

CHADDESLEY CORBETT PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009



Contact Details for the Clerk:

Yvonne Scriven

01562 851654

E-Mail:

Yvonne.Scriven@btinternet.com

Web-Site:

www.chaddesleyparishcouncil.org.uk

PRECEPT 2009-10

There will be no increase in the Parish Council Precept for the second year running.

Expenditure during 2008/9 has been carefully controlled and there will be a small surplus to carry forward to the reserves for forthcoming projects.

LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

Bill Waldron continues to provide an excellent service to the Parish as well as doing all he can to alleviate flooding problems.

The Chairman and Cllr Vernon attended the meeting to discuss the Worcestershire Joint County and District Councils Scrutiny Report on the Floods, and emphasized the advantage of local knowledge which Parish Councils have and called for direct funding which could help to quickly resolve emergency problems.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The recent Housing Needs Survey identified a requirement for a number of properties over the next 3 years. The Parish Council may therefore support a small number of properties around the Parish if suitable land is available and such properties conform to the principles set out in the Parish Design Statement.

Discussions are continuing with the District Enabler.

Neighbourhood Watch (Malcolm Inchley - Co-Ordinator)

For several years there has been a Neighbourhood Watch Group in Chaddesley Corbett, and now, at the request of the Parish Council and with the approval of West Mercia Constabulary, it is being extended to include the entire Parish. Neighbourhood Watch is not just about reducing burglary figures - it's about creating communities who care. It brings local people together and can make a real contribution to improving their lives. Whilst we are fortunate that there is a relatively low incidence of crime in the Parish, that does not mean we can be complacent, because this fragile situation could change overnight.

As part of the scheme, new roadside Neighbourhood Watch signs will be installed throughout the Parish, and residents and businesses are authorized to display the enclosed sticker on their premises. Some insurers offer a discount on contents insurance to homes and

businesses, so why not ask next time you renew? SmartWater, which is already a proven crime deterrent is available from Neighbourhood Watch at a greatly reduced price of £15, and a single drop of this invisible fluid, placed on your possessions, holds information to enable the Police to trace owners of recovered property, and helps to catch criminals.

A letter from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator gives more information on services available to you through the scheme. In our Parish there is no charge for Neighbourhood Watch.

However, the Parish Council urges everyone to seriously consider purchasing SmartWater on the basis that the more homes and businesses that are able to display SmartWater stickers in their window, the more unwelcoming the community becomes to would be criminals.

Additionally, for every ten kits purchased, West Mercia Constabulary donates one roadside sign, which would otherwise cost £20.

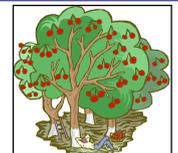


ADVERTISING SIGNS

The Parish Council is concerned about the proliferation of advertising signs around the Parish.

Businesses and residents are asked to preserve the appearance and ambience of the area and restrict the use of 'A' boards and temporary signs. Some more permanent signs may require planning permission.

Community Orchard (Leo Stockford)



Land at the rear of the Hemming Way in Chaddesley Corbett will shortly be planted with fruit trees. This is an initiative funded by public donations to create a Community Orchard for everyone to enjoy.

In order to increase local interest and participation a 'Cider and Cheese' evening has been arranged on Wednesday 21 January 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. There will be guest speakers and a 'Sponsor a Tree' appeal will be launched.

Saturday 7 February 2009 will be the first official Planting Day and everyone is invited to come along and bring their spades! We would particularly like to involve the children, so bring the family along as well. The 'Planting' starts around 10.30 a.m.

Emergency Procedures (Jonathan Swift)



Danger of flooding

No-one knows when an emergency might arise, but it is always worth being prepared. In conjunction with the District Council, we are preparing our own Emergency Plan which can be quickly implemented if required. You should have your own individual household emergency box, to help to quickly identify your immediate needs. If you find yourself in difficulties, always remember that your first call should be to the Emergency Services by dialing '999'.

The Parish Council have developed a Community Response Team to co-ordinate local services and liaise with the official Emergency Services.

We are particularly anxious to identify vulnerable residents or those who might find it difficult to get help in the event of an emergency. If you know of anyone who may need assistance please let us know by contacting the Clerk

Emergency Services often have difficulty in rural areas finding individual properties

and this is where local knowledge can be useful.

We are fortunate in the Parish because we have an excellent Doctor's Surgery, several churches, the school and village halls which could be used as Rescue Centres, where we can assemble if we find ourselves stranded and unable to get home.

Remember - Emergencies are rare - so don't worry.

Jonathan Swift - Chairman - will lead our Emergency Plan as Co-ordinator with the District Council

Chaddesley Corbett School (David Mills)

**NEW
SCHOOL
PROJECT
UPDATE
JANUARY
2009**

Because the Local Education Authority have continued to stall on the subject of the level of funding available for the Project, a meeting was arranged for 16th December chaired by Dr G.Lord, leader of the County Council cabinet.

The objective was to resolve the misunderstandings between the LEA and the Educational Foundation.

The meeting showed that despite all our efforts, there were very different perceptions about the funding for the project. The Trustees

had made it clear from the start that any contribution from the Foundation would be for the purchase of the site and for any enhancements to the school above the basic BB99 Primary school standard, and would be subject to Charity Commission approval. This has been stated time and again in the minutes of meetings with the LEA over a three year period since October 2005.

The minutes of the meeting have been agreed by the County Council, and on 24th December a reply was

received from the LEA Officers saying that in the New Year they wished to carry out a further review of the development options. We have pressed them to carry out this review without further delay, and to involve the Trustees.

In the meantime the application to vary the conditions concerning the cycle path access from the rear of the site go to the Wyre Forest Development Control Committee meeting on 13th January 2009.

New Planning Regulations (Michael Bird)



Visit the Interactive Household Guide at www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/development_control

With effect from 1 October 2008 there were changes to Planning Rules for Householders.

The changes relax in certain areas the degree to which a residential property can be altered or extended without the need for planning permission. There are some areas where the new rules are more restrictive, particularly in respect of the construction of

new driveways or areas of hardstanding.

The District Council have produced an interactive guide to the new rules which can be viewed on their website. Any advice given by Wyre Forest District Council and the Planning Portal is given on a general basis. Householders are urged to contact the Development Control Section to gain specific advice, prior

to commencing any work.

You can check if you need Planning Permission by completing a Householder Extensions Enquiry Form or by telephoning 01562 732928, or emailing the Worcestershire Hub.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Parking Restrictions in the Village of Chaddesley Corbett and a Proposed Car Park (Dave Thomas)

Measures taken earlier in the year to reduce on-street parking in the Village continue to work very well. We are extremely grateful to residents and businesses for their support and co-operation - many thanks to all concerned.

Some time ago we gained support from the County Council for a small number

of parking restrictions intended to help improve the flow of traffic through the village. Implementing these measures has proved to be a very lengthy process, and we now anticipate that they should be implemented by the Autumn of 2009.

Until then, the road surfacing work has at least provided the opportunity to

refresh and widen the existing 'keep clear' markings.

The search to provide a permanent car park for the Village has also continued.

There have been some positive discussions but progress to date has been slow. Nevertheless, we continue to press ahead.



Environmental Group (Bill Meredith - for the Working Group set up by the Parish Council)

If we look after the pennies the pounds will look after themselves! The financial crunch is hitting us all. Have we done our bit to save on energy costs such as electricity, gas and water, by reading our meters and seeing where we can cut costs?

Doing away with plastic bags and recycling plastics, glass, bottles, jars, paper, cardboard, batteries etc, not forgetting our compost heaps - with all our bits and pieces from kitchen and garden. It is

interesting to read on the side of the recycling lorry which collects our boxes that 30% of all food we buy gets thrown away; with half the world starving what a waste! Why not buy what we want when we need it? All of those out-of-date vegetables, bread, cakes, jars and tins out of our cupboards and freezers go into landfill tips creating pollution and methane gas. Why not buy local produce from local sources? We are very fortunate to have so many shops and farm shops in and

around the Parish, all of which supply fresh locally grown food. They need your support.

A little and often is better than a bulk buy and throw away 30%.

We need to get back to basics - bring back cookery lessons in our schools, so that our children can eat good wholesome food to keep them healthy. They can learn to prepare meals for themselves using fresh ingredients and not rely on packets or ready made meals.

*Chaddesley
Cares about
Planet Earth*

Help save
Planet Earth
and yourselves
by watching
those pennies!

Community Bus Service (Dave Thomas)

As you know, First Travel withdrew the service through the village of Chaddesley Corbett, Woodrow and Harvington - mainly due to traffic congestion - preferring to use the A448 main road. Since then Worcestershire County Council (WCC) have sponsored the reintroduction of a few services, but these have proved inadequate, particularly now that the Post Office in Harvington has

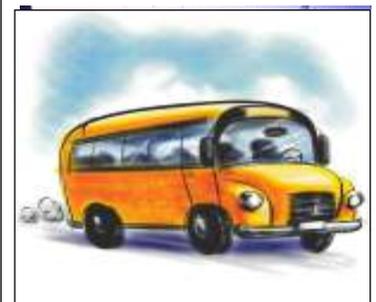
closed. A review of the timing of the services was carried out and, as a result of public demand, the **09.16** Service will be changed to **10.01**

Our own survey highlighted the need for a morning service to enable Harvington residents to get to the Doctor's Surgery and the village shops. In response, from January, the Parish Council will sponsor an extra service, leaving Kidderminster at **09.40**,

arriving in Harvington at 09.52 and Chaddesley Corbett at

09.59. A copy of the latest timetable is available from the Post Office.

There is a chance of a more permanent solution (our own circular bus service) from April 2009. WCC are considering introducing a service using a smaller vehicle and linking Kidderminster, Harvington, Chaddesley, Cutnall Green and Droitwich.



WATCH THIS SPACE!



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This important Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 May 2009 at 7.30 p.m. at Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome. This is your opportunity to talk to your Parish Councillors and have your say.

If you wish to raise any matter please contact the clerk to make arrangements.

Refreshments will be available from 7.00-7.30 p.m.

Chairman: Jonathan Swift - 01562 777268
Deputy Chairman: Ken Bartlett - 01562 777453
Chairman, Planning: Michael Bird - 01562 777728

Your Councillors and their responsibilities:
Jonathan Swift - Chairman
Ken Bartlett - Vice Chairman, Affordable Housing, Burial Ground
Michael Bird - Chairman - Planning Committee
Leo Stockford - Vice Chairman - Planning; Allotments; Community Orchard
Stephen Williams - District Councillor; Charity Trusts
Janet Fox - Police Consultative Committee; Parish Plan
Phyllis Pardoe - Village Hall, Education Foundation Trust
Dave Thomas - Transport
Richard Pugh - Agricultural; Water
Martin Walford - Worcestershire Assn of Local Councils

Why not visit the Worcestershire Hub where you will find everything you need to know about your Local Area - just visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk and enter your Post Code - there is also full Parish Council information.

Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service have just published a new 'Explore your Local Paths' booklet which will shortly be available in local shops, libraries and Council offices. We are grateful to our Parish Footpaths Warden, Sandi Holding for keeping our footpaths in good condition for everyone to enjoy.

CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

A new and innovative way of allocating social rented housing in Wyre Forest was launched in September. Home Choice Plus, a partnership between Wyre Forest, six other local authorities across Worcestershire and Warwickshire and all the Housing Associations who operate in these areas, will advertise vacant social rented properties on a weekly basis. People can express an interest in properties and those with the highest need will be offered the property. Availability of properties will be advertised in newspapers and at the Hub offices in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport, and on the Parish Council Notice Boards and web-site.

Home Choice Plus is an easier and more transparent way of allocating social housing. You now have more choice in where you want to live and settle and this will help to create stable communities.

Chairman's Report (Jonathan Swift)

Thinking ahead.....

In addition to the hot Parish topics, Councillors are punching well above their collective weight as the Council actively speaks up on a range of long term strategic issues which will in years ahead affect this Parish. Consultative papers are - heavy reading, full of jargon, tediously detailed, statistical, and contain obscure benefits and threats. We ignore them at our peril and worse. If we dare to think someone else will watch out for our interests while they work for their own - big mistake.

The Local Development Framework deals with Site Specific Allocations of Land

(meaning: this is what we are going to do if you don't speak up). It covers the allocation and designation of land for particular uses or environmental protection, and sets out development policies for these sites.

The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy - including of course the Government's perceived need to build more and more houses in Worcestershire.

Connecting Kidderminster - Scoping Paper. The comments take into consideration Planning, Health and Environment, and sets out some of the key regeneration opportunities, and identifies the potential for significant

change. Wassat mean?

Rural Economic Strategy: 2008 - 2014 which provides a framework to address the economic regeneration issues of Wyre Forest District's rural areas and population.

This stuff affects us all, and one way or another it will shape our Parish - for better or for worse.

For further information visit the District Council web-site:

Wyreforestdc.gov.uk



Town Hall, Kidderminster



Timber Yard - and Concept - Kidderminster