



Wot's On in Witcham

February 2012

www.witcham.org.uk

Services in St Martin's

5 Feb 09:00 Open Door Service
12 Feb 09:00 Parish Eucharist
19 Feb 09:00 Morning Prayer
26 Feb 09:00 Parish Eucharist

Live Band Entertainment in Witcham Village Hall

8:00pm Friday 10 February

Tickets £10 per head

Bar, Raffle

The band is **Vision**, a highly entertaining six piece band accurately reproducing pop and rock hits from the 1960s to the current day. Fronted by two powerful vocalists and backed by four highly talented musicians, this dynamic outfit is an absolute must for top quality live entertainment.

For more information/tickets contact Lisa on 01353 777796; email: lisabone75@sky.com

All proceeds to Village Hall Refurbishment Fund

Mepal and Witcham CE Primary School

We are holding a fund raising **Bingo Night** at School on **Thursday 9th February**. The doors will open at 6pm and Eyes down will be at 6.30pm. Bingo Books are £1 each and we look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it!

Indoor Carpet Bowls Club

Club nights in February:

Wednesday 8th

New members always welcome, come along and try your hand.

Meetings start at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall

Witcham Wives

Thursday 2 February

Village Hall 8.00pm

A Talk on Hats

This is an open meeting—new members welcome, the standard £2:00 fee will apply to everyone this evening.

The Village Hall can be booked via Lisa Bone on 07880 778278

The Lady Chapel, Ely Cathedral

Major exhibition of 39 captivating and colourful panels of embroidery, a celebration of life, people and events across the centuries.

Runs from 31 January to 29 February 2012

10am to 4pm Monday to Saturday

Admission FREE

Veolia Environmental Services will be round on

Tuesday 7 and 21 February

for all recyclable household and garden waste, except plastics.

Call in for coffee



Tuesday 7th February

11am – 12 noon

Meet up with others in our community of Witcham. Call in for a free cup of coffee/tea in the informal setting of St Martin's Church.

All ages are welcome and anyone requiring a lift please contact June Wells 778945 or Martin Pate 778359.

We look forward to seeing you.

If you have any ideas for website content please e-mail: webmaster@witcham.org.uk or ring 01353 778945. Content for the Wot's On should be e-mailed to whatson@witcham.org.uk or junewitcham@gmail.com

West Area Neighbourhood Panel Update



Neighbourhood Panels are your opportunity to tell agencies working in your area what you would like to see improved and will ultimately make your locality a better place to live. The last West Area Neighbourhood Panel meeting was held on Monday 24th October 2011 and amongst other things, reported back on what we've been doing to address some of your issues of concern including:

Tackle speeding across panel area to include results of activity and provide support to the Speedwatch to encourage its continuation

Increased speeding enforcement throughout the Panel Period; Ely Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) carried out 12 speed enforcement operations within the Panel Period at varying locations
4 Endorsable Fixed Penalty Notices were issued as a result
Speeding remains an issue throughout the West Panel area, particularly on the main arterial roads. NPT officers can only conduct speed operations in 30 mph limits. Anything outside of this will have to be carried out by the Roads Policing Unit (Traffic). If Ely NPT are to have this as a Panel priority, these limitations should be known to the community with consideration given to requesting a specific location being proposed for maximum impact. Working within such a wide area is proving to be ineffective.

Some of the other issues that were addressed since the last Panel meeting were:

Issue: Straw and aggregate lorries on roads in breach of agreements and road safety issues

Straw lorries and gravel lorries travelling through villages – possibly some companies not signed up to agreement. Need to identify lorries and key problem areas and supply information to Cambridgeshire County Council.

Action: Information has been supplied from Wilburton Parish Council and a resident of Wilburton regarding several companies that use container lorries and HGVs identifying potential organisations responsible.

East Cambridgeshire District Council:

Response from Planning Enforcement Officer, ECDC:

“The District Council has no control over what routes HGV's take to transport straw to the Elean Power Station in Sutton.”

“Planning conditions require the operators to notify Energy Power Resources (EPR) of all hauliers of the preferred routes (avoiding local villages) and to maintain a log to ensure this is undertaken. There is also a condition to require that a monthly management check is undertaken to confirm the log is up to date. On 25th August 2011, I inspected the log and can confirm that it is up to date. On checking with Wilburton Parish Council I was unable to gather any specific information about individual incidents, but the Panel meeting minutes suggested that a company called Skegg was seen traveling through Wilburton High Street. I have been advised by EPR that there have been some local straw collections that could account for these movements. EPR plan to contact all hauliers to remind them to use the preferred routes. Should the hauliers decide however not to follow the preferred routes the Council cannot take any action.”

I would suggest that if there are specific incidents or concerns they are taken up with EPR at that time, which will mean that any anomalies can more easily be accounted for. EPR are keen to tackle any deviations from the preferred routes if they are routinely occurring.”

Some of the issues you have asked us to address next

Improve the state of rural roads, especially in Coveney, Lt. Downham and Pymoor
Take action on overgrown hedging along the A10 cycle path at Little Thetford
Provide information on environmental pollution in Stretham
Address parking issues down Cowslip Drive and Orchid Close, Little Thetford
To investigate fly tipping at Mepal and Sutton roundabout (Witcham Road)
Investigate drugs activity in Haddenham
Address parking issues outside Stretham Primary School Ely Road, Stretham
Prevent litter in bus stop on Ely Road, Stretham (Red Lion Square)
Investigate access issues for emergency vehicles and bin lorries in Carpond Lane, Wilburton

Priorities for Action

The Panel agreed that the priorities for the 3 months to the end of December should be:

- To investigate drugs activity in Haddenham
- To tackle neighbourhood nuisance and anti-social behaviour on The Orchards Estate in Little Downham
- Improving the state of rural roads, especially in Coveney, Lt. Downham and Pymoor
- Providing information and joint partnership approach to environmental pollution issues in Stretham

The next Panel meeting is on **Monday 23rd January 2012 at 7.00 – 9.00pm at Little Thetford Village Hall**

And the following meeting is on Monday 16th April 2012 at Witcham Village Hall