

WITCHAM PARISH COUNCIL *NEWSLETTER*

Oct/Nov 2007

Welcome to our 6th newsletter.

Street Lighting

A replacement for the old broken lamp at the bottom of Headleys Lane has been ordered and will be in place soon.

Public Rights of Way

We have again asked the County Council to cut back the vegetation on the footpath between High Street and Back Lane as originally promised for mid-September.

Cemetery gates

The gates have been removed for a few weeks while they are re-painted. Chris Watson has kindly offered to arrange the painting of the wood surround on the lychgate.

2006/7 Annual Accounts

Last year's accounts have been signed off by the Auditors; copy has been posted on the Council's noticeboard.

Car Parking in Ely- new restrictions and charges

Please remember that there will be changes to times allowed on the car parks in Ely and charges are to be introduced from early December. We have voiced our concerns but been told the charges are necessary to cover the 'pay-back' for the new car park at Angel Drive.

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Witcham Parish Plan

The Council has been reviewing the recommendations in the Action Plan and has agreed that over the coming year it will focus on the following areas for improvement:

Repair and re-paint the bus shelter

Install dog poop bag facility

Investigate installation of kissing gates by the field used by dog walkers (between The Slade and Park Lane/Headleys Lane)

Provision for these projects is to be included in the 2008/9 Precept, which the Council proposes to set at £10,000, an increase of £500. Some grant monies will be available for some of this work.



Other issues in the Plan, which the Council has already been working on and will continue to do:

Partnership working to provide youth activities through the Youth Service/ACRE – 30 sessions during 2008/9 for which Council has included £1000 in the budget

Continue to input requests for completing cycleway between Ely and Sutton on A142 and speed control measures into village

Support protection of public rights of way – selective closure of droves during winter months.

Keep under review and lobby for further junction improvements at Witcham Toll to improve safety

Other actions identified in the plan are:

Install carton and foil recycling banks in village and recycle income for parish work. (Plastics to be included in ECDC collections from April 2008)

Encourage setting up of a Witcham conservation group

Improve external appearance and changing facilities at Village Hall

Raise awareness of other groups/clubs, which meet at Village Hall

Introduce keep fit class at Village Hall

Shopping facility at Village Hall

Develop good neighbour scheme

Provide greater variety of plan equipment for older children (7-12)

Conduct more research to understand the crime issues in Witcham (actual, fear, perception etc)

Encourage more frequent bus services. Promote social transport schemes, eg. Dial a Ride and hospital service

Improve winter gritting services

Develop health and well-being strategy

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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 Cleanaway 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

12.30 - 12.45pm alternate Fridays.

Changing to 14:15 to 14:30 hours in January 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

13 November 2007

4 December 2007 (1st Tuesday)

8 January 2008

12 February 2008

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