

# Lighthorne Life

An occasional series of newsletters from  
Lighthorne Parish Council November 2005

## Parish Precept for 2006/7

You will have already seen from our Annual Review that we were expecting to have to raise the parish precept by a hefty percentage due to the actions of Stratford District Council. We now learn that, in addition to removing payments for grass-cutting, district councillors have voted to pass on the cost of parish elections to parish councils, even when these take place at the same time as other elections and even if uncontested.

These actions are clearly being taken because, whereas district councils will be capped if they raise their precept by too large an amount, parish councils will not. Whoever collects the precept, it will still be you, the Council Tax payer, who will have to pay more.

We have been supported in our opposition to these actions by the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils, but so far even this concerted effort has not met with any success. If you wish to voice your own opposition to these moves, you may wish to attend the next Parish Council meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 14 December when we will set our precept for next year.

## Street-name Signs

Stratford District Council has agreed to fund the provision of street-name signs. We are still looking for a design which we feel is appropriate for our village. In the past people have had mixed views about

the desirability of such signs. If you have any strong feelings we'd love to hear from you.

## Footpath to Sportsground

Warwickshire County Council gave us details of a small fund which was to be made available for minor highway works. We put in a bid to have a footway created from the top of Chesterton Hill to the sportsground. Unfortunately the job was costed at £45,000 and was deemed to be too expensive. We asked if a cheaper scheme could be adopted, such as simply widening the verge. This, too, was felt to be inappropriate because pedestrians would not be far enough away from the road to minimise problems caused by loose stones being kicked into the road.

## Competition Success

Warwickshire Rural Community Council runs a Village Ventures Competition for rural communities across the County once every two years. We entered our Lighthorne Sportsground planting project.

We won the Environment section which carried a small monetary prize of £35, and we came second overall with prize money of £150. We also won the Calor Gas environment prize which consisted of bulbs to the value of £30. Thanks to a team of volunteers, these have now been planted on the bank around the Millennium Village sign.

## Allotments

Several people have expressed interest in being able to rent an allotment. If you have a piece of ground which could be used, or would like an allotment of your own, please contact us. We hope to take action early in the New Year.

## Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

This Act received Royal Assent on 7 April. Some provisions of the Act came into effect in June but the majority, including new parish powers, are planned to commence in April 2006. The new powers will allow parish councils to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog offences. They will also allow us to introduce Dog Control Orders covering such matters as failing to remove dog faeces or failing to keep a dog on a lead.

Consultation on the regulations and guidance for the new measures runs until 2 January and can be viewed on the web at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk).

While there might be a small income from penalties, there is a cost involved in the provision of training for those empowered to issue penalty notices. We would very much like to have your views on whether the Parish Council should make use of these new powers.

## On-Street Parking

We have been receiving an increasing number of complaints recently about vehicles parked on the footway within the village. May we take this opportunity to point out that this practice is not only illegal but it is also extremely dangerous to force pedestrians to walk in the road. It is especially so for those with a

pushchair, who walk with a stick or who use a wheelchair.

The advice from the police continues to be that, on a street where there is a footway on only one side, vehicles should be parked on the side opposite the footway. This ensures that pedestrians still have full use of the footway, but the footway can be used (when absolutely necessary) for another vehicle to pass the one that is parked.

## Speed Reduction



You will have seen that new speed limit and camera warning signs (like the one shown here) were erected in our village a few days ago. We now eagerly await the first visit of a mobile speed camera. National figures show that these measures really do result in reduced speed.

## Information/Feedback

If you would like to discuss these, or any other matters, with a member of council, please contact one of us as follows:

Tony Rose (Chair).....651787  
The Old School House, Old School Lane

Josette Tait (Vice-Chair).....651205  
Smithy Cottage, The Green

Sue Langford.....651114  
6 Verney Close

Derek Lloyd.....651795  
Inglenook Cottage, Church Lane

Mike Rigby.....651420  
The Jays, Post Office Lane

Alex Tait (Clerk).....651205  
Smithy Cottage, The Green

Parish Council information on the web:  
[www.lighthorneonline.com/PCHome.htm](http://www.lighthorneonline.com/PCHome.htm)

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