



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL

It is a wonderful reflection of an involved community when an almost-entirely new parish council is elected.

In May this year four new councillors joined the ranks of Whatton Parish Council - a 60% change in its make-up. And whilst there is a steep learning curve, everyone is highly motivated. We hope you will join us to build a better, safer and more involved community.

Parish Council Membership:

Chairman:

Greg Redford
01949 851597
17 Burton Lane

Members:

Ray Dawson
01949 850493
19 Conery Gardens

Ernest Parsons
01949 851261
34 Conery Gardens

Vikki Harper
01949 851723
The Old School, School Lane

Barbara Harris
01949 850117
Sarum House, Sunbeam Street

Carole Key
01949 850087
41 Cottage Avenue

Malcolm Seagrave
01949 851067
5 Riverside

WELCOME TO WHATTON VILLAGE NEWS YOUR QUARTERLY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER is a new venture from your newly formed Parish Council. It aims to keep you informed of Council activities and to provide you with some information about life in the village, its character and its facilities, and how to make contact with some of the people and groups who live and function here. We would welcome your comments and suggestions about how it should be developed.

PUBLIC HAS A SPOT OF ITS OWN

WHATTON PARISH COUNCILLORS are keen to encourage local residents to play a part in the community and have introduced a dedicated slot at each of the council meetings to allow public participation.

Chairman Greg Redford says local residents are welcome to raise any matter of local interest with the council during agenda item number four. The council looks forward to welcoming the active participation of members of the community.

CONDITION OF FOOTWAYS IS A CONCERN

COMPLAINTS about the condition of a number of footways in the village have been passed on by the Parish Council to Notts County Council and the Highways Authority.

The County has promised to inspect the possible problem areas including Beverley's Avenue where specific complaints originated. If residents have any other concerns regarding pathways they should contact the Parish Council.

CUT BACK THOSE HEDGES

A PLEA from the Parish Council to residents asks everyone to ensure that their boundary hedges are kept cut back and are not allowed to impede onto footpaths.

The Council receives complaints from pedestrians who say dangers are caused when they have to step onto the roadway because overgrown hedges mean the footpaths are blocked.

Notts County Council is in contact with the owners of the White Villa on Dark Lane to request that they undertake the necessary work to cut back their hedges.

IDEAS SOUGHT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEME

THE PARISH COUNCIL is looking for ideas from residents to submit to Rushcliffe Borough Council for their Small Environmental Improvement Scheme programme for 2007/8.

The Borough Council will make up to £500 available to parishes in their area for schemes that improve the local environment including site clearance and ground preparation, grass seeding and turfing, spreading bark mulch and anything else that falls into the category of improvement of the village environment. Please pass on any ideas you have to your local councillor or send them directly to the parish clerk.

WHATTON IN THE VALE PARISH COUNCIL

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19/21 Main Street
Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5AA

Phone: 0115 937 6506
E-mail: elliottnews@btconnect.com

FUNDING GO-AHEAD FOR WHATTON PLAYGROUND SCHEME

CONFIRMATION has been received from Rushcliffe Borough Council that the funding application for lottery cash, made on behalf of the Parish Council for a playground scheme for youngsters, has been successful.

A total of £23,000 has been allocated to the Parish Council for new equipment, aimed primarily at children aged over 6 years.

Coun. Chairman Greg Redford was thrilled that the application for funding was successful. "The cash is coming from a total of £200,000 allocated to the Borough Council from the Lottery and we are grateful that the money is being made available to us."

The Grant is for the 6 - 16 year age group but the project is split into three elements — Under 5's - this is not included in the grant but we are in the process of framing an application for this group; 6 - 11 yrs - part of the grant and 12 + - part of the Grant.

Coun. Redford says they have met with three equipment suppliers and await their designs and quotes. He hopes to have them by mid-August.

The Council is now also looking at the possibility of using the Rushcliffe Small Environmental Scheme to obtain some cash to help with a planting scheme on the field.

WHATTON GOING FOR 'QUALITY' STATUS

THE PARISH COUNCIL has agreed to make an application to become a Quality Council. There are currently seven such councils in Nottinghamshire including Bingham, Cotgrave and Radcliffe on Trent.

The Quality scheme is operated through the National Association of Local Councils and to gain the status the Council must show that it operates to a high standard and employs a qualified clerk. It has to meet a number of requirements including communicating with its electorate and distributing an annual report to all residents. The Council must also have a dedicated agenda item to allow the public to take part in that part of the meeting.

The Council has already taken some of the initiatives on board including the adoption of a new code of conduct that came into operation in May this year that allows the public to take part in a specific item when a councillor declares a prejudicial interest in that item and leaves the meeting. (Section 12.2)

WHATTON – ORIGINS OF A NAME

THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED ORIGIN of the name Whatton is that proposed by the English Place Name Society ('EPNS'). Their interpretation is that the first part 'What' is a corruption of Wheat (as in Wheatley, Notts) with the Saxon suffix of 'ton' meaning farm or settlement. This would describe Whatton as being a Wheat Farm or Settlement. Given that the area was never heavily wooded and the good quality of the land, it would seem to be a fair description.

Recently I reviewed the entry for Whatton in the Magna Britannia Antiqua & Nova published in 1738 (described as being 'a new, exact and comprehensive survey of the ancient and present state of Great Britain'). In the Whatton entry it proposes that Whatton 'takes its name from its watery situation upon the River Smite that runs close by and continues often full of water than other larger and swifter rivers

do'. Recent history lends a ring of truth to this interpretation.

The earliest documented reference to Whatton I can find is the entry in the Domesday Book (1086) in which it is referred to as Watone. The tone suffix, as the EPNS proposes is of Saxon origin meaning farm or settlement and that leaves us with Wa. The Saxon word for wheat was whoet and it doesn't seem plausible that Whoettone would contract to Watone. However, the Anglo-Saxon words wæd (ford, water, sea, ocean), 'wæta' (wetness, moisture) and 'wætung' (wetting) could easily contract to 'WA' or 'WAT'. This interpretation would provide the description Wet Farm or Settlement.

So we have two choices:

Wheat Settlement or Wet Settlement —

on balance I prefer the second.

— Gregg Redford

BITS AND BOBS

NEW WHATTON COUNCILLOR Carole Key was among the 50 councillors in the area who attended a training seminar for councillors staged at Cotgrave and organised by the Notts branch of the National Association of Local Councils.

THE FUN DAY held for Aslockton and Whatton Playing Field funds raised £420

PLANS are being progressed for two descriptive boards to be provided in the village through the Notts County Council Building Better Communities scheme (BBC). They will highlight the parish points of interest as well as being a map of the village.

RUSHCLIFFE Borough Council has agreed to erect two new street name plates for Whipling Close in the village after the Parish Council said it was confusing without them.

NOTTS County Council is to remove unauthorised and unsightly house For Sale signs that appear on sites in the village without permission.

WHATTON PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUES TRADITION OF VILLAGE HALL GRANT

A £300 GRANT has been agreed by the Parish Council to assist the funds of Whatton Jubilee Hall. It has been customary in recent years for a grant to be made and it is understood the Jubilee Committee is hoping to undertake remedial work to the brickwork of the well-used hall in addition to some external decoration.

Parish chairman Coun. Greg Redford says the Council is happy to support the hall which acts as an important amenity for residents and community groups within the village.

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