

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*

March 2007



LOCAL ELECTIONS

District and Parish Council Elections – 3 May '07.

Nomination papers to be received by Returning Officer (ECDC) by **4 April**. Please contact Parish Clerk for details.

The current Parish Councillors end their term of office in May this year.

Would you like to be more closely involved in parish matters and able to spare a couple of hours a week?

As a Parish Councillor you would –

attend a monthly meeting of the Full Council where Councillors decide on strategies, what activities to support and on what to spend money locally;

participate in monitoring and ensuring effective provision of services from local authorities;

as a **local representative** of the community work with local authorities and local organisations, and have responsibilities towards local people and organisations.

To **qualify** you need to be

- a) British or EU national citizen
- b) 18 years old
- c) free of either a criminal record or bankruptcy
- d) on the list of electors for Witcham or during the whole of previous 12 months have either
 - i) occupied land as owner or tenant within parish
 - ii) had a principle place of work here
 - iii) lived within 3 miles of parish boundary

Over the past few years our activities have included completion of the refurbishment of the play facilities and the path over the recreation ground to link the Village Hall with High Street and supported the Village Hall on improvements to facilities; in partnership with the County Council worked on schemes to enhance public rights of way system including protection of the droves, measures to reduce speed at Witcham Toll and through the village, extended street lighting at Martins Lane and The Slade, and have now pledged support to the youth services for provision of facilities for our youngsters; regular contact with the District Council on planning and development issues, flytipping, street cleaning, etc. We are aiming for Quality Parish Council status and our grateful thanks go to John and June Wells for getting us into the 21st Century with the setting up and maintaining of the website which is an invaluable source of information and contact points.

The Parish Plan is almost complete and this, as a representation of what local people want for Witcham,

will form the basis of our agenda over the coming years – there will be lots to do! A big thank you in appreciation of all the hard work and time given in developing this project goes to the Parish Plan Working Party together with Darren and Catherine for leading.

Village Maintenance

A new Groundsman has been appointed and will commence duties and grasscutting as soon as weather permits.

Public Rights of Way

The County Council has installed kissing gates on path (F1) between The Slade and bottom of Headleys Lane; will continue cutting the path between High Street and Back Lane; and has instigated locking off some of the droves during the winter months except to landowners etc. We have applied under the P3 to carry out some work under grant scheme, eg cutting back overgrown areas on F1.

Development of Recreation Ground and Village Hall Facilities

The Council is considering options to facilitate improvements for users of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground, eg changing rooms and arrangements for car-parking.

Street Lights

Faulty lights – report to Clerk (01353 778147) together with the reference number which is painted on each lamp.

P4 at Headleys Way/Market Way is obsolete and needs replacing.

Dog Fouling

Poop bags available – contact Clerk (01353 778147)

Police

Surgeries take place in the vicinity of the recreation ground on a regular basis. Please see the noticeboard at the crossroads or visit www.witcham.org.uk for details.

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 24 April 2007, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

An opportunity for parishioners to hear about what the Council (and village clubs/organisations) have been doing over the past year, and to put their questions

and requests forward for consideration by the Parish Council.

Did you know the average household receives approximately 3.5k of unwanted junk mail every month. That's about 10,500 tonnes of waste every year in Cambridgeshire but it is free to stop it - Stop junk mail and phone calls

To stop unaddressed leaflets delivered by Royal Mail:
 Freepost RRBT-ZBXB-TTTS
 Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Out
 Kingsmead House
 Oxpens Road
 Oxford
 OX1 1RX Email optout@royalmail.co.uk

MOBILE LIBRARY at Crossroads - 12.30 - 12.45pm:

30 March	13 & 27 April
11 & 25 May	8 & 22 June

STREET CLEANING (early Friday mornings)
 Unfortunately Cleanaway is unable to give a definitive list of dates as they are sometimes having to re-schedule

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS (Fridays)

30 March 2007	14 April 2007 (Saturday)
27 April 2007	12 May 2007 (Saturday)
25 May 2007	8 & 22 June 2007

Please put your refuse and recycling items out by 7.00 am on day of collection, or at earliest the evening before, otherwise you are committing an offence.

Unsolicited addressed mail:
 Addressed Direct Marketing Mail
 Mail Preference Service
 Freepost 22
 LONDON
 W1E 7EZ www.mpsonline.org.uk

Unaddressed unsolicited marketing mail:
 Door to Door Council Manager
 Direct Marketing Association (UK) Ltd
 DMA House
 70 Margaret Street
 LONDON
 W1W 8SS www.dma.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

13 March 2007	17 April 2007
24 April 2007 APM	8 May 2007 AGM

Any items for the agenda should be placed with the Clerk at least one 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 7.15 pm. Council business commences at 7.30 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 Paul Chambers	01353 778225
CLERK Susan Bell	01353 778147
COUNCILLORS	
David Saberton	01353 777423
Mark Wilkin	01353 776143
Don Saberton	01353 777093
Chris Watson	01353 776394
COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS	
Phillip Bailey Cambridgeshire County Council	2 Townsend, Little Downham, Ely, Cambs
Brenda Daters East Cambridgeshire District Council	Barton Heights, 78a Barton Road, Ely Cambs 01353 662809
Alan White East Cambridgeshire District Council	76 Ely Road, Little Downham, Ely, Cambs 01353 699295

