

# WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



*October 2010*

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Newsletter. Things have been relatively quiet over recent months although we do have some exciting projects on the go. Firstly the long-awaited improvements to the Village Hall are progressing. Plans have been drawn up and will soon be submitted to the planning authority. The Council has pledged its support to the Village Hall Management Committee in its efforts to improve recreational and sporting facilities at the Village Hall to benefit the community and ensure the sustainability of the facilities for the future. We have also been working with the District Council on new Licensing arrangements for the Village Hall lettings and use of the recreation ground.

## *Best Kept Garden Competition*

Unfortunately, due to problems with the weather this year, it was decided to cancel the competition this summer. However, we are pleased to announce that as suggested at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, we are going to alternate the time of judging the gardens in the future. For next year, we are making arrangements for judging to take place in April. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

## *Recycling facilities for batteries and printer toner cartridges*

Please take your old batteries and used printer toner cartridges along to East Cambs District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely.

## *Council Tax Scam*

**Beware** - bogus callers offering rebates, often seeking a one off payment up-front to then get rebate. Anglian Revenue Partnership who handles tax collection for ECDC has confirmed it does not contact customers in this way. If you are suspicious, please report your concerns to the Police on 01842 756567.

## *Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch*

Please be aware, especially now evenings are drawing in, to be observant and take extra care in securing your property. Also please do let us know if any of the street lights are not working properly. Contact the Clerk with the number of the lamp and location.

## *2009/10 Year End Accounts*

The Accounts were approved by the Auditors.

## *Sutton, Mepal and Witcham Youth Facilities*

The group has had a very successful year with lots of activities and increasing membership. Funds and grants are being raised to resource a range of activities planned for the coming months, including media projects and website development. Meets Monday evenings, Village Hall.

## *Recreation Ground/Play Area*

Some of the safety tiles in the play area are lifting. We are currently seeking advice and quotes from Wicksteed to resolve these problems.

## *Droves*

*Reminder* – once again some of the byways, the droves, will be closed to vehicles from 1 October to 31 March, except to registered keyholders. The aim is to protect the droves from damage over the winter months to the detriment of walkers and horseriders. We are hoping to make improvements to the surface at Bury Road although at present this being one of the droves not gated during the winter months is proving to be a resource for misuse by some.

## *Speedwatch*

We are still looking for volunteers to carry out checks from time to time. Please contact the Clerk if you could spare some time for a little bit of training and occasional speed checks through the village.

## *Dogs*

Owners are reminded that dogs are not permitted to be on the recreation ground. Also please would dog owners ensure they use the dog bins provided for disposal of dog waste (located by the bus shelter, at the end of High Street/Headleys Lane, and by the concrete road on The Slade). Please do not use the normal street litter bins.

## *Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Development Plan*

Independent Examination of Plan by Inspector, appointed by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Hearing sessions begin 30 November at Shire Hall Cambridge. Contact Programme Officer, G Alexander 07789 942854

## *Red Telephone Kiosk*

We have now completed the adoption of the kiosk.

*Mobile Library Service*

Our library service across the county, like all local authority services, is facing a very difficult future economically due to the national recession. It is faced with making significant budget savings over the next 3 financial years. In libraries this means a saving of more than £2m, more than a quarter of their budget.

Accordingly the mobile service has to cut costs by £108,000 in each of the next two financial years so there have been some changes and perhaps more importantly it does need our support in the community to make sure the facilities do get as much use as possible. Use it or lose it!

The library service visits us:

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month**  
**Village Centre**  
**2.15pm to 2.35pm**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings are held in the Village Hall

- 9 November 2010
- 7 December 2010
- 11 January 2011

**Any items for the agenda** should be placed with the Clerk at least **1 week prior to the scheduled meeting**. Agendas and approved Minutes are now posted on the website each month. Copies also on the noticeboards at the crossroads.

There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision is made for public participation/question time to commence 15 minutes prior to the commencement of Council business as stated above. Please see the noticeboard to view agendas and minutes, and any changes to proposed meeting dates.

Additional meetings may be called to consider planning applications as required by the planning authority.

**RECYCLING COLLECTIONS**

Please put your refuse and recycling items out by 7.00am on day of collection. (please be aware the earliest is the evening before, otherwise you are deemed to be committing an offence!)

Additional bags available – phone VEOLIA 01353 863864  
 (Max 4 brown garden bags will be replenished per household, may use cardboard box for grass cuttings)

**FAULTY STREET LIGHTS**

If you notice a faulty street light please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or any member of the Council quoting street light number and name of street.

**STREET CLEANING**

*(early Friday mornings)*

Unfortunately Cleanaway is unable to give us a definitive list of dates because they say they have to re-schedule according to needs. However, it should continue basically on a 4 weekly cycle.

It really does help if as many vehicles as possible can be removed from the highway on the morning the road sweeper is expected.

NAME	CONTACT
CHAIRMAN	
Ashley Bamforth	01353 777453
VICE-CHAIRMAN	
David Saberton	01353 778309
COUNCILLORS	
Chris Watson	01353 776394
Allistair Berry	01353 778081
Karl Mackender	01353 777640
Julia Bibby	01353 777267
COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
Philip Read Cambridgeshire County Council	01353 778603
Anna Bailey East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 663253
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