

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



Aug 2007

Dear Parishioner

It has been a busy few months for us. As you will know the elections for Parish, District and County Councillors took place in May. The new members are listed over the page, together with contact details for your information. We look forward to working with our new Councillors Anna Bailey and Tony Goodge at the District Council, and Philip Read at County.

Our new Parish Councillors, elected in August, are
Jacqueline Anderson
Allistair Berry
Karl Mackender

We thank all those Councillors who retired at the May election for all their work and support: Our Parish Councillors - Don Saberton who has served the village for several decades now, and Paul Chambers and Mark Wilkins. Our District Councillors Alan White and Brenda Daters. Alan had served on the District Council since its inception in 1974 and has supported us on many issues. We thank Philip Bailey as our County Councillor who was called away to sunnier climates.

Excellent news for us! We have achieved Quality Parish Council status, which we have been working towards for the last couple of years. The Certificate was presented by Mr Denis Payne of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils at the Annual Pea Shoot. Witcham is one of the smallest villages nationwide to have achieved status so we are very pleased.

The Parish Plan Working Group has completed the Parish Plan. You will recall this was presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. The consultation period has finished and the final action list, which will form the basis of the new Parish Council's agenda over the next few years, has been prepared. A copy of these documents will be available on our website - www.witcham.org.uk

If you would like a printed copy of the **Parish Plan**, **place your order** with the **Clerk by 1 October - 01353 778147**

Grasscutting has been a problem and we have not been able to keep the cemetery and areas around the village looking as nice as we would have wished; this has been in part due to the very wet season which hampered the Groundsman from cutting in the evenings earlier on in the season.

Ashley Bamforth
Chairman

Best Kept Garden Competition Results 2007

Best Vegetable: Mr & Mrs Stan Saberton
Best Flower: Mr & Mrs Alan Blahy
Best Overall: Mr & Mrs Richard Webster

Commendations:

Mr & Mrs Stan Phillips - good use of small space/very well cared for

Mr & Mrs N Jones - good to see a garden that accommodates children but still has interesting planting and a nice feel

Mr & Mrs Alder - lovely design and well cared for

Mr & Mrs C George - large garden to maintain but well designed, having good flowers in top garden, a vegetable plot, meadow, large pond and screening trees/shrubs

We are grateful to Steve and Mary Bramble who carried out the judging and thanks also to Ann Plumb who very kindly accompanied them around the village. The shields and salvers were presented at the Pea Shoot on Saturday 14 July.

2006/7 Annual Accounts

The unaudited annual accounts were presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April together with the Council's Annual Report, which has subsequently been circulated to each house. A notice of completion of audit will be posted on the village noticeboard on completion of external audit.

Street Light Park Lane/Headleys Lane

A new street light is to be purchased to replace the broken lamp on the corner of Park Lane/Headleys Lane.

Cycleway and Speed Reduction Measures

The Council submitted another application under the 2008 bidding scheme to complete the cycleway from Witcham Toll to Wentworth thereby completing the Sutton the Ely link, and also for speed reduction measures through the village.

Public Rights of Way

The County Council will be cutting back the vegetation on the footpath between High Street and Back Lane during mid-September.

The County Council have said work on the surface vegetation at Bury Road is also planned within the next few weeks in order to manage the grass area and prevent scrub encroachment following the extensive clearance exercise in the spring.

Development of Recreation Ground and Village Hall Facilities

Completion of providing new car parking at the Village Hall and freeing up space for the much hoped for enhancement of the Village Hall is underway.

Elean Business Park

The police have promised to deal with car and motorbike racing at the Elean Business park, which is causing a noise nuisance for residents

Mobile Library Service

Currently visits 12:30 – 12:45 on alternate Fridays. However, from **January 2008**, proposals to amend times to **14:15 - 14:30 hours**.

Street Lights

Faulty lights – report to Clerk, together with the reference number which is painted on each lamp.

Community Policing/Neighbourhood Watch

Please be aware, especially now evenings are drawing in, to be observant and take extra care in securing your property. We have received reports of nearby burglaries and attempted vehicle thefts in recent weeks. **To report a crime phone 0845 4564564.**

Our Police Community Support Officer is Julie Collins. Monthly Police surgeries at the crossroads have been suspended as apparently no one was attending!! See noticeboard for future arrangements.

Mereham Development

Public Inquiry scheduled for 9 October at Arkenstall, Haddenham on this application for development south of A1123, east of Twenty Pence Road and north Great Ouse, between Stretham and Wilburton, A10 between A14 Milton junction and River Great Ouse, in parishes of Milton, Landbeach and Waterbeach, and Jane Coston Bridge over Cowley Road, Cambridge. We hope to be able to get a slot to voice our concerns – let us have your views now.

When the drivers of the street cleaner, recycling and refuse vehicles come into the village, it is really very helpful to them, and much appreciated, if residents have been able to ensure that vehicles are clear of the highway whenever possible.

STREET CLEANING (early Friday mornings)
Unfortunately Cleanaway is unable to give a definitive list of dates as they sometimes have to re-schedule according to needs but should continue to be on a four weekly basis.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Village Hall, normally on the 2nd Tuesday in the month

11 September 2007

16 October 2007 (3rd Tuesday)

13 November 2007

4 December 2007 (1st Tuesday)

Any items for the agenda should be placed with the Clerk at least **1 week prior to the scheduled meeting.**

There is an opportunity for the electorate to attend these meetings and provision for public participation/question time commencing at **7.30 pm**. Council business commences at 7.45 pm. 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.

NAME	CONTACT (evenings preferred)
CHAIRMAN Ashley Bamforth	01353 777453
VICE-CHAIRMAN David Saberton	01353 777423
CLERK Susan Bell	01353 778147
COUNCILLORS	
Chris Watson	01353 776394
Jacqueline Anderson	01353 778298
Allistair Berry	01353 778081
Karl Mackender	01353 777640
COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
Philip Read Cambridgeshire County Council	01353 778603
Anna Bailey East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 663253
Tony Goodge East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 664491