

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



January 2009

Message from Chairman

I hope you had a good Christmas and look forward to 2009. Who knows how the year will unfold, I guess it will be a difficult year for some, others will not be so badly affected. Above all we should remain positive about our future, Witcham is still a great place to be, offering many more plus points than minus. For me the major plus has always been that we show a shared responsibility for each other, for instance, we keep the place tidy by not dropping litter or picking it up if some thoughtless individual forgets. Most people know that if help is needed then friends, family or neighbours will be ready and willing to help. We all watch out for each other and ensure that our property is secure. We are a good community and in general we all work to support each other and I promise that the Parish Council will continue to do what it can to support the community spirit.

2008 brought changes to the village and the Parish Council; Jackie and Jim Anderson left the White Horse and Jackie resigned from the Parish Council as they moved away. I felt there was a real danger that the village would lose its last pub (at one time there were at least five) but we have been lucky and the White Horse survives. The vacancy on the Parish Council was filled by the co-option of Julia Bibby (known to everyone as Julie). Julie has lots of experience of the Parish Council because she was the Parish Clerk for a number of years. She has always been involved with the local farming community and her contacts and experience will be invaluable.

The new landlady at the White Horse is Tracey and we wish her every success in her new venture. The Parish Council recognises that the pub is a vital part of village life and hopes that under her guidance the White Horse will thrive. Following a good Christmas and New Year it looks as though they have made an encouraging start and we hope that the community will give them good support in 2009.

Part of the work of the Council for 2009 will be to

- Work with the Village Hall Committee to develop new facilities at the village hall
- Install new (safer) goal posts on the green
- Work with the County Council to maintain and improve access for pedestrians to the footpaths and droves around the village.

With all good wishes for 2009

Ashley Bamforth
Chairman

Dog Bin

This is being used so much Veolia are struggling to keep it emptied!

We are monitoring this and expect improvements soon.....

Precept 2009/10

The Council has reviewed its budgets and in setting the Precept for next year has decided that in the current economic climate it would hold the Precept at £10,000.

Bus Service

The County Council is reviewing services including the 106 which serves Witcham. The Council is asking that the services be left to include stops in Ely to serve Ely City College and Tesco (for shopping and rail travellers)

Joint Funded Minor Highway Improvements

Our bids for speed reduction through the village and completion of cycleway to Ely between Witcham Toll and Wentworth have again been rejected. In fact the cycleway we are now told is far too expensive to be considered under this scheme which after all these years is very disappointing. However, we are looking at other options and support from neighbouring villages to progress this.

Football goals

Members of the Council are still looking for help to install sockets for rotating the new goal posts around the recreation ground.

If you can spare a couple of hours over the please contact the Chairman on 01353 777453.

Financial Assistance

A small team in Ely are available to visit people in their home to offer free confidential advice on all social security benefits and assist with claim forms, especially for those who are unable to get out of the house much. Telephone the Village Benefits Advice Service on 01353 666990 or write to them at PO Box 2257 Ely Cambs CB7 9EA

Ely Master Plan

Meetings and consultations have now re-started.

Forthcoming Elections

The District Council and European MP elections are scheduled for **4 June 2009**

Comments are invited on this report prepared by ECDC following requests for boundary changes and alternative development sites put forward by people during the consultation period on the Core Strategy Submission Document and proposals (May – July 2008). Also additional area omitted between A11 and London Road, North of Six Mile Bottom which was omitted in error from the Proposals Map. Representations to ECDC between 24 November 2008 and 12 January 2009, www.eastcambs.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

- 13 January 2009
- 10 February 2009
- 10 March 2009

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.

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)

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