



Whatton Village News

December 2008

Volume 2

Issue 4

PARISH COUNCIL TO LAUNCH WEB SITE

As part of our commitment to improving communications with residents the Parish Council has resolved to launch its own website.

The website will complement *Whatton Village News* and will provide up-to-date access to issues affecting the parish.

The site is expected to be on-line by the end of December.

COFFEE MORNING

The festive season gets under way at the Jubilee Hall on 5th December when the Friday Coffee Morning gets a distinctly Christmassy feel. In addition to the usual coffee and daily papers there will be stalls selling Christmas cakes, mince pies and other Christmas goodies as well as a Festive Raffle.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

By the time this edition reaches your letterbox, Christmas will be looming high on the horizon.

Members of the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to 'pass on' our best wishes for the festive season.

FAMILY DISCO

On Saturday 6th December at 6pm DJ Nigel returns for the annual Family Disco. This is always lots of fun for the young, and the not so young. Parents can enjoy a drink while Nigel keeps the kids happy and entertained. It has been known for mums, dads and even grannies to join in the dancing later in the evening! The cost is just £3 for adults and £2 for children. Under 2s are free. For tickets phone Ken on 01949 851594

NEWTON ‘ECO-TOWN’ ON SHORTLIST

The proposed ‘Eco-Town’ at the former RAF station at Newton has been included on the shortlist of twelve potential sites by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The inclusion of Newton on the shortlist was announced by Margaret Beckett (Minister for Housing) on the 4th November 2008 in a speech to the Home Builders Federation.

Newton was graded as ‘B’ – *“locations that might be suitable subject to meeting specific planning and design objectives.”*

Margaret Beckett went on to say that, *“the Newton/Bingham scheme has been included for consultation and assessment.”*

The Parish Council remains opposed to the proposal.

POLICING PRIORITIES

The Local Area Group discussed the results of the police survey at the meeting on the 14th November 2008.

In the survey residents had identified low-level crime (anti-social behaviour and vandalism) as being the highest priority, followed by speeding in various parts of the two parishes.

However, PC John Neale informed the meeting that while evidence was available in respect to the speeding issues, there had been no increase in reports of vandalism or anti-social behaviour. It was felt therefore that resources should be prioritised on the speeding issues where there was clear evidence.

It is important that ALL incidents are reported to the police to establish clear evidence of the level of criminal behaviour in the two parishes.

WHITE VILLA PLANNING APPEAL

Residents who attended the last Parish Council meeting made clear their opposition to the proposed development on the White Villa site.

The meeting was told that RH Development (Property) Limited had appealed against Rushcliffe Borough Council's decision to REFUSE planning permission.

The appeal is in the form of a 'Written Representation' and the Parish Council resolved to expand on its previously submitted objections.

Final comments were required by the Planning Inspectorate on the 14th November 2008.

The decision of the planning inspector is awaited.

PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

A small group has been formed to oversee the acquisition and siting of play equipment for under 6's on the playing field. At the group's first meeting it was agreed that the money already available should be used to provide a suitable surface and to purchase equipment up to the value of available funds as soon as is practicable. Site meetings with several suppliers will be organised soon and we hope to have some equipment on the field by next spring.

It was also agreed that the group will continue to work together in order to add more equipment when funds permit. We will therefore be looking at the possibility of obtaining grant funding and also considering fund raising events.

The proposed equipment will be discussed at the Playing Field Committee meeting on the 26th November 2008.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETS HIGHWAYS

Following the Parish Council meeting of the 23rd September 2008, representatives of the Parish Council met with the Technical Services Manager of the Local Highways Authority. The purpose of the meeting was to resolve a number of issues:

1. surface water drainage problems throughout the parish
2. the re-surfacing of Conery Lane and Conery Gardens
3. access to Ivy Row from Conery Lane
4. the reinstatement of the verges by Whatton bridge and at the junction of Dark Lane and Grantham Road
5. the clearing of the undergrowth and the replacement or upgrading of the bollards on the 'Old Road' side of the bridge.

As a direct result of that meeting all the surface water drainage 'gullies' were cleared and unblocked, the verges at Whatton bridge have been reinstated and the undergrowth surrounding the bollards at Whatton bridge have been cut back.

Confirmation as to the course of action on the other outstanding issues is still awaited.

CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 14th December at 3pm is the date set for the Cranmer Singers Carol Concert. This has been an annual event at the Jubilee Hall for some years now and for the past few years a group of local children have joined with the choir to perform Christmas music and carols. Audience participation in the carols is always much enjoyed and tea and mince pies are served in the interval. This is a very popular event so book early to make sure you get a ticket. They are available from Gordon, 01949 850630 or Jean, 01949 850096, £4 for adults and £2 for under 12s.

FOOTPATH NEWS

The bridge over the River Whipling on Whatton FP1 (Blackberry Hill) has now been replaced. However, access to the new bridge is considered substantially below standard. Enquiries are being made of Nottinghamshire County Council as to their intentions for improving the access to the new bridge.

The condition of Whatton FP13 (Dark Lane to the River Smite), due to a 'water-trough' constantly overflowing and flooding the footpath has been reported to Nottinghamshire County Council. We are still awaiting a response.

The condition of the Whatton to Aslockton footpath (Whatton FP15), particularly the end portion of Church Walk remains a concern. The condition is being adversely affected by vehicles using Church Walk to access adjacent fields. The Parish Council is currently investigating their powers in respect of Church Walk.

CRANMER YOUTH CLUB NEWS

The members of the Cranmer Youth Club are in for a treat in December as the Mad Science team arrive at the Jubilee Hall with their unique stage show.

The specialist Mad Scientists promise an hour-long show which will be captivating, highly interactive, entertaining and educational. The theme of the event is confidential but what we can reveal is that several lucky volunteers (or guinea pigs) will be invited on stage to participate in the demonstrations.

The Cranmer Youth Club has been able to arrange this unique event with the help of kind donations from both Whatton in the Vale & Aslockton Parish Councils to whom we are very grateful. Other events in the pipeline for the Youth Club include ice skating in the Old Market Square in Nottingham and the infamous Christmas party.

Our membership is currently full but if you are or have a child between the ages of 10-13 and would like to go on the waiting list, or if you are interested in helping set up a club for the 14+ age group, please contact Adam on 851831 or Gavin on 851757

PLANNING CHANGES

As from the 1st October 2008, new planning rules were introduced in respect of the types of development a householder can carry out without planning permission ('Permitted Development').

The changes are intended to make it easier to improve a dwelling by relaxing planning controls on smaller extensions. It also introduces new controls over hard surfaces such as driveways, aimed at reducing water run-off which contributes to flooding.

The relaxation does not necessarily apply to listed buildings or conservation areas.

To check if planning permission is required, householders are advised to contact:

Borough Development Service,
Civic Centre,
Pavilion Road,
West Bridgford,
Nottingham NG2 5FE

JUBILEE HALL – TREASURER REQUIRED

An appeal has been made by the Jubilee Hall Committee because they urgently need a treasurer to take over from Ken Warman in January 2009. Ken has been an outstanding treasurer since the committee was reformed in 2003. In addition to his treasurer's duties he has been at the forefront of successful efforts to rejuvenate the fortunes of the hall, planning and carrying out refurbishment projects and organising social events, so his friendly and cheerful manner is well known to users of the hall. However he has decided to stand down as treasurer as from the end of December this year and he will be much missed. Chairman Stuart Middleton, 01949 850558, would be pleased to hear from anyone who may be interested in taking on the role of treasurer for the Jubilee Hall Management Committee.

BITS & BOBS

Members of the Parish Council are to discuss whether or not a Parish Plan should be produced for the village. If a project went ahead for such a scheme a village committee would need to be formed as parish councils are advised that while they need to be involved they should not take the lead role.

Mr Miles King of the Trent Valley Housing Partnership, working in conjunction with Rushcliffe Borough Council, is to be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council to outline to members the possibility of a scheme to provide shared housing in the village.

The question of the state of Ivy Row in the village has again been raised with members. The council has confirmed that this is not an adopted highway and as such any improvements to it have to be paid for by the residents living alongside it. The Parish Council is looking to have attention given to the trees along there.

Members of the Parish Council are looking at the possibility of seeking Quality Council status. There are 13 such councils in Nottinghamshire at present, the nearest being Bingham and Radcliffe on Trent. The government is planning to make additional funding available to those councils who hold the QC status. To gain that status the council has to meet special criteria and currently chairman Coun. Gregg Redford is preparing a report for members to discuss.

The Parish Council joined forces with neighbours Aslockton Parish Council to organise a door-to-door survey that seeks comments on future rail services from Aslockton station. Letters were posted to every home in the village and Rushcliffe Borough Council assisted by allowing their pre-paid post system to be used for replies to be returned to them, giving residents the opportunity to post their comments back without having to meet the cost of postage.

MORE BITS & BOBS

Vitalise, the organisation that controls the running of the holiday home for the severely disabled at Holme Pierrepont has thanked the Parish Council for a grant of £75 it made towards its running costs. The home is always looking for volunteers to help it provide a one-to-one service to those people who go there for a short spell to give their own carers a much needed break.

The Parish Council is attempting to retain the red telephone kiosk near the village hall as a structure of importance. It will not contain a telephone as BT has decided because of lack of use it will be removed.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairman

Greg Redford
01949 851597
17 Burton Lane

Carol Key
01949 850087
41 Cottage Avenue

Vice-Chair

Barbara Harris
01949 850117
Sarum House, Sunbeam Street

Malcolm Seagrave
01949 851067
5 Riverside

Ray Dawson
01949 850493
19 Conery Gardens

WHATTON-IN-THE-VALE
PARISH COUNCIL

Ernest Parsons
01949 851261
34 Conery Gardens

Clerk: Mike Elliott
19/21 Main Street
Keyworth, Nottinghamshire

Vikki Harper
01949 851723
The Old School, School Lane

NG12 5AA
Telephone
0115 937 6506

elliottnews@btconnect.com