

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*



March 2008

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 29 April 2008

7.30 pm

**Village Hall
Witcham**

**This is your chance to hear what the
Council and village groups have been
doing over the past year.**

**Your opportunity to question what is
happening here in Witcham and the
surrounding area as it affects your
village.**

A chance to meet fellow parishioners.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, provided.

Please come and support your village

Public Rights of Way and the Drovers

We have met with the County Council again and they have confirmed that they will be closing off the droves over the winter period in future. They have promised they are contacting local landowners who need access to the proposed gated droves but please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel this affects you and you have not been contacted direct by the County Council's Rights of Way Officers about this recently.

In the meantime we find we are having a problem with misuse and dumping of various materials on some droves, and we do still seek the support of villagers/users to let us have details so that we can report to the relevant authorities promptly.

Criminal Damage and Community Policing

We have received a number of reports from members of the village about criminal damage – the recreation ground when a vehicle was driven over it, graffiti at the bus shelter, and we have seen damage to residents' vehicles.

We urge you all to report any incidents, however minor or insignificant you feel they may be.

The number to call is 0845 456 4564.

Although the Parish Council does need to be made aware of incidents, the Police are the direct line of contact. Damage to both residential and Parish Council property is a criminal offence. The Police have the power to issue on the spot fines of £80 to over 18 year olds, or offenders may be arrested and taken into custody. Under 18 year olds may also be arrested and taken to the station to await an appropriate adult.

We, as a parish, are proud of our village and will not tolerate these unsociable and irresponsible acts carried out by a small minority. If anyone has any information on who is carrying out this mindless vandalism, please report to the Police on 0845 456 4564.

PCSO Collins carries out regular patrols in the village and holds Police Surgeries which are advertised on the noticeboard at the crossroads and also on e-cops – e-cops is a free service where PCSO Collins provides regular updates on activities in the Downham villages. To subscribe please log on to www.cambs.police.uk/signup/ecops The e-cops system allows for emails to be sent back directly to PCSO Collins. This information can be confidential.

Our grateful thanks go to our Parish Councillors who promptly undertook the cleaning up and re-painting of the bus shelter after the graffiti attack. Many thanks, Karl and Allistair.

Do you need help getting jobs done around the home?

The County Council has launched a Registered Trader Scheme available to anyone in the county aged over 60 or with a physical disability or learning difficulty. The scheme will put you in touch with a wide choice of traders in the county who can cope with most jobs in and around the home. They have all been Police checked and Trading Standards audited, and all agree to do "a fair day's work for a fair day's pay".

Tel: Age Concern Cambridgeshire 01354 696677/696650.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/regtrader

!!! 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.

MOBILE LIBRARY at Crossroads

14:15 – 14:30 hours

Alternate Fridays

Please do support the service as much as you can.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETINGS

The Glebe Hall (by St Andrews Church) Sutton
Monday 28 April 2008 at 7.00 pm.

Witcham Parish Council Representative - Allistair Berry
Issues covered: heavy commercial vehicles on local roads, policing, speed reduction, green laning, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour.

Members of the Public welcome

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

8 April 2008

29 April 2008 - Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm

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.

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.

RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

(alternate Fridays)

**NEW!! PLASTICS RECYCLING
KERBSIDE COLLECTION
from April 2008.**

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)

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