interested in registering your child for Pre-School then please contact our manager Julie, email elsworthpreschool@outlook.com, phone 01954 268050. See elsworthpreschool.org for more information.



RE-PLAY PAPWORTH

With the current restrictions in place, we are not going to be able to run the Sunday afternoon vinyl sessions in the Courtyard café for a while. Let's hope the vaccine rollout continues apace and we can all get together soon.

By the time you read this, it will soon be Record Store Day (12 th June). I hope you find something to enjoy and can support our local record shops.

January's article discussed Paul McCartney - you might have heard of him, he was in The Beatles - you might have heard of them. Well, over the past few years their later albums have been cleaned up by the wizards at Abbey Road - not just given a quick remaster, but reconstructed from the individual multitrack master tapes. Let It Be should have come out for its 50 th anniversary last year, along with the related Get Back film, and hopefully both will later this year.

The latest to receive the Abbey Road rebuild is John Lennon - you

might have heard of him, etc... His first two albums, John Lennon/ Plastic Ono Band, and Imagine, have been expanded to 6 CDs and 4 CDs respectively. Every note recorded is there to hear, as clear as if it were recorded yesterday. The original productions were done in a murky early-60s style by Phil Spector and the new versions are like opening the curtains on his wall of sound.

There's also a new 'Best Of' set, Gimme Some Truth.

Luckily they've both been released as double vinyl sets, with the original album on one record and a selection of out-takes on the second. We look forward to playing them both for you. Until then, support your local record shops and your local café.

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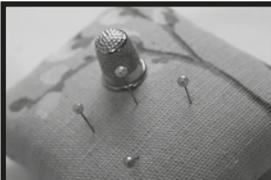
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Next Stage of Covid

Step 4 - not before 21 June

<https://www.gov.uk>

Social Contact

By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

Business, Activities and Events

We hope to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease the restrictions on large events and performances that apply in Step 3. This will be subject to WWthe results of a scientific Events Research Programme to test the outcome of certain pilot events through the spring and summer, where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.

As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with 'hands, face, space'.

Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.



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What's in a name? Brown's Farm

When entering the village on Boxworth Road, on the left just by the chicane, is a long, corrugated-iron barn with the name Brown's Farm. This barn was originally part of a mixed farm of about 150 acres that was based on the oldest surviving house in Boxworth Road, which until recently was named 'Brown's Farmhouse'. So who was theonymous Brown?

The building that became the original 'Brown's Farmhouse' is recorded as being a simple four-room 18th century dwelling, which was extended and re-modelled in about 1790. The 1800 Enclosure Award map is quite difficult to read: it appears to show a building in this location, with it and land in this area awarded to Thomas James DD.

In the Elsworth Parish Registers, the surname Brown comes and goes among the baptisms, marriages and burials from 1575 onwards. Families surnamed Brown are also recorded in Caxton and Papworth Everard. Although a Richard Brown is listed in the Enclosure documents, the earliest definite reference I have found to a farmer named Brown is in the 1841 Census. Richard Brown aged 55, was recorded as a farmer in 'Cordel End', an earlier name for the Boxworth Road area of the village. In 1847 Richard Brown's daughter Sarah married John Brook of Caxton, the son of a 'surgeon'. The Marriage Register records Sarah's father as a 'yeoman', meaning a farmer. In the 1851 census Richard is given as aged 68, a farmer with 136 acres, employing 6 labourers. Richard Brown died at the end of 1852, leaving his estate to his wife Mary who died in 1859, leaving all her properties in trust for their daughter, Sarah Brook, and by succession for any children that Sarah may have.

The farm appears to have remained associated with descendents of Richard and Mary Brown for at least the next 60 years.

A 1909 sale prospectus for properties nearby shows the immediate farmland around the location of Brown's Farmhouse in the ownership of Miss Brook; this was Susanna Blanche Brook, Richard and Mary's granddaughter who was born in 1849.

There were complex changes in ownership into the 1920s, through the Brook family and those of the trustees, including one or more intestacies, mortgages or shared ownership, until Susanna Blanche Brook died in 1921. In 1926 the land associated with Brown's Farm was described as extending to 147 acres, including four acres listed as "Farmhouse, 3 cottages, Gardens, Orchards, Homestead and Paddock". From 1932 onwards land associated with Brown's Farm was progressively sold off to a larger farm and for development along Boxworth Road.

Richard Brown may have been the original Brown of Brown's Farm, but it is equally possible that it was named for one of his ancestors. It is remarkable that the Brown surname, associated with property on the south side of Boxworth Road, has persisted for 160 years after Richard's widow died in 1859.

© Paul T. Harding

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Open day at the Upper Cambourne cricket pavilion 10-11.30 am
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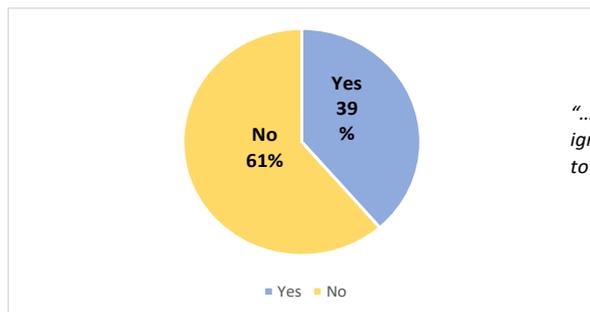


Elsworth Says No to Station and New Town north of A428

Every household should have received a copy of a consultative document from East West Rail (EWR) on its developing plans for the Oxford to Cambridge rail link. A questionnaire was subsequently delivered throughout the village in which the Parish Council drew attention to potential impacts on Elsworth and sought views on the proposals made by EWR and by developers for a new town north of the A428.

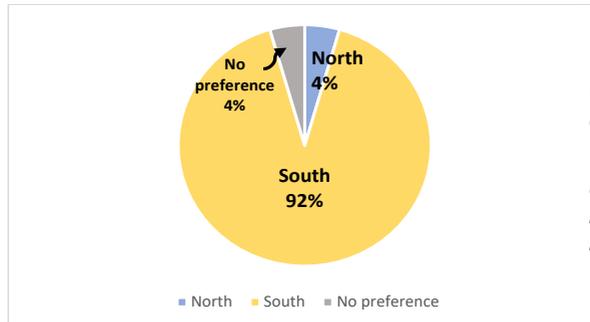
The PC would now like to share with you the outcomes from that questionnaire.

Q1. Do you support a railway station for Cambourne?



"...we feel that our needs and wishes are ignored at the expense of the growing town of Cambourne..."

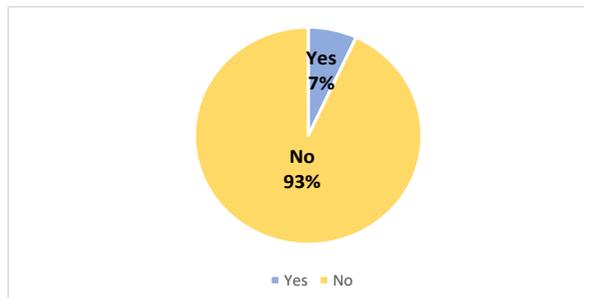
Q2. Where should the station be sited?



"It makes sense to have the station within walking distance of existing homes in Cambourne..."

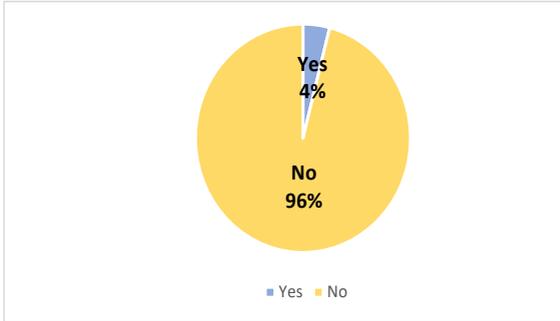
"With all the new housing being built in Cambourne South and West the obvious route has to be to the south. It's a no brainer really..."

Q3. Would you support a station for Cambourne if it meant an increase in traffic through the village?



"...there will continue to be a strong incentive for people to drive to a station. A major problem here will be the minor rural roads, particularly if a station for Cambourne north of the A428 is chosen and the dangers that will be posed to pedestrians in villages with very narrow footpaths or no footpaths..."

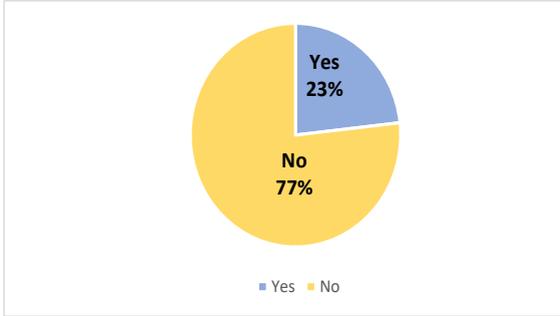
Q4. Would you support the housing development north of the A428 as shown on Map 2?



“Please don’t allow any unnecessary housing to destroy our rural landscape and natural habitats, which are so vital for maintaining biodiversity.”

“...this area of South Cambridgeshire has had more than it’s fair share of new developments.”

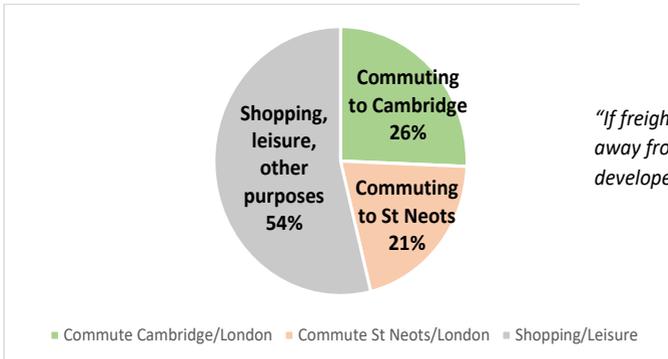
Q5. If a station is built, would you be likely to use it?



“I don’t see why people would travel to Cambridge or London by either proposed EWR route from Cambourne – far easier to use P&R or drive to St Neots and quicker”.

“Improve bus services instead”.

Q6. If yes, please indicate what for?



“If freight is a prime object, a line well away from housing should be developed.”

So what conclusions might be drawn from the responses to the questionnaire?

- There is some recognition of the obvious benefit a station nearby might bring, but overwhelmingly villagers want the station to be south of the A428.
- If the station were north of the A428, there is a clear appreciation of the potential for increased traffic flows from vehicles going to and from the station and to and from the very large housing development that is proposed.

- Opposition to that new town is also overwhelming citing the impact on the environment, ecology of the area and the irreversible change that it would bring to the character of the area.
- It would appear that, wherever it is located, a station might not be regularly used by significant numbers of parishioners. Clearly for many travel to Cambridge or St Neots by alternative means would be preferred. Apart from carrying freight the rationale for the railway is to enhance commuting, yet many comments referred to the impact covid was having on working practices, while it is known that numbers of people living in Elsworth do not work in Cambridge or London, but work from home or elsewhere which would not be served by the railway. Doubts were also expressed about the viability of the proposals and the suggestion made that a reappraisal of the schemes for connecting Cambourne and Cambridge was needed.

Finally, there was a palpable sense of anger in many of the comments made:

“This proposed development, railway and all the infrastructure with it will cause a huge increase in traffic, noise pollution, light pollution and massive environmental damage...destruction of greenfield land, woodland, SSSIs and the impact on RSPB Hope Farm. Enough is enough.”

“We do not wish to be an extension of Cambourne...We do not wish more housing. We do not want more cars. We do not support this idea at all.”

A summary version of this feedback will be posted to the facebook page Elsworth & District Forum.

Play Area

The play area was given a clean up last year but, given the age and the condition of most of the existing equipment, the PC has always had in mind that a complete refurbishment should be undertaken if the funds to do this could be secured.

The opportunity to do something now presents itself as we have had a generous offer by an anonymous donor to fund part of the cost and it now looks likely that the PC will be offered a longer lease by the landowner than the present annually renewable one. Typically grant giving bodies require applicants who do not own the land where they wish to undertake some activity and for which they are seeking funding to hold leases of at least 25 years duration, so a longer lease should enable the PC to make grant applications with some hope of success.

The PC would like to give you the opportunity to make suggestions for the type of play equipment that might be purchased. We would particularly like to hear from you if you have or care for children.

If you would have some suggestions to make, please send these to the Liz Sim, the Parish Clerk, at Mercia Cottage, Brockley Road, CB23 4JS or by email to clerk@elsworthvillage.com.

Peter Deer, Chair, Elsworth Parish Council

NOTICE

If you are a local club in Elsworth and would like to let people know what you are doing then please feel free to send your articles or posters and we will do our best to include them. If you are a non for profit organisation then we do not charge.

Elsworth Village BBQ

Sunday 15th August

12:30pm onwards



**To be held on Brook Street, opposite The Causeway.
BBQ's provided.**

**Please bring your own picnic & chairs. Family & friends
welcome.**

**At last a chance to all get together and celebrate the
summer and give ourselves the opportunity to get to
know our neighbours and to thank those that have
helped us through the 'Lockdowns'.**