

Review of Carlton News

1. The decision to publish a village newsletter was taken in December 1989, and the first issue of Carlton News was published in February 1990.
2. From the first it was decided that Carlton News would be by and for parishioners, it would not be funded by advertising, and that the Editor would be appointed by but independent of the Parish Council. The current Editor is the ninth to hold the position.
3. Printing was carried out free of charge by an anonymous benefactor from 1991 to 2000; from 2000 printing costs have been charged to the Parish Amenities Fund and a budget has been allocated at the annual finance meeting. The Editor is free to change the design, size, format and publication dates and frequency within the allocated budget.
4. At present the production takes the form of an 8-page A5 folded newsheet, with 200 copies printed in black and white in February, May, August and November. This production cycle allows good prior notice to be given of social events around Easter, Christmas and the Church Fete and annual Horticultural Show. For the financial year 2019-20 the allocated budget is £200 with expected printing costs of £128.
5. Carlton News is delivered by volunteers to every household within about half a mile of the parish boundary, and Market Bosworth PC, Library, Marina, Water Trust and Aspect. A couple of back issues are given to new residents with the PC's welcome letter. Digital copies are sent to the Market Bosworth Local Policing Unit and former residents who wish to be kept in touch with local events. In addition copies are posted to the British Library (required by the Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003), Leicestershire Record Office, Local History Collection at Hinckley Library, local press, MP, County and Borough Councillors. Postage costs are borne by the PC through Clerk's costs and are expected to total £35 in 2019-20.
6. In 2006 it was decided that Carlton News would not be published on the Parish Council website on the grounds that it contained personal contact and other information which might be used by criminals.
7. Articles of more than ephemeral interest are copied and published in the *Carlton History* section of the PC's website.
8. Carlton News was last reviewed by the PC in April 2009 (p.1256/2). The discussion and decisions were minuted as follows:

2. Carlton News

Mrs E Morgan (Editor) described the production of Carlton News, its popularity and local importance, and the increasing number of contributions. Most of the publication dates were in school holidays, so it was not practicable to use the cheaper printing facilities at the Community College. The current print run was 170 copies at £20/issue, and this would have to be increased as more houses were built in the parish. About 15 copies were sent to outside organisations and former residents with postage of about £3/issue paid through Clerk's expenses. The current budget for production costs was £75 pa, charged to the PAF (p.1239/11b refers).

Everyone present agreed that Carlton News played a vital role in the community, and that the Editors were doing a good job. The question was how much money from public donations should be spent on a free newsheet. Potential sources of additional finance were discussed - advertising would dilute the content and require careful management; sponsorship and donations might be sought; precept income might be used; fundraising events for the PAF could be expected to realise more than £100 pa. On

balance, the most appropriate option was agreed to be funding at a realistic level from the PAF, with the PAF in turn being supported by small fundraising activities.

It was resolved that the budget of Carlton News be increased to £100 pa and charged to the Parish Amenities Fund under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the expenditure was in the interests of the inhabitants of the area and that the benefit would be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

9. Issues to be considered include:

Cost, and whether to continue to charge to the PAF

Printing - whether to continue to deliver a printed copy to every household;
whether parishioners should be given the option of receiving a digital
rather than printed copy and how this might be managed

Whether to begin publication on the PC website, and if so how long each issue
should remain available

Whether to accept advertising, and particularly paid advertising

C J Peat
4th March 2019