

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



January 2008

Dear Parishioner

I would like, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you all a successful 2008. A new year brings hope that it will be better than the last but already it is clear that there are financial storm clouds developing for the British Economy. High finance is not a feature of life on the Parish Council but we will continue to provide the best service we can whilst saving for the future.

We will be working to implement the Village Development Plan and also represent the village in the wider confines of the District and County Council.

Recently we have attended meetings of a combined Sutton, Mepal, Haddenham and Earith group that is attempting to address the increase in heavy commercial vehicle traffic on our roads.

You will also be aware of the proposed plans at the Elean Business Park and we will ensure that the village is not forgotten in considering these proposals.

Enclosed with this letter is a leaflet from East Cambs District Council setting out the responsibilities of dog walkers and the actions to be taken if dogs are seen fouling the pavements.

Ashley Bamforth
Chairman

Public Rights of Way and the Drovers

The County Council has not closed off the droves over the winter period as expected, and the 4-wheel vehicles are spoiling the droves again this year. We do seek the support of villagers and would appreciate information regarding dates, times and registration plate details so we can report to the relevant authorities.

The Parish Council has asked John Cooper and Karen Whymark of the Countryside Access Team at Cambridgeshire County Council to provide gates as were promised.

The issue of stripping the drove to make wide grassland swathes at Bury Road is still being pursued. We are concerned that there has been several incidents of fly-tipping, for which the District Council has the responsibility of removing.

Please inform the District Council direct or contact any Parish Councillor if you have information about those leaving waste on our highway verges.

We have also been approached to ask *horseriders* to ensure they stick to byways and bridleways and not private fields (unless consent has been granted by the landowner, of course) both within our parish and the surrounding parishes please.

Community Policing

Julie Collins, PCSO, is holding surgeries in the village. (She posts details on the noticeboard). She will be out and about around the recreation ground/village crossroads or by her car. Do not hesitate to contact her if you have any issues you wish to raise with her.

On other occasions she does a foot patrol around parts of the village.

Thank you to those of you who completed and returned the Neighbourhood Issues card to her in December.

Street Lighting

The new lamp has been installed at the bottom of Headleys Lane and the power supply is to be re-connected by EDF within the next couple of weeks.

Precept 2008

The Council has increased the Precept by £1000 to £10,000. This enables us to set aside funds for projects identified in the Parish Plan and again support the Youth Club facility (£1000 per annum).

A new lease with EDF for the energy station on the Recreation Ground has been negotiated.

Mereham Development

The Public Inquiry finished at Haddenham earlier this month and a decision is now awaited. The Parish Council has continued to monitor and was represented at the Inquiry by our District Councillor, Anna Bailey.

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!!! 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 the street light number on the column and name of the street.

STREET CLEANING

(early Friday mornings)

Unfortunately the contractor 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.

MOBILE LIBRARY at Crossroads

14:15 – 14:30 hours

18 January 2009

1, 15, 29 February 2009

14, 28 March 2009

Please do support the service as much as you can.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

(alternate Fridays)

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!)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

12 February 2008

11 March 2008

8 April 2008

29 April 2008 - Annual Parish Meeting

13 May 2008 – Annual General Meeting of Council

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 Goode East Cambridgeshire District Council	01353 664491