



# Whatton Village News

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## WHITE VILLA PLANNING REFUSED

**Following substantive objections by the Parish Council** and local residents, Rushcliffe Borough Council have refused the planning application for the White Villa, Dark Lane.

In refusing the application, the Borough Council considered the proposed development to be *'over-intensive and out-of-scale and character with the area, detrimental to the visual amenity at this prominent edge of village rural location, by reason of the height, scale and design of the proposed dwellings, the number of dwellings and their layout'*.

The planning department also felt that *'The development would be over-intensive, detrimental to the amenity of surrounding properties by reason of overbearing impact and overlooking and would provide an insufficient level of amenity for the occupants of the proposed development by reason of overbearing impact (with particular reference to plots 8 and 9) and insufficient garden space'*.

The refusal notice also expressed concern as to the number of accesses from Dark Lane.

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## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTEND PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**There has been a marked increase in the number of members** of the public attending Parish Council meetings since the introduction of the Open Session in May 2007.

The Parish Council is keen to involve local residents in its work. Any item of village concern can be raised at this point and members of the council will be happy to comment or to arrange for an item dealing with the particular matter to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

## **PROPOSAL FOR ‘ECO’ TOWN AT NEWTON**

**Following the decision by the Department of Communities and Local Government to exclude Kingston-on-Soar from the list of potential ‘Eco-Towns’, on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 the Crown Estate, Defence Estates and Newton Nottingham LLP announced plans to explore the potential for an ‘eco-town’ on the former RAF base at Newton.**

The proposal is thought to involve 6,000 or more dwellings with shops, associated services, offices and businesses. The eco-town is likely to straddle the A46 and will extend beyond the airfield and effectively ‘fill the gap’ between Bingham, Ratcliffe and East Bridgford.

Following a meeting with Ministers, Rushcliffe Borough Council Leader Neale Clarke said “Following this opportunity to meet the ministers and obtain this relevant information, I have concluded that the proposed eco-town sites in Rushcliffe, including the RAF Newton site, are unsuitable.”

An action group ‘No2Newton’ has been formed and details of the Group are available at their website:

<http://www.no2newton.co.uk>

Details of the proposal are available at the Crown Estates and partners web site

<http://www.newtonecotown.com>

At the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2008, Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council resolved to object to the proposed development.

## **CONCERN OVER PROPOSED TRAIN TIMETABLE**

**A number of Whatton residents have expressed concern** over the proposed East Midlands Trains timetable.

The timetable which will come into force in December 2008, envisages a reduction of nearly 50% of trains stopping at Aslockton Station.

Whatton resident, Matthew Flint conducted an ‘ad hoc’ one-day survey and collected 105 signatures in favour of retaining the existing timetable. The signatories indicated that collectively they made 537 journeys per month from Aslockton station.

Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council resolved to urge East Midlands Trains and the Department of Transport to retain the existing timetable.

Aslockton and Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Councils have called a joint Public Meeting which will be attended by Chris Watson of the Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire Rail Partnership.

The meeting will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7:30 pm

St Thomas

Main Street

Aslockton

**PLEASE ATTEND THE MEETING TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN.**

## **PLAYING FIELD UPDATE**

**The section of fence on the Dark Lane boundary** which was damaged by vandalism has now been replaced and the fence on the eastern boundary has also been repaired. Two windows in the pavilion, which were also damaged by vandalism have also been replaced. The total cost amounted to approximately £700 which was met from Playing Field Committee funds.

Ray Dawson has transformed the external aspect of the pavilion over the last four weeks. The whole of the exterior has been repaired and repainted. The Playing Field Committee is now looking for volunteers to paint the interior.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fun Day took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and despite uncertain weather, attendance at the event was broadly in line with last year. The event raised £433.65, which was slightly above last year's figure of £424.30.

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## **GREENACRES LAND PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED**

**The planning application by Jolly Greenability Limited** for the land west of Greenacres, Grantham Road has been refused by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

The Parish Council and local residents had objected to the application which involved the building of a barn and poly-tunnels.

# FOOTPATH NEWS

**We understand that Nottinghamshire County Council have** issued an order for the removal of the stile and ‘other structures’ at the start of the Whatton to Orston Right of Way (Blackberry Hill - Whatton FP 1). Since the order was issued a fence and gate has been erected at the junction of Main Street and the footpath, Nottinghamshire County Council’s response is awaited.

In a further development on the footpath, a locked gate has been installed blocking access to the concrete bridge across the Smite. Right of Way users now have to use the footpath bridge. While the footpath is robust it is very narrow, only has one handrail and is very slippery in damp and wet weather. We believe that Nottinghamshire County Council is to replace the foot bridge with a wider version with two handrails and a grooved surface.

The Parish Council has again brought the attention of Nottinghamshire County Council to the condition of the Whatton portion of the Whatton to Aslockton right of way (Whatton FP15). The condition of the surface particularly at the end of Church Walk is in an appalling condition and is virtually impassable in wet weather.

## **PICK IT UP – PLEASE**

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**There has been an increase in dog-fouling over recent months.** Pavements, verges and public rights-of-way have all been affected. The vast majority of dog owners in the parish are responsible owners and do clear up after their dogs. There are, however, a minority who do not TAKE their duty to clear up seriously. Dog bins are located by Whatton Bridge, Church Walk, Conery Lane and at the edge of the Ivy Row Green – PLEASE US THEM.

HELP KEEP OUR PARISH CLEAN AND FREE FROM DOG ‘MESS’.

## MYSTERY SOLVED

When a new Chairman of Whatton-in-the-Vale Parish Council is elected, he/she is presented with a staff (truncheon), a set of handcuffs and a hand-drawn map of the village. The presentation is made by the out-going Chairman.

No-one seemed to know when or why the tradition started. A review of the minute book revealed the answer.

Captain Montagu Haffenden Hall (of Whatton Manor) presented the staff and the handcuffs for the use of the Parish Constable in February 1903. The practice of nominating a Parish Constable ceased in September 1907 and the staff, handcuffs and a copy of the 'Parish Award' were given over to the safe-keeping of the Chairman of the Parish Meeting.

When the population exceeded 300 in 1934 the parish council was formed and the responsibility for the 'safe-keeping' passed to the Chairman of the Parish Council. In the 1950s the Parish Award was lodged with the Shire Hall and the map of the village in 1919 was included in its stead.



# **BITS**

# **& BOBS**

Efforts by the Parish Council to get an extended speed limit on Old Grantham Road on the approach to the village from the Bingham side have so far been unsuccessful. Notts County Council says a lack of accidents on the route in question shows there is not a need and therefore they could not support it.

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The Parish Council has confirmed it would not condone any move by Rushcliffe Borough Council to have a glass recycling bin placed on the car park at the village hall.

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Rushcliffe Borough Council has given planning permission for the construction of a 2.4m high fence at H M Prison at Whatton.

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The possibility of the Parish Council seeking Quality Status is being investigated and will be discussed by members at a future meeting. There are currently 10 such councils in Nottinghamshire, with Bingham Town Council and Radcliffe on Trent Parish Councils being the nearest.

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A grant of £75 has been agreed by the Parish Council to Vitalise, the organisation that controls the running of the holiday home at Holme Pierrepont for severely handicapped people. The holidays they offer allows the normal carer to have a break and provides a one-to-one caring service for the visitor who stays either one or two weeks.

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## **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman

Greg Redford  
01949 851597  
17 Burton Lane

Carol Key

01949 850087  
41 Cottage Avenue

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Vice-Chair

Barbara Harris  
01949 850493  
Sarum House, Sunbeam Street

Malcolm Seagrave

01949 851067  
5 Riverside

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Ray Dawson  
01949 850493  
19 Conery Gardens

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### **WHATTON-IN-THE-VALE**

#### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Mike Elliott  
19/21 Main Street

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