

Lighthorne Life

The first in an occasional series of newsletters from
Lighthorne Parish Council March 2005

Drop-In Surgery

On Saturday 26 February the Parish Council held a drop-in surgery in the Village Hall. It was well attended and electors asked many questions, some of which are discussed below. The Council wishes to thank everyone who came, and we will most certainly consider holding another of these events in the future.

Speed Reduction: This was probably the issue raised most often.

Following our use of Warwickshire County Council (WCC)'s Speed Indicating Device (SID) in October 2003 there was a perceived reduction in the speed of vehicles through the village for a while, but this has since crept back up again. The Chief Constable of Warwickshire is now against the use of these devices, and so your Parish Council wrote to him to express our concerns. As a result, we have now obtained agreement from the Communications Manager of the Warwickshire Casualty Reduction Partnership to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 18 May. Please attend if you are able, as this will demonstrate the extent of concern within our community. It should prove to be a lively meeting, too!

HGVs: Despite the signs which advise of the unsuitability of the roads through Lighthorne for use by HGVs, we have had a number of instances recently of Spanish

registered articulated lorries coming into the village and also causing damage to Moreton Morell Lane. These vehicles appear to be delivering to Lighthorne Herbs and so we have written to the company asking them if they can improve information to their suppliers in order to reduce the problem.

Street-name Signs: This is an issue over which those who live in the village are divided. Most agree that such signs would be useful for visitors and delivery drivers, but also recognise that there is a need to respect the conservation area status of much of the village. A much larger selection of styles of name boards are available now, due to increased awareness of this issue. Your Parish Council has started a new search for information about available styles and prices, but will consult before taking any action.

Trees: Concern was expressed about the state of health of some of the trees within the conservation area, especially those around the Village Green (for which the Parish Council has responsibility). Your Council has, in fact, already had a number of discussions with Forestry officers from Stratford District Council (SDC). We have been assured that the trees are not in such poor condition as it appears and that they have many years of life left in them. Nevertheless, as a possible activity as part of the Millennium Trees Project, the matter of replacement

of these trees was discussed. It was agreed that planting replacements in advance of their demise itself raised some concern. The agreed approach is to wait until a tree is beyond saving and then to replace it with an appropriate, fairly mature tree.

Skate Park: Just prior to January's meeting of the Parish Council, we received a petition signed by a considerable proportion of the children in our village. They asked if it would be possible for your Council to provide facilities that could be used by skateboarders.

While sympathetic to this request, it presents a number of problems for us. Not least is the cost of such equipment. Even a modest "half-pipe" would be beyond the resources we can bring to bear, given that a concrete base would also be required. We have obtained information from some suppliers and are in discussion with SDC over possible sources of funding.

Another issue is the question of where we might put such equipment. There is barely enough space in the playground behind the village hall and there are concerns over noise. A better solution would be to locate it at the sportsground, but there is no footpath from the village (see the next item).

Footpath to Sportsground: This is an issue which has taxed the Council for many years. The landowner has recently been approached once again, but remains reluctant to allow a permissive footpath to cross his land. We continue to explore possible alternative approaches, including making a wider footway along sections of the Chesterton Road.

Welcome Pack: We have been approached with the idea of taking over responsibility for keeping up to date the welcome pack which is given to new households within the village community.

We applaud the work which has gone into preparing this most useful document. We wish to consult further before making a decision. While we feel that such a document should not be seen to come from one single organisation, the present publisher has done an excellent job.

Projects: The Parish Council has been discussing what project work we should be undertaking this year. It has been decided that Baker's Hill Well will get our attention.

Your Input

Everything mentioned above was discussed at the surgery, but our work does not stop. If you would like to discuss these, or any other matters, with a member of council, please contact one of us as follows:

- Mike Rigby (Chair).....651420
The Jays, Post Office Lane
- Josette Tait (Vice-Chair).....651205
Smithy Cottage, The Green
- Sue Langford.....651114
6 Verney Close
- Derek Lloyd.....651795
Inglenook Cottage, Church Lane
- Tony Rose.....651787
The Old School House, Old School Lane
- Alex Tait (Clerk).....651205
Smithy Cottage, The Green

Parish Council information on the web:
www.lighthorneonline.com/PCHome.htm

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